



UK Mission
Geneva

**From the Permanent
Representative**

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7 October 2019

Nils Melzer

Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman
or degrading treatment or punishment

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10

Dear Mr Melzer,

The Government rejects any allegation that Julian Assange has been subjected to torture in any form as a result of actions by the UK Government. The UK Government does not participate in, solicit, encourage or condone the use of torture for any purpose. The United Kingdom does not accept that Mr Assange was ever arbitrarily detained; he was free to leave the Ecuadorean Embassy at any time.

Mr Assange has been convicted under English law of failing to surrender to custody following due legal process. Judges in the UK are completely impartial and independent from Government. They hear cases based on the evidence presented and in accordance with the law. Mr Assange was legally represented at the hearing and chose not to give or call evidence on his behalf. The detailed sentencing remarks of the District Judge were published on the judicial website and fully explain the decision process. Mr Assange did not appeal his conviction and has withdrawn his appeal against his sentence.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JNBraithwaite'.

JULIAN BRAITHWAITE