

DEAR PRESIDENT BIDEN,

We, the undersigned, respectfully request a full and unconditional pardon of Mr. Julian Assange

As independent members of the Australian Parliament and representatives of Australia's leading independent think tanks, committed to the values of transparency, integrity, democratic accountability and press freedom, we write to you to respectfully request the granting of a full and unconditional pardon to Australian citizen, Mr. Julian Assange.

Mr. Assange's recent conviction under the United States Espionage Act sets a deeply troubling precedent for press freedom globally. At a time when that freedom is increasingly under threat, and authoritarianism is on the rise, it is crucial that those committed to democratic accountability, integrity and transparency in both of our countries stand together in solidarity.

As letters written to you by members of the United States Congress and the Australian Parliament regarding Mr. Assange's case indicate, there has long been broad bipartisan support for Mr. Assange's freedom and deep concern about the precedent his conviction may set.

Mr. Assange was required to plead guilty to acts of gathering and disseminating information. These are activities integral to journalism and press freedom.

Such a dangerous precedent endangers journalists worldwide, whilst simultaneously undermining both Australia and the United States' longstanding commitment to press freedom and democratic accountability.

Mr. Assange's case is much bigger than him as an individual. It goes to the heart of the shared values that form the basis of the United States' longstanding alliance with Australia.

A full and unconditional pardon for Mr. Assange would reinforce those shared values at a time when they are more at risk than at any other time in our shared history.

YOURS SINCERELY

Dr Monique Ryan MP

Independent Member for
Kooyong, Australian Federal
Parliament

Zoe Daniel MP

Independent Member for
Goldstein, Australian Federal
Parliament

Senator David Pocock

Independent Senator for the
ACT, Australian Federal
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Helen Haines MP

Independent Member for Indi,
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Andrew Wilkie MP

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Clark, Australian Federal
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Kylea Tink MP

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