

British Embassy in Vienna
To the personal attention of
H.E. Ambassador Lindsay Samantha Skoll
Jauresgasse 12
1030 Vienna

Vienna, 16 February 2024

Subject: Open letter regarding Mr. Julian Assange – a matter of life and death!

Your Excellency,

We are writing to you in relation to the hearing at the High Courts of Justice on 20 and 21 February 2024, where two judges will decide on Mr. Assange's right to appeal. We, concerned citizens from Austria, firmly believe in democratic principles, the rule of law, human rights, freedom of information, free speech, and a free press.

We, the undersigned, represent the Austrian Journalists Club, the biggest independent journalist association and communication platform for media-people in Austria. Since its foundation in 1977, the Austrian Journalist Club holds high the right of the freedom of the press and the right of true information for everybody, free of political or economic influences whatsoever. Undersigning with us are also representatives of Candles4Assange, a group in Vienna holding weekly vigils for Julian Assange's freedom since January 9, 2020. We share the concern that his prosecution sets a dangerous precedent of extra-territoriality that jeopardizes journalists and publishers globally.

Mr. Assange's work with WikiLeaks has undoubtedly contributed to public awareness of not only government and military actions and of potential misconduct, but also to shedding light on other matters of global significance, and holding power to account.

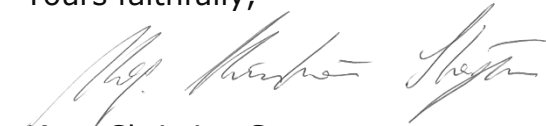
With the above in mind, we wrote self-explanatory letters to the then Home Secretary on 30 March 2022, followed by one dated 20 April 2022, to the then Prime Minister (copies attached for easy reference) to request that Mr. Assange be freed and not extradited. Both letters contain but a sample of observations of the proceedings throughout the last four years, which have too often left us utterly appalled. We have also noted the decision take by Judge Swift not to allow Mr. Assange's appeals with great horror. We also refer to the report of the then UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Mr. Nils Melzer, and his findings, which went unabided, as did the decision of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention in 2016. We would like to point out that both the Working Group and the duties of the Special Rapporteur on Torture have been established by the Member States of the UN.

We are still hopeful that the two judges now will nonetheless lead the matter to a fair conclusion and allow both appeals. There could however only be one possible

outcome to the entire matter which would reinstate our trust: No extradition to the US and Free Julian Assange, not only from jail but also from all persecution!

In conclusion, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to deliver our letter and request you to kindly convey it to the Prime Minister for urgent action.

Yours faithfully,



Mag. Christian Stoeger

Vice-President Austrian Journalists Club
on behalf of the Austrian Journalists Club



Marie-Odile Dorer

on behalf of Candles4Assange

This open letter is also signed by:

Otto Anlanger | Freelance Journalist, „Kunstverteiler“
Lo Breier | Designer
Werner Brix | Actor
Dieter Comos | Belgium
Kerstin Doujak | Klagenfurt
Gerhard Ehegartner | Teacher and author
Dr. Ewald Filler | Europemediation.com
Gerhard Fischer | Common Good Lobby
Ing. Mag. Ludwig Fliesser | Communication manager, social anthropologist
Dr. Edith Friedl | Architectural historian, Linz
Marc Friedrich | Financial expert and bestselling author
Dr. Daniele Ganser | Historian and peace researcher
Dagmar Golle | Journalist, Munic
Andreas Hagemann | Sound engineer
Ao. Univ. Prof. Dr. Fritz Hausjell | President “Reporters without Borders” Austria
John Herzog | Member of the Board, Austrian Journalists Club
Daphne Hruby, BA | Journalist, ORF/OE1
Dr. Maria Hubmer-Mogg | Doctor
Dr. Marina Ichikawa | Senior Client Manager at Environment Agency Austria
Tristan Jorde | Actor and Director, Vienna
Michael Karjalainen-Dräger | Editor-in-chief “Idealism Prevails”
Sarah Kleiner, BA | Journalist
Aglaja Knapp | Art Director
Dr. Gudrun Knapp | Klagenfurt
Michaela König | CSR Report Editor, Freelance Journalist
Natalia Kukelka | Ceramicist
Thomas Lohninger | Executive director epicenter.works
Mag. Daniela Lupp | Sociologist and editor-in-chief “Zeitenwende”
Dr. Angelika Mayrhofer-Battlogg | Cultural and social scientist, editor
Ing. Barbara P. Meister MA | Secretary General Austrian Journalists Club



Dr. Alexander Mejstrik | Historian and editor
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Manfred Nowak | Secretary General of the Global Campus of Human Rights; Wiener Forum für Demokratie und Menschenrechte
Bogumila Wiktorja Ossowski | Freelancer
Mag. Ortwin Rosner | Philosopher and germanist
Mag. (FH) Mag. Thomas Schiffel | Official at the Federal Ministry of Defence
Mag.^a Renata Schmidtkunz | Journalist ORF/OE1
Michaela Sedlmayr | Dornbirn
Martin Steiner, MA | Journalist
P.A. Straubinger | Journalist ORF OE3, film-maker, speaker, author
Konstanze Thau | Judge, chairwoman of an appeals panel at the Regional Court for Civil Law Matters in Vienna
Matthias Trenk | Agriculturist
Dr. Lukas Trimmel | Doctor
Mag. Liza Ullitzka | Investigative journalist, writer and publisher
Dr. Gudula Walterskirchen | Historian, journalist and author
Mag. Christian Wehrschütz | Foreign correspondent ORF
Dr. Marion Wisinger | Vice-President "PEN-Club" Austria
Dipl. Ing. Gunter Zeilinger | Open Source Software Developer
Jan David Zimmermann, BA MA | Editor-in-chief & Author „Stichpunkt Magazin“

This open letter is supported by following NGOs and Institutions:

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Österreichischer PEN-Club
Reporter ohne Grenzen, Österreich (Reporters Without Borders, Austria)
„Unsere ZeitenWende“ Online Magazine
Wiener Forum für Demokratie und Menschenrechte – www.humanrights.at