

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, September 7, 2018

**Amnesty International Australia  
makes strong statement that Julian  
Assange should not be extradited to  
the United States**



Today Amnesty Australia issued a strongly worded statement that Julian Assange should not be extradited or "subjected to any other transfer to the USA" amid concerns he would face the real risk of serious human rights violations due to his work with WikiLeaks. Amnesty added that the UK government "should recognise Julian Assange's need for international protection vis-a-vis the USA".

The full statement reads as follows:

"Thank you for contacting Amnesty international. Amnesty International believes that Julian Assange should not be extradited or subjected to any other transfer to the USA, where there are concerns that he would face a real risk of serious human rights violations due to his work with Wikileaks.

- Violation of his right to freedom of expression;
- Violation of his right to liberty, arising from any pre-trial detention and/or prison sentence that was imposed on the basis of a prosecution that violated his freedom of expression;
- Violation of his right to life, if the death penalty were to be available in any proceedings that he might face in the USA;
- Being held in conditions that violate his rights to humane treatment and respect for his dignity, and potentially his right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Julian Assange's lawyers and supporters have alleged that he would face a real risk of unfair trial in the USA, as a result of the conditions and his potential treatment in pre-trial detention, as well as expressed concern about certain procedures at his trial, Amnesty International is assessing these allegations.

Amnesty International takes no position on the offer or subsequent withdrawal by the government of Ecuador of diplomatic asylum to Julian Assange. Amnesty International believes that Julian Assange should not be extradited to the USA because of the risks detailed above. Accordingly, the UK should recognise Julian Assange's need for international protection vis-a-vis the USA. So far, there has been no official extradition request by the US to extradite Julian Assange from the UK.

Supporter Relations Team - Amnesty International Australia"

The online #Unity4J movement recently undertook a petition campaign calling for Amnesty Australia to also take a stand in support of Julian Assange: <https://www.change.org/p/www-amnesty-org-au-request-that-amnesty-speak-out-for-the-human-rights-of-julian-assange?recruiter=21677335>

Unity4J is a global movement in solidarity with Julian Assange, founder and editor-in-chief of the publishing organisation Wikileaks and has been endorsed by more than fifty high-profile activists, journalists, celebrities and academics including Chris Hedges, Jimmy Dore, Ray McGovern, Bill Binney and Daniel Ellsberg.

Julian Assange has been arbitrarily detained in the UK for eight years, six of which have been as a political refugee in Ecuador's embassy in London. Since March 2018, he has been forbidden to access the internet, receive visitors other than some members of his legal team, or to make or receive telephone calls and his health is in serious decline. The United Nations Working Group

on Arbitrary Detention has ruled Mr Assange should be immediately freed and compensated.

The Unity4J movement formed a “digital non-violent direct action army” to promote and defend Mr Assange’s human rights and recently announced its highly popular online vigils were to be followed each month by a ‘Unity4J Day’ of on-the-ground actions in support of the arbitrarily detained publisher. Subsequent protest actions occurred in New Zealand, Australia, Europe and across the United States and will continue to grow and spread until Mr Assange’s rights are restored and his freedom from political persecution guaranteed.

### **Join the movement and spread the word:**

Social Media Hashtag: #Unity4J

Official website: <https://unity4j.com/>

Official Twitter: [@Unity4J](https://twitter.com/Unity4J)

WikiLeaks Legal Defence Fund:

<https://justice4assange.com/donate.html>

WikiLeaks support website:

<https://iamwikileaks.org>

Courage Foundation:

<https://couragefound.org/>

Other credible accounts for Julian Assange updates:

<https://twitter.com/suzi3d/lists/assange-updates>

MEDIA INQUIRIES: Media inquiries and interview requests should be made to movement organiser Suzie Dawson, via DM on Twitter: [@Suzi3D](https://twitter.com/Suzi3D), or by emailing [info@unity4j.com](mailto:info@unity4j.com)

For more background on the recent escalation of grave threats to Julian Assange's life and liberty, we recommend reading the following articles:

Courage Foundation: Assange's protection from US extradition "in jeopardy"

<https://www.iamwikileaks.org/2018/05/25/assanges-protection-from-us-extradition-in-jeopardy/>

Did Rep. Adam Schiff Just Admit the US Has a Secret Indictment of Julian Assange?

<https://grayzoneproject.com/2018/05/26/did-rep-adam-schiff-just-admit-the-us-has-a-secret-indictment-of-julian-assange/>

Conspiracy emerges to push Julian Assange into British and US hands

<https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2018/05/16/assa-m16.html>

The UK's Hidden Role in Assange's Detention

<https://original.antiwar.com/cook/2018/02/12/uks-hidden-role-assanges-detention/>

Treatment of Assange is unjust, says former Ecuador minister

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/may/16/julian-assange-treatment-irresponsible-ecuador-foreign-minister-guillaume-long>

Ecuador's Ex-President Rafael Correa Denounces Treatment of Julian Assange as "Torture"

<https://theintercept.com/2018/05/16/ecuadors-ex-president-rafael-correa-denounces-treatment-of-julian-assange-as-torture/>

Opinion: Ecuador's Solitary Confinement Of Assange Is Torture

<https://disobedientmedia.com/2018/04/opinion-ecuadors-solitary-confinement-of-assange-is-torture/>

Being Julian Assange

<https://contraspin.co.nz/beingjulianassange/>