



GROUP OF THE UNIFIED EUROPEAN LEFT (UEL)
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Strasbourg, 11 April 2019

Mrs Dunja Mijatovic,
Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner

Madam Commissioner,
Dear Dunja,

May I first thank you for the address you made this week to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, in which you highlighted the most pressing human rights issues in Council of Europe member States.

One of these pressing issues, you told our Assembly, is the safety of journalists. In this respect, I would like to ask you to look, as a matter of urgency, into the situation of journalist, WikiLeaks founder and whistleblower Julian Assange. Mr Assange was arrested today by British police when reportedly leaving the Ecuadorian embassy in London.

Being detained now in our member State Great Britain, Mr Assange is under the protection of the European Convention on Human Rights. In its art. 10 the Convention guarantees freedom of expression and media freedom.

I am informed that the authorities of the United States are asking for extradition of Mr Assange to the US. I would like you to investigate

- whether the arrest of Mr Assange does meet the Convention's criteria,
- whether extradition to the US could go against the protection he is allowed to under the Convention,
- and whether it would be acceptable if Mr Assange would be extradited if and while appealing to the European Court of Human Rights?

I am looking forward to your answer.

Kind regards,

Tiny Kox,
Chairperson Group of the Unified European Left in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe