

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei  
Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
c/o H.E. Mr. Majid Takht Ravanchi  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic  
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November 25, 2020

Your Excellency,

I write on behalf of the European University Association (EUA) to express grave concern for the well-being of Dr. Ahmadreza Djalali, an Iranian-Swedish scholar of disaster medicine at imminent risk of execution. I understand from Scholars at Risk (SAR) that Iranian authorities recently put Dr. Djalali in solitary confinement and are preparing to carry out his death sentence at any moment. I respectfully urge you to call on the appropriate authorities to suspend the capital sentence issued against Dr. Amadreza Djalali and to secure his immediate release.

I understand from SAR that in April 2016 Dr Djalali was arrested while he was traveling to participate in a series of workshops hosted by universities in Tehran and Shiraz. On 21 October 2017, Dr. Djalali was convicted and sentenced to death for “corruption on earth” (ifsad fil-arz), based on unsubstantiated allegations that he had provided intelligence to the Israeli authorities. Dr. Djalali has disputed the allegations, asserting that his ties to the international academic community are the basis of his prosecution. Dr. Djalali teaches at universities in Italy and Belgium, including Karolinska University, in Sweden; Università degli Studi del Piemonte Orientale, in Italy; and Vrije Universiteit Brussel, in Belgium. SAR understands that Dr. Djalali has been denied the right to appeal the conviction and sentence. EUA has written to you and the relevant authorities several times on this matter in the past.

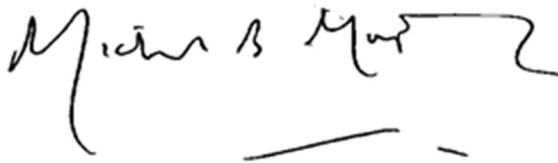
According to his family, Dr. Djalali has been subjected to torture and solitary confinement while in state custody. In July 2019, Iranian authorities suddenly transferred Dr. Djalali to an undisclosed detention facility where he was threatened with immediate execution in order to obtain a forced confession. It is reported that Dr. Djalali has suffered from a number of severe medical complications, including gastritis, stomach ulcers, gallstones, anemia, depression, and anxiety. He is also suspected of being at high-risk of leukemia, after his bone marrow cells were found to have weakened. Despite these complications, SAR understands that authorities have repeatedly denied Dr. Djalali proper medical care.

The European University Association is deeply concerned by these violations of accepted judicial norms and Dr. Djalali's rights, which demonstrate a troubling disregard for international standards of academic freedom, due process, fair trial, and humane treatment of prisoners, as guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is a party.

I therefore respectfully urge you, on behalf of our 840 member universities and organisations, to direct the relevant authorities to suspend the capital sentence issued against Dr. Djalali, to secure his immediate release, and, pending such action, to ensure his well-being and access to legal counsel, family, and medical treatment.

I appreciate your attention to his important matter and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



**Professor Michael Murphy,  
President, European University Association**

CC:

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