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Dear Attorney General

Free Political Prisoners

“Not acceptable in a democracy”.

Not our words, but the words of the UN Special Rapporteur, Michel Forst, in response to the jailing of five people on 18 July for taking action to demand an end to the previous government’s policy of ‘maxing out’ on North Sea oil and gas, that was inconsistent, according to science, with averting mass loss of life. Imprisoned for periods of four and five years.

Other political prisoners have received less attention than those five. Since the new government came to power, dozens of peaceful people have been locked up for taking proportionate action, according to the evidence, to stop mass loss of life and to prevent clear violations of international law, whether over climate breakdown or Gaza.

In the midst of the prisons crisis. Following trials in which they were banned from explaining to the jury why they did what they did.

‘This is not acceptable in a democracy’. We agree with Michel Forst. As do the 63,730 people who have signed the petition we deliver to you today: *“Stop Jailing Those Telling the Truth”*. Including 3600 teachers. 1550 scientists. 1000 doctors and medics. 380 lawyers. 220 farmers.

On 17 October 2023, you signed a letter to the Financial Times which said:

“In these early days when emotions are so understandably raw, many might be reluctant to remind Israel of its international law obligations, considering to do so insensitive or inappropriate. However, we disagree. In these times of pain and terror the notion that there are laws that we must all live by is challenging but essential. Jewish history teaches us that we cannot give up on them.”

These were powerful words, which echoed in people's hearts. Reminding us of the dangers of complicity in the face of crimes against humanity. You are now in a position to act on your words. Instead you watch on indifferently as others are silenced and jailed and treated as terrorists for refusing to be bystanders.

The escalation in repressive measures follows recommendations from Lord Walney, who is presented to the public as the Government's 'independent adviser on political violence and disruption' but is in reality a paid lobbyist for the arms and oil industries.

We echo the call to you from Chris Packham and Dale Vince for a meeting, to be recorded and made publicly available, regarding the Government's violations of international law as detailed by the UN. That call has been backed by thousands of others such as the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, the leading human rights lawyer, Sir Geoffrey Bindman, union figures such as Maryam Eslamdoust and Len McCluskey and cultural icons such as Tracy Emin, Ben Okri and Annie Lennox. There have been rallies and letters from MPs. A number of interventions from the UN. Last Saturday, CNN published an article, "[Climate protesters are taking action against Big Oil. UK courts are handing them prison terms akin to rapists and thieves](#)".

But still you won't agree to a meeting to discuss these matters of overwhelming public concern. While industry lobbyists hold court and frame policy, arranging meetings with Ministers at will.

In the name of democracy, we cannot let this go.

If you do not agree to a meeting with a delegation of concerned citizens, we will escalate our actions. If you or your office would like to contact us, please do so via info@defendourjuries.org. As soon as you agree to this reasonable request we will call off the campaign.

We will begin by staging a free public exhibition of political prisoners outside Southwark Crown Court from 12.30pm on 27 September. It will be a lawful and peaceful assembly in accordance with Article 10 and 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights and the principles established by the Supreme Court in the case of Ziegler.

You are welcome to join us. Or to watch on passively as we're arrested and jailed. We'll follow the promptings of our consciences. All we ask is that you do the same.

Yours sincerely,

Defend Our Juries.