

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.

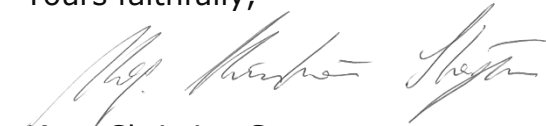
With the above in mind, we wrote self-explanatory letters to the then Home Secretary on 30 March 2022, followed by one dated 20 April 2022, to the then Prime Minister (copies attached for easy reference) to request that Mr. Assange be freed and not extradited. Both letters contain but a sample of observations 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:**

Werner Brix, Actor

Gerhard Ehegartner, Teacher and author

Gerhard Fischer, Common Good Lobby

Ing. Mag. Ludwig Fliesser, Communication manager, social anthropologist

Marc Friedrich, Financial expert and bestselling author

Dr. Daniele Ganser, Historian and peace researcher

Ao. Univ. Prof. Dr. Fritz Hausjell, President "Reporters without Borders" Austria

Daphne Hruby, BA, Journalist, ORF/OE1

Dr. Maria Hubmer-Mogg, Doctor

Tristan Jorde, Schauspieler und Regisseur, Wien

Michael Karjalainen-Dräger, Editor-in-chief "Idealism Prevails"

Sarah Kleiner, BA, Journalist

Michaela König, CSR Report Editor, Sprachdienstleisterin und freiberufliche Journalistin

Thomas Lohninger, Executive director epicenter.works

Mag. Daniela Lupp, Sociologist and editor-in-chief "Zeitenwende"

Dr. Angelika Mayrhofer-Battlogg, Cultural and social scientist, editor

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

Mag. Ortwin Rosner, Philosopher and germanist

Mag.<sup>a</sup> Renata Schmidtkunz, Journalist ORF/OE1

Martin Steiner, MA, Journalist

P.A. Straubinger, Journalist ORF OE3, film-maker, speaker, author

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



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