

MODEL MOTION TO DEFEND JULIAN ASSANGE FROM US EXTRADITION

This meeting of _____ notes that:

- On 10 December 2021, High Court judges ruled that Julian Assange could be extradited to the USA. They chose to believe US assurances that he would not be subjected to the cruel prison regime of Special Administrative Measures. The US has previously broken such assurances and Amnesty International has said that ‘*should the UK extradite Julian Assange in reliance on such an agreement with the USA it would violate a peremptory norm of international law (the absolute ban on torture), its international human rights treaty obligations and its own domestic law*’.
- From 2010, Julian Assange and WikiLeaks published millions of secret leaked US government documents revealing human rights violations including war crimes in Iraq and Afghanistan – the murder of civilians, torture, rendition and death squads.
- As a result, he has been relentlessly persecuted. He has been isolated in Belmarsh maximum security prison for over two and a half years awaiting a decision on extradition to the USA on Espionage Act charges which solely relate to the publication of these leaks. These charges carry a prison term of 175 years. This is an unprecedented attack on a journalist and publisher.
- The decision to allow his extradition to the US puts both his life and the freedom of the press in peril. He has already suffered 11 years of loss of liberty and arbitrary detention. UN Rapporteur on Torture Nils Melzer found that Assange has been subjected to “psychological torture” and unprecedented state persecution in violation of his fundamental human rights. His mental and physical health has seriously deteriorated as a result. He suffered a mini-stroke during recent court proceedings. His legal rights have been flagrantly attacked including the bugging and surveillance by US intelligence of the Ecuadorian Embassy where his lawyers’ meetings were recorded and filmed.
- A September 2021 Yahoo! News investigation which interviewed 30 former and serving US government and intelligence insiders

revealed that the US government/ CIA had sketched plans to kidnap Julian from the London Ecuadorian Embassy where he had been granted asylum, to render him to the USA and even assassinate him.

- A large coalition of international press freedom organisations led by American Civil Liberties Union has said that: ‘*the criminal case against him poses a grave threat to press freedom both in the United States and abroad . . . The proceedings against Mr. Assange jeopardize journalism that is crucial to democracy. In our view, a precedent created by prosecuting Assange could be used against publishers and journalists alike, chilling their work and undermining freedom of the press.*’ Media unions such as the NUJ and the International Federation of Journalists have demanded that the charges be dropped and Assange released.

This meeting resolves:

1. To call for the immediate release of Julian Assange and to campaign to stop his extradition to the US.
2. To write to the Home Secretary, the Shadow Home Secretary, the Justice Secretary and the Shadow Justice Secretary on this issue.
3. To write to:

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requesting that they urgently raise these matters in the House of Commons or to the relevant appropriate public body.



‘I was the CIA Director. We lied, we cheated, we stole. We had entire training courses. It reminds you of the glory of the American experiment.’

**Mike Pompeo,
CIA Director 2017-18**

UK Judgement 10 Dec 2021: *‘There is no reason why this court should not accept the assurances as meaning what they say. There is no basis for assuming that the USA has not given the assurances in good faith.’*