



Medical
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13 June, 2022

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
The Prime Minister of Australia

Copy to:

The Hon Mark Dreyfus QC, MP, Attorney-General
Senator the Hon Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Dear Prime Minister

I am writing to request your urgent intervention on behalf of Australian citizen Julian Assange, who is at imminent risk of extradition from the UK to the US. A decision on his fate from the British Home Secretary Priti Patel is expected within days.

MAPW members, many other Australian citizens, and people around the world have spoken out over many years for justice for Assange. His ongoing persecution presents major risks:

- *The risk to a free press and its role in our democracy.*

Assange's "crime" was the publishing of evidence – which has not been disputed - of war crimes committed by our allies. His persecution is a clear attempt to intimidate and silence other journalists who might in future dare to reveal crimes and other matters of public interest committed in our name.

The UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Nils Melzer, has [written](#) that Assange has been subject to torture, and that "*the Assange case is the story of a man who has been persecuted and abused for revealing the dirty secrets of the powerful, including war crimes, torture and corruption. It is a story of deliberate judicial arbitrariness in Western democracies that are otherwise keen to present themselves as exemplary in the area of human rights.*"

- *The risk of Assange's death*

Medical evidence was presented, and accepted, during the extradition proceedings in the UK indicating that extradition would likely bring substantial suicide risk for Assange. This risk remains. The US history of pursuing and persecuting Assange, and that nation's insistence on the right to apply "Special Administrative Measures", render any reassurances about his safety in the US meaningless.

AFFILIATE



FOUNDER



In October 2021, Assange suffered a “mini-stroke”, indicating a risk – augmented by psychological stress - of further cardiovascular events. This heightened risk has not been taken into account in the extradition proceedings.

MAPW members join with over 300 Doctors for Assange doctors from around the globe in stating categorically that, on medical grounds, Julian Assange must not be extradited

We warmly welcome your views [expressed](#) in December 2021 that “enough is enough” in this ongoing national disgrace. Please act now to end it.

Sincerely

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