

Mrs Simonetta Sommaruga President of the Confederation Federal Palace
3000 Bern
Geneva, 6 October 2020

Concerns: Mr Julian Assange

Madam President of the Confederation,

Julian Assange is the founder and editor of the WikiLeaks platform, which has exposed major corruption scandals, human rights abuses, war crimes and crimes against humanity, including those committed by the US and its allies in Iraq and Afghanistan. Julian Assange is undeniably a great defender of human rights! In February 2020, Reporters Without Borders said :
Julian Assange has made a historic contribution to journalism!

For the WikiLeaks revelations, Julian Assange has received some 20 major journalistic awards and has been nominated eight times for the Nobel Peace Prize. WikiLeaks has also been nominated for the United Nations Mandela Prize in 2015.

Since the revelations of WikiLeaks in 2010, with the infamous video "Collateral murder", Julian Assange has suffered persecution and a campaign of denigration on an unprecedented and considerable scale, orchestrated by the US services, with the complicity of Sweden and the United Kingdom, and the collaboration of major national dailies, although some of them have benefited greatly from the WikiLeaks revelations.

Arrested in December 2010 by the British police under an (invalid) European arrest warrant issued by Sweden, Julian Assange took refuge in June 2012 at the Ecuadorian embassy in London. From then on, he can no longer leave the building without risking arrest by the British police and extradition via Sweden to the United States.

In 2015, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention concluded in its Opinion No. 54/2015 that Mr. Assange has been arbitrarily detained by Sweden and the United Kingdom since his arrest in London in December 2010. The Working Group therefore requests his release and a right to reparation. In December 2018, the group of human rights experts reiterated its request to the United Kingdom, without success.

On 11 April 2019, the new Ecuadorian president, Lenin Moreno, illegally ended Julian Assange's political asylum, inviting the British police to the Ecuadorian embassy to arrest him. This dramatic event is the beginning of a new phase in the case. On the same day, Julian Assange was summarily tried and imprisoned in the high security prison of Belmarsh, where prisoners convicted of the most serious murders and terrorist acts are held. He is therefore treated as a dangerous criminal in order to deter other whistleblowers, journalists and publishers.

In November 2019, Sweden closed its preliminary investigation, acknowledging that its case file was empty, not based on any evidence. The two women concerned have never filed a complaint for rape, and Julian Assange has never been charged with any crime! For 9 years, the Swedish investigation was used to trap Mr. Assange in a pseudo-judicial system, and to slander him relentlessly in order to discredit him and take away his support.

We urge that Julian Assange be given a fair trial!

On 30 November 2019, the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Nils Melzer, stated:

"What we see here is a person whose rights to a procedure have been severely and systematically raped for ten years, at all times and in all places. stages of the procedure and in all courts. It is very difficult to understand that this is possible in democratic states such as Sweden and the United Kingdom, the United States and Ecuador."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8RU5MJb1m8>

However, the extradition trial of Julian Assange, which started in February 2020 in London, continues to show that his procedural rights are systematically violated by the United Kingdom, which does not respect the rules of the rule of law in his case:

- A fortnight before the last extradition hearings, which resumed on 7 September 2020, the United States officially introduced a new indictment, replacing the previous one! Various witnesses stated that they had not seen the new indictment on the basis of which they were being questioned.
- Julian Assange was unable to prepare his defence as he had not been able to see his lawyers during the 6 months prior to the September hearings (Covid19), and did not have access to his file. The keys of the computer keyboard provided to him were glued.
- During all the hearings, he is locked up in a glass cage, like the great criminals against humanity, and is not allowed to speak.
- Public access to the Tribunal is limited to about ten people, including his family.
- Senior Judge Emma Arbuthnot refused to recuse herself despite the fact that her husband, James Norwich Arbuthnot, has close ties to the British armed forces and security services, whose criminal operations have been exposed by WikiLeaks!

Many entities have spoken out in favour of the immediate release of Julian Assange and his non-extradition to the US. These include UN experts, the Council of Europe, political figures including Ögmundur Jónasson, Kevin Michael Rudd, Barnaby Joyce and Craig Murray, groups of parliamentarians, the International Federation for Human Rights (IFHR), the European Association for the Defense of Human Rights (AEDH), National Human Rights Leagues, Reporters Without Borders, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, national and international organisations of jurists, the International and

European Federations of Journalists (IFJ and EFJ), the French national union SNJ-CGT, groups of doctors, lawyers, citizens, the cultural world, and civil society, including the Global Network against Impunity of Transnational Corporations, the CETIM, Dick Marty, former attorney general of Ticino and former rapporteur on secret CIA prisons for the Council of Europe.

On 28 February 2020, the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Nils Melzer, presented his report to the UN Human Rights Council (excerpt): "He had met Mr Julian Assange on 9 and 10 May 2019 in his London prison, accompanied by two medical experts specialising in the examination of torture victims. Their conclusions are that over the years, Mr Assange has been exposed to several forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment which, cumulatively, amount to psychological torture. Mr. Melzer reported that, despite his urgent appeals to the countries concerned, namely the United Kingdom, the United States, Sweden and Ecuador, no investigative or remedial action has been taken and none of the Governments [of these countries] have responded adequately to the questions, allegations and concerns he has transmitted to them. When States refuse to cooperate with the international mechanisms they have created, there is cause for alarm about the credibility and functionality of the global human rights system," the Special Rapporteur said.

Let us recall that WikiLeaks has revealed the secret content of major free trade agreements, thus protecting the world heritage of humanity, the lives of peoples and the environment!

Mr. Julian Assange should be protected by the "Swiss Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders", adopted in 2013. Point 2.4 states that: "Switzerland can intervene in favour of human rights [...] in cases of serious and systematic violations of human rights or repeated threats, in a climate of oppression, restriction of fundamental freedoms and manifest intimidation". We believe that Mr. Assange should also be protected by the European Convention on Human Rights (arts. 3, 8 and 10), and by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (art. 19, p. 2).

We therefore call on the Federal Council to call on the UN as a matter of urgency, following the alerts of the Swiss expert, Nils Melzer, to the Human Rights Council of the United Nations in Geneva and the United Nations General Assembly in New York.
<https://www.exberliner.com/features/julian-assange-trial-2020/nils-melzer-assange/>

On 27 February 2020, the Canton of Geneva decided to offer Julian Assange a humanitarian visa to be treated at the Geneva University Hospitals (HUG). We would like to ask you to inform us of the follow-up given to this case, as we are very concerned about the state of health of Mr. Assange, who is detained in isolation 23 hours a day, and we fear that his life may be in danger.

We believe that Switzerland, which offers its good offices and represents the interests of the United States in various countries, has the capacity to advocate for the urgent

release of Mr. Julian Assange, not only for humanitarian reasons, but also to guarantee the right of citizens to have access to quality information. The indictment of the founder of WikiLeaks is a serious threat to the freedom of the media as a counter-power, to the safety of journalists and editors, and to the sustainability of human rights and the rule of law!

We look forward to receiving your reply. Please accept, Madam President of the Confederation, the assurance of our highest consideration.

For the ADETRA committee,

Pindaro Hugo
Guarin Président de l'Adetra

Isabelle Müller
Membre du comité

Ivar Petterson
Membre du comité