

Julian Assange will soon stand before a court that will decide if he will be extradited to Sweden. My concern is the same as that of Mr. Assange's lawyers - that this is just the first step in his being rendered illegally from Sweden to the United States, where death threats to him have been issued and he will certainly be prosecuted for a crime the State Department is officially eager to find. I hope and stress that the laws of the United Kingdom be upheld. Political rendition is unlawful in the United Kingdom, but there are several indications that extradition to Sweden would serve as false cover to effectively render him illegally to the United States.

I believe sex offenses have to be taken seriously and acted upon the principles of due-process. It does not seem the case in the current situation, but I trust the UK law system will live up to its standards and refuse to let political pressure interfere with the court decision.

Portugal is a young democracy, so we know only too well how democracy depends on freedom of speech and the rule of law. That is one of the reasons why I and many others will be paying close attention to what happens to Julian Assange in the near future. The world is watching, and in the end the UK's reputation as an upholder of freedom values is also at stake.

Sincerly,

NOME COMPLETO  
LOCAL DE RESIDÊNCIA