*[Name of the US Ambassador to your country]*

*[Address of the US Embassy]*

*[Embassy’s email address]*

***Re: Urgent intervention in the extradition of Julian Assange***

***ADD DATE***

Your Excellency,

We, [insert name of your union or organisation], respectfully ask the United States Government to drop the prosecution of WikiLeaks’ publisher Julian Assange after the UK Home Secretary determined the US could extradite Mr Assange to face charges of espionage. If convicted, he could be jailed for up to 175 years.

It is important to note that the UK Home Secretary’s decision occurred on the 50th anniversary of Watergate – a high point in US public interest reporting.

Leading media outlets from around the world worked with WikiLeaks. They did so aware that the information they analysed came from a whistleblower. Their news stories were factual and published in the public interest. This collaboration has become a model for global investigative journalism, including the reporting of the Panama Papers.

Yet not one of these media outlet is facing any legal repercussions from their receipt, use and publication of that information. Mr Assange has been singled out by the US in what looks like persecution.

The extradition of Mr Assange would create a grave threat to press freedom in the US and around the world. Journalism is global now; the scope and reach of the US Department of Justice charges mean that every journalist, everywhere, is vulnerable to extradition to the US for reporting the truth.

President Barack Obama commuted the sentence of the alleged whistleblower whereas Mr Assange has already been incarcerated in an English prison for more than three years and his health has deteriorated.

Enough is enough. It is time for this assault on press freedom to end. The prosecution of this individual criminalises and chills public interest journalism. This legal action has dark consequences for journalists everywhere.

We respectfully urge President Joseph Biden to direct that all the charges against Julian Assange be dropped so that Mr Assange can be released to be with his wife and children.

Yours Sincerely,

*[Your signature]*