



11 January 2024

The Rt Hon James Cleverly MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department
United Kingdom

Dear Home Secretary,

Re: Julian Assange, extradition

We write to you as co-convenors of the Bring Julian Assange Home Parliamentary Group.

We know that you will be well aware of the UK Supreme Court decision that related to your office reported as *AAA v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2023] UKSC 42 (hereafter “AAA”). The decision found that courts in the United Kingdom cannot just rely on third party assurances by foreign governments but rather are required to make independent assessments of the risk of persecution to individuals before any order is made removing them from the UK.

This reasoning clearly has direct relevance to the extradition proceedings involving Julian Assange and the joint decision of Lord Justices Burnett and Holroyde in *USA v Assange* [2021] EWHC 3313 (Admin). In that case their Lordships expressly relied on the “assurances” of the United States as to Mr Assange’s safety and welfare should he be extradited to the United States for imprisonment and trial. These assurances were not tested, nor was there any evidence of independent assessment as to the basis on which they could be given and relied upon.

Mr Assange is an Australian citizen who has been in HM Prison Belmarsh since April 2019. He has significant health issues, exacerbated to a dangerous degree by his prolonged incarceration, that are of very real concern to us as his elected representatives.

Both the Australian Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition have stated publicly that Mr Assange’s case has gone on for too long. This is a position with which we wholeheartedly concur.

We are deeply concerned that the legal proceedings involving Mr Assange will now continue, first in the United Kingdom and then in the United States, if extradition is ordered and consented to by you. This would add yet more years to Mr Assange’s detention and further imperil his health.

To this end we are requesting that you undertake an urgent, thorough and independent assessment of the risks to Mr Assange’s health and welfare in the event he is extradited to the United States. Consistent with the decision in AAA it appears to us that such independent investigation should include a close review of the risks to Mr Assange’s health, life and wellbeing through prolonged detention in one or more high security US detention facilities.



Finally, we are grateful for you taking the time to review this correspondence from members of another Parliament in the Commonwealth.

Yours sincerely,

The co-convenors of the Bring Julian Assange Home Parliamentary Group:

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