

## Madam Home Secretary, refuse Julian Assange's extradition !

On 20 April 2022, a fatal blow was fired at whistleblowing rights by British justice : the Westminster Magistrates' Court in London officially issued an extradition order for Julian Assange. It thus yields to several years of pressure from the United States and adds another step - and a critical one! - to a persecution that has gone on for far too long.

**Mrs Priti Patel, you have in your hands a historic decision for whistleblowing and freedom of information. Julian Assange is a symbol: he embodies for our leaders the threat of being held accountable. But this threat is the guarantee of a properly functioning democracy.**

That is why we have repeatedly called on your government to refuse this extradition. Now that this danger is coming closer, we urge you, urgently and insistently, to put an end to this iniquitous persecution by releasing Julian Assange rather than handing him over to a state that will convict him for helping to expose war crimes and revealing information of public interest.

Julian Assange can indeed be considered as a facilitator, a term that applies to people who help a whistleblower to make a report or disclosure, and who build an ecosystem around him that protects him from isolation and pressure. Along with WikiLeaks, journalist consortia, organisations and independent media, he is part of an environment in which whistleblowers are no longer alone and can voice their concerns for the benefit of all citizens. **Attacking one of this environment's most emblematic components amounts to undermining this democratic safeguard. It is an attempt to make an example of it in order to discourage any further whistleblowing attempts.**

It is inconceivable that the United Kingdom should bear responsibility for such an attack on fundamental rights. That is why we ask you, Madam Home Secretary, to refuse to order the extradition of Mr Julian Assange.

Sign it : <https://mlalerte.org/soutien-assange>

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