

The Right Honourable Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,
Mrs Theresa May
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA
United Kingdom

Barcelona, 12 April 2019

Ref: Detention and extradition of Julian Assange

Dear Prime Minister,

The Assemblea Nacional Catalana (ANC - Catalan National Assembly) denounces the arrest of human rights activist and director of the whistle-blower organisation Wikileaks and demands his immediate release. Just as UN experts demanded on 21 december 2018: 'Pre-trial detention, under international law, must be imposed only in limited instances.'¹ Mr Assange spent 1,5 years under house arrest and 5 more years in confinement in the Ecuadorian embassy, fearing extradition to the USA for political reasons. Seeing the fate of Chelsea Manning and Edward Snowden, both having denounced illegal government actions contrary to human and civil rights, it is to be feared that Assange will be prosecuted and jailed for political reasons.

Furthermore, since 2017, the Swedish prosecutor closed its investigation against Assange in a case of presumed sexual misconduct, deciding it could 'not be substantiated' and revoked its European Arrest Warrant against him. His only offense would be that of not respecting his bail, which is a minor issue considering Julian Assange has already spent 6,5 years in confinement, severely undermining his wellbeing and physical health.

The ANC appeals to the government of the United Kingdom and its prime minister, Mrs Theresa May, to release Mr Assange, in compliance with the human rights treaties the United Kingdom is bound by, and grant him political asylum. Mr Assange is a political activist just as the Catalan activists Jordi Sànchez and Jordi Cuixart are, and is being prosecuted for peacefully exercising his rights to free speech, freedom of ideas and the right to information. All have spent an unacceptable time in pre-trial detention and are prosecuted by governments for their political activism. We owe it to Assange that the world became conscious of human rights violations perpetrated by the world's most powerful governments.

Besides this, the ANC laments that the Ecuadorian president decided to withdraw Julian Assange's political asylum and surrender Julian Assange to the English police. Again, for political motives. President Lenin Moreno declared that Julian Assange's declarations on Catalonia inter alia were at the base of his decision to withdraw political asylum.² Julian Assange has been a vocal human rights

¹ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24042&LangID=E>

² <https://twitter.com/ComunicacionEc/status/1116407450398228481>

defender again and again, also in the case of the self-determination conflict going on in Catalonia. We cannot but express our mutual solidarity with Mr Assange and express our full support.

It is for the reasons mentioned above and for reasons of humanity, dear Mrs May, that we appeal to you to release Mr Julian Assange and grant him political asylum.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paluzie', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Elisenda Paluzie i Hernández

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