



Österreichischer Journalisten Club
Austrian Journalists Club

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Minister of the Interior
The Right Honourable Home Secretary Priti Sushil Patel

Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
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Dear Minister of the Interior,
The Right Honourable Home Secretary Priti Sushil Patel,

the Austrian Journalists Club demands the immediate release of the Journalist, WikiLeaks-Founder and Australian citizen Julian Paul Assange, who is currently detained in Her Majesty's Prison Belmarsh – one of the high-security prisons in the UK, Prisoner #: A9379AY.

Mr. Assange has not been charged with any criminal offence in Great Britain. He is being held solely in relation to the pending extradition request from the United States of America for publishing information about war crimes, that had happened, and serious human rights violations, including torture and murder.
For us – being part of the fourth estate – he is a political prisoner.

The unjustified detention of Mr. Assange in a high-security prison is neither appropriate nor conform with Human Rights.

We are concerned about Julian Assanges' state of health and share the fears of UN-Special Rapporteur on Torture, Prof. Nils Melzer: „He [Julian Assange] continues to be detained under oppressive conditions of isolation and surveillance, not justified by his detention status [...] Mr. Assange's continued exposure to arbitrariness and abuse may soon end up costing his life“.

Furthermore we fully endorse the findings laid out by our colleagues in Germany – Deutscher Journalisten-Verband, dated January, 8th 2020 – and from all over the world.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Fred Turnheim, President
Austrian Journalists Club