



Doc. 15061

31 January 2020

Defend the rights of Julian Assange and the freedom of the press

Written declaration No. 705

This written declaration does not reflect the position of the Assembly; only of those members that have signed it. It will not be considered further by the Assembly.

We, the undersigned, declare the following:

We are concerned about the welfare of Julian Assange and his prosecution by the United States, which puts Council of Europe standards on the protection of journalistic sources, the rights of journalists and the freedom of expression at risk.

We are also concerned by the conclusion of the United Nations special rapporteur on Torture, Nils Melzer, that Julian Assange shows all symptoms typical of a prolonged exposure to psychological torture and agree that the detention regime currently imposed in the United Kingdom is unnecessary, disproportionate and discriminatory.

In February, a British court will consider Julian Assange's possible extradition to the United States for charges under the 1917 Espionage Act. Julian Assange is the first publisher to ever be so charged.

Should Julian Assange be extradited, human rights violations must be expected to follow, as they have in the past and present detention of whistle-blower Chelsea Manning.

The Council of Europe's Platform to promote the protection of journalism has issued an alert on the "Continued Detention of WikiLeaks Founder and Publisher Julian Assange".

We call on the Council of Europe institutions and member States to closely monitor the issues raised and defend the rights of Julian Assange protected by the European Convention on Human Rights.

Signed (see overleaf)



Signed¹:

HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL
ÆVARSDÓTTIR Thorhildur Sunna, Iceland, SOC
AKBULUT Gökay, Germany, UEL
BATRINCEA Vlad, Republic of Moldova, SOC
BLAHA Ľuboš, Slovak Republic, SOC
BLONDIN Maryvonne, France, SOC
BRANDT Michel, Germany, UEL
BUCCARELLA Maurizio, Italy, NR
EFSTATHIOU Constantinos, Cyprus, SOC
EIDE Petter, Norway, UEL
EROTOKRITOU Christiana, Cyprus, SOC
HONKONEN Petri, Finland, ALDE
JALLOW Momodou Malcolm, Sweden, UEL
KALASHNIKOV Leonid, Russian Federation, UEL
KATROUGKALOS Georgios, Greece, UEL
KILJUNEN Kimmo, Finland, SOC
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL
LOUCAIDES George, Cyprus, UEL
MANIERO Alvise, Italy, NR
MARILOTTI Gianni, Italy, NR
MÖHRING Cornelia, Germany, UEL
NICOLINI Marco, San Marino, UEL
OOMEN-RUIJTEN Ria, Netherlands, EPP/CD
ÖZSOY Hişyar, Turkey, UEL
PETRY Christian, Germany, SOC
RAMPI Roberto, Italy, SOC
RODNINA Irina, Russian Federation, NR
RYZHAK Nikolai, Russian Federation, UEL
SARALIEV Shamsail, Russian Federation, NR
SARAMO Jussi, Finland, UEL
SCHÄFER Axel, Germany, SOC
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
SHEPPARD Tommy, United Kingdom, NR
UCA Feleknaş, Turkey, UEL
VALENTA Jiří, Czech Republic, UEL
VELASQUEZ Victoria, Denmark, UEL
ZHUROVA Svetlana, Russian Federation, NR

Total = 37

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group