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**Vorsitzender des Ausschusses für Europa und Eine Welt
Mitglied des Rechtsausschusses**

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Seiner Exzellenz
Dem Botschafter des
Vereinigten Königreichs Großbritannien
und Nordirland
Herrn Simon McDonald CMG
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21st August 2013

Dear Ambassador McDonald,

With deep concern and bitter disappointment I have followed recent events in the United Kingdom in connection with the revelations of Mr Snowden. The detention of Mr Miranda, the partner of journalist Glenn Greenwald, under the Terrorism Act as well as the threats and reprisals carried out against the independent newspaper "The Guardian" represent a massive breach of the principle of a free press and a serious attack on the rule of law in the United Kingdom.

Following the disclosures of its mass surveillance activities, it has now become evident that the British intelligence agency GCHQ is willing to deliberately undermine these principles. Should these actions have been executed without the knowledge of the British government, an immediate response by the government is necessary, distancing itself from the events as well as condemning them. Otherwise, it is guilty of complicity in the flagrant violation of fundamental rights.

Although the United Kingdom possesses an impressive record of defying oppressive regimes, latest developments raise fears of a dangerous tendency towards the repeal of democratic principles within its own borders.

I would hereby like to invite you as our guest of honour to one of the upcoming sessions of the Committee on European and International Affairs at the Landtag of North Rhine-Westphalia in order to further elucidate our deep concerns as regards recent developments in the United Kingdom.

Yours sincerely,

Nicolaus Kern