

Courrier A
ADETRA – Association Syndikate de Defense des Travailleurs
Chemin de Merdisel 43
1242 Satigny

Mr. President, Members of the Committee,

The Human Security Division of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) coordinates, among other tasks, foreign human rights policy and has been instructed to reply to your letter to the President of the Confederation, Ms. Simonetta Sommaruga, regarding Mr. Assange.

The FDFA has been following the situation of Julian Assange for years. Switzerland intervened in March 2020 with the British authorities on his case. On this occasion, it drew their attention to the UN reports on the importance of human rights-friendly detention conditions for Mr. Assange and on the potential consequences of extradition to the United States.

The fight against torture is one of the objectives of Swiss foreign policy. We will therefore continue our commitment in this area at the multilateral and bilateral levels, in particular through our support for the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Mr. Nils Melzer.

As far as humanitarian visas are concerned, it is up to the applicant to submit an application. These are treated confidentially by the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM).

Please accept, Madam and Gentlemen, my warmest greetings.

Political Directorate DP

Simon Geissbühler
Ambassador
Human Security Division