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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

KOLAN L. DAVIS, *Chief Counsel and Staff Director*  
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March 9, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Sessions  
Attorney General  
Department of Justice  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Sessions,

When asked if the President believes Julian Assange – the creator and manager of the WikiLeaks website – should be imprisoned for his deliberate acquisition and release of sensitive and classified information, the President’s spokesman, Mr. Sean Spicer, referred the question to the Department of Justice (DOJ). As the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee’s Subcommittee on Oversight, I am asking you directly:

Does the Department of Justice believe Julian Assange has broken the law and is the Department aggressively pursuing his detention and prosecution?

Frankly, it is amazing that I even have to ask this question of the Administration in light of the Intelligence Community’s formal assessment that Mr. Assange’s website is a known outlet for foreign propaganda<sup>1</sup> and in light of Mr. Assange’s history of recklessly endangering the lives of Americans through his illegal disclosures. Nevertheless, because Mr. Spicer referred this matter to DOJ, I am now asking you.

I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Ben Sasse  
Chairman  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
Subcommittee on Oversight, Agency Action,  
Federal Rights and Federal Courts

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<sup>1</sup> Background to “Assessing Russian Activities and Intentions in Recent US Elections”: The Analytic Process and Cyber Incident Attribution, United States Intelligence Community, 6 January 2017