



The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister
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Senator the Hon Penny Wong
Minister for Foreign Affairs
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cc. Co-Chairs, Bring Julian Assange Home Parliamentary Group
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10 April 2024

Dear Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs,

We are writing to urge you in the strongest possible terms to take immediate public action to demand the United States government drop the charges against Julian Assange so he can resume life as a free man in Australia.

This week marks five years since Mr Assange's detention in Belmarsh Prison began. In those five years his health has significantly deteriorated and his prospects for living a free life have declined.

The recent decision by the United Kingdom High Court to conditionally grant Assange leave to appeal against the 2022 extradition order is a small and unsatisfactory reprieve. The only certainty that can ensure Julian Assange's freedom is a decision by the United States government to drop the charges.

We welcome the recent decision by the government to support Andrew Wilkie MP's parliamentary motion calling on the House of Representatives to recognise the importance of bringing Julian Assange's extradition to an end and allowing him to return home, and we acknowledge the advocacy of the Prime Minister and government ministers in raising Julian's case with their US counterparts.

However, as we draw closer the US Presidential election, the opportunity for a satisfactory resolution to this case diminish. Even if he is given leave to appeal, he would remain in prison for many more months, further worsening his health and wellbeing.

Beyond our immediate and urgent concerns for Julian Assange, his extradition and prosecution by the United States would set a disturbing global precedent for the suppression of press freedom and would constitute an assault on the public's right to know. It would mean that any journalist, anywhere in the world, could be charged and extradited for handling any information that the US government classifies as "secret".

The return to Australia of broadcast journalist Cheng Lei, a former MEAA member, shows how concerted diplomacy can achieve a positive result, and we urge you to put the same effort into securing the release of Julian Assange.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Percy', written in a cursive style.

Karen Percy
MEAA Media President
Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance



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