

## Letter to the President of the United States of America to pardon Julian Assange

Dear Mr. President,

We, the undersigned, respectfully call on you to pardon Julian Assange.

For over a decade, Julian Assange and WikiLeaks have been at the forefront of investigative journalism, publishing information that has revealed significant abuses of power and corruption at the highest levels of powerful institutions. In doing so, he has been part of the institution of a free press essential to any democracy.

Mr. Assange obtained authentic documents and sources in the same way as any other serious and independent investigative journalist would. The WikiLeaks disclosures bring to light some of the most controversial and significant acts of the United States government, including the conduct of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the treatment of detainees at Guantanamo Bay.

The charges against him raise serious concerns about the extent to which a democratic government can criminalize the publication of truthful information. If allowed to stand, these charges will undoubtedly have a chilling effect on the ability of future journalists to report on matters of public interest, undermining the fundamental principles of a free and open society.

The extreme measures that are undertaken today to punish Julian Assange for publishing the truth have inadvertently transformed him into an even more powerful symbol of freedom of speech for millions around the world.

There is arguably nothing more American than fearlessly speaking truth to power. Your nation's rich history of courageous whistleblowers, journalists, and publishers is testament to this honorable tradition. If that quintessential function is criminalized, our public discourse and our democracies will be damaged irreparably.

As the leader of the United States, the image and standing of your country in the world is in your hands. A pardon for Mr. Assange would demonstrate that the United States values fundamental rights, truth, accountability, and the protection of those who speak out against injustice.

Sincerely,

Marcel Kolaja, MEP and Quaestor  
Markéta Gregorová, MEP  
Mikuláš Peksa, MEP  
Patrick Breyer, MEP

Stella Assange

Fabio Massimo Castaldo, MEP  
Clare Daly, MEP  
Mick Wallace, MEP  
Ivan Vilibor Sinčić, MEP  
Rosa D'Amato, MEP  
Rob Roos, MEP  
Anne-Sophie Pelletier, MEP  
Sabrina Pignedoli, MEP  
Francisco Guerreiro, MEP  
Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, MEP  
Erik Marquardt, MEP  
Özlem Demirel, MEP  
Saskia Bricmont, MEP  
Piernicola Pedicini, MEP  
Dietmar Köster, MEP  
Emmanuel Maurel, MEP  
Carles Puigdemont, MEP  
Antoni Comín, MEP  
Clara Ponsatí, MEP  
Emmanouil Fragkos, MEP  
Tiziana Beghin, MEP  
Rob Rooker, MEP  
Diana Riba I Giner, MEP  
Ana Miranda, MEP  
Mounir Satouri, MEP  
Marisa Matias, MEP  
José Gusmão, MEP  
Statys Jakeliunas, MEP  
Damien Careme, MEP  
Milan Brglez, MEP  
Monika Beňova, MEP  
Dina Giarrusso, MEP  
Ignazio Corraro, MEP  
Robert Biedroń, MEP  
Tineke Strik, MEP  
Engin Eroglu, MEP  
Kostas Arvanitis, MEP  
Marc Botenga, MEP  
Jordi Solé, MEP  
Kateřina Konečná, MEP  
Martina Michels, MEP



International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)  
European Federation of Journalists (EFJ)  
National Union of Journalists (NUJ)  
Big Brother Watch  
Statewatch  
Tuuli Sauren - Inspirit Creatives, Germany  
Forum Computer Professionals for Peace and Societal Responsibility (FlfF) e. V.  
Elektronisk Forpost Norge  
Douwe Korrrf  
Dr. Gerhard Weck  
Prof. Dr.-Ing. Klaus-Peter Löhr  
PEN International  
PEN Norway  
PEN Sweden  
Slovene PEN  
German PEN Centre  
Anne Herpertz - Chairperson German Pirate Party  
John Dada - Association for Progressive Communications  
Deutsche Vereinigung für Datenschutz e.V. (DVD)

