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October 2023

Your Excellency,

I am writing to express grave concern about the United States Justice Department's ongoing criminal and extradition proceedings relating to **Julian Assange**, the founder of WikiLeaks, under the Espionage Act and Computer Fraud and Abuse Act.

The UK High Court rejected **Mr. Assange's** latest appeal against the extradition order signed by then-UK Home Secretary Priti Patel in June 2022, bringing him dangerously close to extradition to the United States.

I believe that the prosecution of **Mr. Assange** in the United States would set a harmful legal precedent and deliver a damaging blow to press freedom by opening the way for journalists to be tried under the Espionage Act if they receive classified material from whistle-blowers. Journalists routinely engage in much of the conduct described in the indictment. News organizations frequently and necessarily publish classified information in order to inform the public of matters of profound public significance.

In light of these concerns, and in light of the urgent recent development, I respectfully urge you to protect human rights norms, including freedom of the press, by calling on the United States Department of Justice to abandon this relentless pursuit of **Assange**.

Yours sincerely,