

**To:** Mr. Volker Türk, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights  
**CC:** Head of the Permanent Missions to the UN in Geneva

05 April 2024

**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for High Commissioner's Vocal Support and Action on the Cases of Julian Assange and Craig Murray

Dear High Commissioner,

I am writing to you once again from Justice pour Tous Internationale / Justice for All International, a non-profit organization committed to global justice and the protection of human rights, based in Geneva. While we are grateful for your office's commitment to human rights advocacy, we must express our profound concern over the noticeable inaction regarding the plight of Craig Murray, alongside the ongoing suffering faced by Julian Assange due to his extraordinarily prolonged arbitrary detention by the UK.

Despite our repeated submissions and the engagement of Special Procedures mandate holders on these matters, there has been a disheartening lack of actionable response or public support from your office. The first formal intervention by the UN Special Procedures in three years was a press release issued on 6 February 2024. Regrettably, it does not mention that the Special Rapporteur on torture has dispatched an official communication to the UK Government, which, unlike press releases, requires an answer. Moreover, the Special Rapporteur on torture inadvertently stated that Assange has been in detention since 2019, which is not accurate, contradicts and undermines the opinion of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

In fact, Assange has been arbitrarily detained by the UK for almost 14 years. In 2015, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) highlighted Assange's ongoing deprivation of liberty since 2010 (see A/HRC/WGAD/2015/54, paras 77 - 85). Julian Assange has endured various forms of arbitrary deprivation of liberty since his arrest on 7 December 2010. The WGAD's Opinion No. 54/2015 concluded that Assange had been arbitrarily detained by the UK, in violation of the ICCPR. The WGAD's decision has not been complied with by the UK Government. Instead, Assange was re-arrested in April 2019 for breaching bail conditions in the UK.

The second intervention after three years of silence about Assange was the Press Release issued by the UN Special Rapporteur, whose mandate's one of the main sponsors is the UK. Similarly, the press release is ambiguous about the formal communication, which requires a

response. In any case, both Special Rapporteurs failed to urge the UK Government to release Julian Assange immediately.

Craig Murray's case, in particular, has languished without significant attention or intervention from the OHCHR, a silence that starkly contrasts with the principles your office upholds and extensive interventions on similar allegedly politically motivated persecutions in Global South countries. This inaction not only affects Mr. Murray and Mr. Assange but also casts a shadow over the credibility and effectiveness of the OHCHR and its mandate holders in safeguarding the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

Recently, our association provided a platform for Craig Murray to [vocalize his case and that of Julian Assange](#) at the Human Rights Committee during its 140th Session. However, a concerning [incident](#) occurred where a member of the Committee was silenced during the public review of the UK periodic report. Mr Rodrigo A. Carazo aimed to articulate his concerns over Assange's prolonged arbitrary detention and Craig Murray's investigation under Schedule 7 of the UK 2000 Terrorism Act for his peaceful support of the Palestinian people's right to self-defence, as well as the broader implications for freedom of speech. Additionally, he intended to raise urgent issues beyond these cases, including the unfolding genocide situation in Gaza and the controversial role of the UK's arms exporters to the region.

This unprecedented event, which we highlighted on our LinkedIn and was further elaborated on in [Craig Murray's blog](#), has garnered attention from [Chinese](#) and [Georgian](#) media, among others. This incident underscores the urgency with which these cases demand public support and action from your office.

The global community, along with various media outlets, is closely watching our collective response to these human rights challenges. The extraordinary, prolonged arbitrary detention of Julian Assange and the persecution faced by Craig Murray not only contravene the ICCPR but also test our collective resolve to uphold the very foundations of human rights and freedom of expression. While the High Commissioner remains silent, President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan has assumed his role in the recent [telephone conversation](#) with the State Secretary Blinken, urging the United States to stop persecuting and release Assange and halt his extradition from UK.

Therefore, we implore you, with renewed urgency, to publicly show unbiased courage and leadership in supporting Julian Assange and Craig Murray. We urge your office to take decisive action, including issuing press releases and engaging Special Procedures mandate holders to address these cases forthrightly. The international community's faith in the OHCHR as a beacon of human rights advocacy relies on our ability to address such critical issues without delay or hesitancy.

Our commitment to justice and the protection of human rights defenders remains unwavering. We will continue our advocacy until the situations of Craig Murray and Julian

Assange are adequately addressed by the High Commissioner and Special Procedures. The world is not only watching but also awaiting a response that aligns with our shared human rights principles.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent matter. We look forward to witnessing a strong, principled stance from your office that affirms its dedication to human rights for all, irrespective of political pressures or affiliations.

Sincerely,



Sharof Azizov

Founder and Secretary of the Board

Justice for All International / Justice pour Tous Internationale

Not-for-profit association registered in Geneva (CHE-226.634.549)

Mob: +41765704575

Mob: +41764680575

Email: justiceforallinternational@gmail.com

email: sharof.azizov@gmail.com

Twitter: @justice4allGE

LinkedIn: <https://ch.linkedin.com/company/justice-pour-tous-internationale>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/sharof-azizov-17407523>

ANNEX:

**More information in details about interventions by Justice pour Tous Internationale**

Here is a **chronological summary** of some key interactions with the OHCHR and Special Procedures as discussed above:

1. **On 22 August 2023**, Justice for All International initially submitted a complaint to the UN Human Rights Council's Special Procedures Mandate Holders on behalf of Mr. Craig Murray, highlighting alleged human rights violations by the UK.
2. **On 23 August 2023**, Freedex OHCHR officer from the OHCHR acknowledged receipt of the complaint and indicated that the case was being looked into.
3. **On 25 September 2023**, Justice for All International sent a gentle reminder about their submission, expressing a desire to include updates on actions taken by Special Procedures mandate holders and OHCHR in their report for the UK's review by the Human Rights Committee in March 2024.
4. **On 8 October 2023**, A second gentle reminder was sent regarding the ongoing complaint process and the request to meet with the Special Rapporteurs.
5. **On 10 October 2023**, Freedex OHCHR officer assured that the case was being looked into and more news would be shared soon.
6. **On 23 October 2023**, Justice for All International submitted a new complaint concerning the harassment, intimidation, and persecution of Mr. Craig Murray based on the Schedule 7 UK Terrorism Act 2000 for speaking up in support of Palestinian people's right to self-defense.
7. **On 26 October 2023**, Justice for All International followed up on their recent submission, sharing additional evidence, including letter from the UK police that Craig Murray has been subjected to ongoing investigation under Schedule 7 UK Terrorism Act 2000 and expressing grave concerns about new terrorism-related investigations against Mr. Murray.
8. **On 27 October 2023**, Justice for All International reached out to Special Rapporteurs and OHCHR staff for a meeting opportunity, indicating Mr. Murray's presence in Switzerland.
9. **On 30 October 2023**, Freedex OHCHR officer expressed availability to meet with Mr. Murray on behalf of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression.
10. **On 31 October 2023**, Justice for All International confirmed their side for the meeting and inquired about the availability of other mandates or Special Rapporteurs – not available.
11. **On 2 November 2023**, Justice for All International met with the UK desk officer, and OHCHR Colleagues representing SR mandates on terrorism, freedex, and human rights defenders.

12. **On 4 December 2023**, a reminder and request for a meeting with the High Commissioner were sent to Volker Turk, including additional information about the broader pattern of targeting journalists in the UK.
13. **On 22 December 2023**, a reminder for a follow-up meeting after the holiday season was sent, underscoring the urgency of the cases of Mr. Craig Murray and Julian Assange.
14. **On 5 February 2024**, Justice for All International submitted its shadow report about the UK to the Secretariat of the Human Rights Committee
15. **On 6 March 2024**, a follow-up request for an in-person meeting with the High Commissioner was sent, emphasizing the significant concern for the cases of Craig Murray and Julian Assange and their implications on fundamental human rights issues. The HC's assistant, responded that he is not available and the Chief of ECA section and the desk officer will meet Criag Murray and Justice for All International.
16. **On 7 March 2024**, the statement was dully submitted to the HRCtee secretariat.
17. **On 8 March 2024**, the Chief of ECA section from FOTCD proposed a meeting time, which was later adjusted to accommodate Mr. Murray's schedule.
18. **On 11 March 2024**, Justice for All International and Criag Murray attended formal and informal NGO meetings with the members of the UN Human Rights Committee, as well as met with the Chief of OHCHR's ECA Section and UK desk officer, who requested to resubmit previously provided materials. We were seeking a statement by the High Commissioner and facilitation of the communication and statement by the Special Procedures in support of the release of Assange and the dismissal of charges against Craig Murray. Concrete actions were promised to be taken with the OHCHR colleagues supporting relevant SP mandates but no information was communicated about such follow-up.
19. **On 12 March 2024**, a follow-up email included attachments related to Craig Murray's case and reiterated the call for action regarding the ongoing investigation under the UK Terrorism Act 2000 – no further action by the OHCHR

This timeline encapsulates the diligent efforts made by Justice for All International to engage with the OHCHR and Special Procedures in advocating for the rights of Craig Murray and Julian Assange, reflecting a persistent pursuit of justice and demand to the OHCHR to exercise protection mandate. Additionally, Justice for All International organized for Craig Murray several meetings with the delegations and Ambassadors in their respective permanent missions.

**For detailed insights into our advocacy** please visit our Fundraising Campaign at <https://gofund.me/baa2a435>.

Explore our Shadow Report on the UK for an in-depth analysis of our legal arguments and human rights concerns at [https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCCPR%2FCSS%2FGBR%2F57473&Lang=en](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCCPR%2FCSS%2FGBR%2F57473&Lang=en).

Learn about our urgent call for the immediate release of Julian Assange, highlighting the troubling extent of his nearly 14-year prolong arbitrary detention by the UK, at <https://lnkd.in/ehmcd9qc>.

Please listen to Craig Murray's impactful statements at <https://lnkd.in/eiv35wJz>, which further illuminate our cause.

Our Association's Shadow Report on the UK:  
[https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCCPR%2FCSS%2FGBR%2F57473&Lang=en](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCCPR%2FCSS%2FGBR%2F57473&Lang=en)

For more details, please visit Mr. Murray's blog: Fighting the British Police State – Somebody Has To <https://lnkd.in/eKiDUyqz>.

Craig Murray blog: Incredibly, I Face Investigation for Terrorism – Defence Funds Appeal <https://lnkd.in/dKapDyxH>  
and his X (Twitter): <https://lnkd.in/eJbBPTAB>

Additionally, this article provides further insight into Mr. Murray's situation: Craig Murray seeks UN protection in Switzerland against British police-state persecution <https://lnkd.in/euN-jFtE>.

Reference to Ambassador Craig Murray's statement, in which he elaborated on our concerns to the Committee: <https://lnkd.in/eiv35wJz>

The Association's call on the UK Government to refrain from using section 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 to prosecute peaceful political protesters and critics of public policy who engage in non-violent expression, protest and political activity, published in December 2023: <https://lnkd.in/eBiadew>

The Association's call on the UK government to immediately release Assange, published on 28 March 2024: <https://lnkd.in/ehmcd9qc>

Our press statement Geneva – An unprecedented event unfolded during the 140th Session of the Human Rights Committee, bringing concerns over freedom of expression within the United Nations mechanisms into sharp focus, published on 20 March 2024:

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7176030809848451072>

The Assange Hearing Permission Appeal Judgment: Mad and Bad, published on 29 March 2024

<https://www.craigmurray.org.uk/archives/2024/03/the-assange-hearing-permission-appeal-judgment-mad-and-bad/>

An Urgent Message About Gaza, published by Craig Murray on 2 April 2024

<https://www.craigmurray.org.uk/archives/2024/04/an-urgent-message-about-gaza/>

Assange Truth and UN Shenanigans, published by Craig Murray on 16 March 2024

<https://www.craigmurray.org.uk/archives/2024/03/assange-truth-and-un-shenanigans/>

Does the Human Rights Conference lack human rights? Human rights expert banned from speaking at UN meeting internationality, published on 31 March 2024

<https://www.dotdotnews.com/s/202403/31/AP66097dbec4b0f58de9d4c9d3.html>

Ho Junyao criticizes the lack of human rights in the Human Rights Committee. Human rights experts were banned from speaking at the United Nations meeting.

Jian Material Network, published on 02 April 2024, Guangdong

<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/KECXpDnWh9qtSXruQKyvRg>

Calls of the Georgian Association “former political prisoners for human rights”, both published on 3 April 2024, Tbilisi (in Georgian): <https://www.ongo.ge/?l=G&m=1&ID=95481>

[https://digest.ge/news/sazogadoeba/yvelas-vtkhov-sheuertes-am-kampanias-imisatvis-rom-julian-asanji-ar-iqnes-eqstradirebuli-ashsh-shi-sadats-mas-sikvdilit-dasja-emuqreba-nana-kakabadze-mimartavs-avrtselebs?fbclid=IwAR03jhcdnx3QrXpDMadjPS4oZyBqWF6COD-RIG7vmksIgNxznAED9HZ-1tw\\_aem\\_ATZckwHAXY0RxOnuylEoq\\_jJKgzA-L4sW5c4gKDx3eupSvMUbmYhPrJN\\_gEwNbgQqno](https://digest.ge/news/sazogadoeba/yvelas-vtkhov-sheuertes-am-kampanias-imisatvis-rom-julian-asanji-ar-iqnes-eqstradirebuli-ashsh-shi-sadats-mas-sikvdilit-dasja-emuqreba-nana-kakabadze-mimartavs-avrtselebs?fbclid=IwAR03jhcdnx3QrXpDMadjPS4oZyBqWF6COD-RIG7vmksIgNxznAED9HZ-1tw_aem_ATZckwHAXY0RxOnuylEoq_jJKgzA-L4sW5c4gKDx3eupSvMUbmYhPrJN_gEwNbgQqno)