

To the

U.S. Embassy in Austria

Boltzmanngasse 16

1090 Vienna

Vienna, 12. February 2024

Dear Sir, Dear Madam,

What will we tell our children, our grandchildren, if Julian Assange is extradited?

How could we look into the mirror if one of us, who has brought an evil truth to light, were to be handed over to the very people whose wrongdoings he had uncovered?

Are the hard-won norms in democratic states, which are supposed to protect journalists and publishers, nothing but waste when it comes to the injustice of states and their armies?

Is politics in the supposedly free West a henchman of repression against the free word, against the exposure of injustice, against journalism in the service of human rights?

"*The truth is reasonable to man*", the Austrian writer Ingeborg Bachmann calls out to us, and the political theorist and publicist Hannah Arendt warns that "*no one has the right to obey*". What should be a democratic maxim for citizens, applies even more to the powerful - to those in Government.

The Assange case is more than just a decision on the fate of a courageous man. The future of Julian Assange will determine whether the canon of our fundamental rights stands on firm European ground or is blown away by powerful headwinds.

If our fundamental rights, freedom of the press and investigative journalism were ultimately a plaything of the powerful, then Europe would have forfeited any right to reprimand dictatorships or invoke rule-of-law mechanisms.

What will we tell our children, our grandchildren? That truth and justice were abandoned when it was convenient for the powerful and their henchmen?

Or will we say that we stood up for Julian Assange and defended freedom of the press and the rule of law and morality. That democracy has proven to be stronger.

The upcoming hearing in the case United States of America v. Julian Assange at the Royal Courts of Justice in London, UK, on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2024 and the decisions thereof will have global repercussions. The Austrian Green Association for Fundamental Rights and Freedom of Information demands the immediate release and full rehabilitation of Julian Assange! We demand impunity and comprehensive protection for him and his family!

Julian Assange can become a synonym for freedom and justice!

Yours sincerely,

MMag. Dr. Madeleine Petrovic,  
Politician

DI. Dr. Monika Henninger-Erber, MBA  
Municipal Council

Green Association for Fundamental Rights and Freedom of Information (GGI), Austria  
For all GGI members