



**CAPTAIN PAUL WATSON  
FOUNDATION**

**1st August 2024**

**Dear Mette Frederiksen, Prime Minister of Denmark,**

We, the undersigned organisations and individuals, write to you with serious concern and dismay over the recent arrest of Captain Paul Watson by Danish police on an international arrest warrant issued by Japan.

Captain Watson has dedicated his life to the defence of marine life and the preservation of our oceans. His actions have always been driven by a commitment to environmental conservation and justice; a commitment which has seen him awarded the Amazon Peace Prize, the Jules Verne Polar Star Medal and inducted into the US Animal Rights Hall of Fame.

Yet on the morning of Sunday July 21st, over a dozen Danish police boarded the M/Y John Paul DeJoria as soon as it reached port in Nuuk, Greenland in order to arrest him. This action by Danish authorities reportedly stemmed from a confidential Red Notice issued by Japan, following Captain Watson's courageous efforts to protect whales from illegal Japanese whaling activities in international waters.

The actions of the Japanese whaling fleet not only contravened the International Whaling Commission's moratorium but saw them operating in breach of the ICJ ruling for several years, before eventually ceasing Antarctic high seas whaling in 2016.

Denmark and the EU have rightly taken a firm stand against whaling and have banned this practice. It is surprising that Danish authorities would now act to enforce a notice against Paul Watson, given that the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe\* has raised the fact that Paul Watson was subjected to ill-founded red notices in the past. Especially as no other nation has seen fit to do so in the last decade - in particular none of the countries that Denmark regards as friends and allies.

We call for your urgent assistance. Paul Watson has worked tirelessly to protect the ocean for you, your family and the Kingdom of Denmark. Now is the time to live by your personal and national commitments to the environment, wildlife and human rights, and protect Paul Watson.

The abusive nature of the Red Notice provide clear grounds to refuse extradition under Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights\*\* on the basis that Captain Paul Watson would not receive a fair trial in Japan.

We ask that you please intervene in this case: A decision to extradite Paul Watson is not just a decision about an individual; it is a decision to stand with a regime that is perceived to violate the basic principles of global

justice and environmental stewardship and would likely see Paul live out his final days in prison.

Let your lasting legacy to the Kingdom of Denmark and the planet be the protection of the environment and its defenders over those who seek to destroy the ocean's ecosystem.

Otherwise, if protecting whales and caring about the ocean is a crime, you should arrest us too.

Yours sincerely, Signatories:

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\*References:\*

\* <https://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=23524&lang=en>

\*\* [https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#{%22itemid%22:\[%22001-108629%22\]}](https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#{%22itemid%22:[%22001-108629%22]})

European Court of Human Rights: Othman v United Kingdom, judgment of the European Court of Human Rights of 17 January 2012, para.258 (“an issue might exceptionally be raised under Article 6 by an expulsion or extradition decision in circumstances where the fugitive had suffered or risked suffering a flagrant denial of justice in the requesting country”).