

Marrickville Peace Group

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c/- 17 Riverside Crescent
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February 9, 2022

Mr Anthony Albanese MP
334A Marrickville Road
Marrickville

(cc Ms Linda Burney MP)

Re Mr Julian Assange.

Dear Mr Albanese,

At a recent meeting of the Marrickville Peace Group (MPG), the plight of Mr Julian Assange was discussed.

The feeling within the group is that Mr Assange is being needlessly punished by the legal process that he is forced to endure. His personal liberty has already been curtailed for more than 10 years; including nearly three years served in Belmarsh, the UK's maximum security prison .

Our group's considered opinion is that Mr Assange has done nothing more than perform the duties of a conscientious journalist in exposing what amount to war crimes committed by US forces. As far as we are aware, while Mr Assange is being persecuted for outing such crimes, the actual perpetrators have never been brought to justice.

It is clear that Mr Assange is being held up as an example of what might happen to others should they have the temerity to do what he has done. This situation presents serious risks to both a free press and the democratic process in general.

As the legal process drags on, Mr Assange could well die before he is released. He is reportedly already in a delicate state of health. Meanwhile, even though he is a citizen, the Australian government seems reluctant to intercede with the US government on Mr Assange's behalf. Common humanity demands immediate action on this front.

You are on record as saying "Enough is enough!" in the Assange case. MPG urges you to raise the matter of his plight wherever and whenever feasible during the coming election campaign.

We sincerely hope that the ALP wins government. If it does, we urge you to undertake to raise the matter expeditiously with the US authorities and demand in the strongest terms that the charges against Mr Assange be dropped.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Deane
(for Marrickville Peace Group)