



Assange Update: UK Approves Extradition of WikiLeaks Founder

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Taylor Hudak (TH): Hi everyone, I'm Taylor Hudak with acTVism Munich and welcome back to another Julian Assange case update. UK Home Secretary Priti Patel has approved the extradition of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange and Patel's decision was met with widespread criticism. Activists, journalists and all of the major press freedom and human rights organisations around the world have condemned her decision and the ongoing prosecution of the WikiLeaks founder. At a press conference at the British Embassy in New York City Julian Assange's brother Gabriel Shipton responded to this decision with the following.

Gabriel Shipton: UK government today has decided that a journalist and publisher can be extradited from their country for publishing evidence of war crimes, torture and corruption. Julian Assange will appeal this decision through the High Court in the UK. He has 14 days to appeal the decision. But what this decision means is that basic journalism, journalism that people do every day, sourcing information, publishing information is now illegal in the UK.

TH: Reporters Without Borders, or RSF, an organisation which has been monitoring the extradition proceedings from the start, expressed a similar sentiment. RSF director of operations and campaigns Rebecca Vincent said: "We are deeply disappointed by the Home Secretary's shameful decision to order the extradition of Julian Assange". "We hope that the UK courts will take a stand for press freedom where the government has failed, by protecting Assange and ensuring his release rather than his extradition". The International Federation of Journalists said: "The UK decision to allow the extradition of Assange is vindictive and a real blow to media freedom". IPI [International Press institute] calls this "a dark day for press freedom in the UK". British MP Richard Burgon calls Patel's decision, quote, "disgraceful". And Australian MP Andrew Wilkie urged the Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to "pick up the phone now" and put an "end to this madness". This case not only poses a

threat to press freedom and the public's right to know, but it raises serious concerns about the treatment of prisoners and the apparent disregard for human rights by governments. A group of more than 300 doctors from around the world issued a letter on June 10th to the UK Home Secretary expressing their deep concern for Assange's health and well-being. The letter addressed to the Home Secretary reads in part: "Your denial of the cruel, inhuman treatment inflicted on Mr. Assange was then, and is even more so now, irreconcilable with the reality of the situation, as illustrated by the statements of numerous human rights experts and organisations, concerned politicians, and advocates of press freedom and the rule of law across the globe". And it is worth noting that the support for Julian Assange continues to expand. For example, in a viral statement posted to Twitter, Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene wrote: "If we really care about the 1st Amendment then we should care about Julian Assange". "If they are upset over the Khashoggi killing then they should be upset over Julian Assange". According to a statement from Birnberg Peirce Solicitors, Assange will appeal the Home Secretary's decision. The appeal is likely to focus on the broader press freedom issues, as well as the political nature of the case. Meanwhile, Assange remains in Belmarsh prison and will soon celebrate yet another birthday, his 51st birthday, on July 3rd in a maximum security prison. AcTVism Munich will continue to cover this case, so please be sure that you are subscribed to our YouTube, Rumble and Telegram channels. And we are an independent organisation free from governmental and corporate influence, and therefore we rely on your donations and support to continue with our independent news and analysis. So please consider donating to our organisation. Once again, thank you all for watching this Julian Assange Case Updates. I'm Taylor Hudak with acTVism Munich and I'll see you in the next report.

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