

UK Academies Human Rights Committee

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei
Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran
The Office of the Supreme Leader
Islamic Republic Street – End of Shahid Keshvar Doust Street
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

11 May 2022

Your Excellency,

RE: Halt the execution of Dr Ahmadreza Djalali

We write to you as the international secretaries of seven national academies of the UK and members of the UK Academies Human Rights Committee to immediately halt the imminent execution of Dr Ahmadreza Djalali, an Iranian-Swedish scholar of disaster medicine, who has been sentenced to death in Iran. We seek your urgent intervention now as we understand that Iranian authorities are preparing to carry out their execution of Dr Djalali by 21 May 2022.

On 4 May 2022, Iran's *ISNA* news agency reported that Iranian authorities were taking steps to execute Dr Djalali by 21 May 2022. This is the third time in the past three years in which authorities have threatened to carry out Dr Djalali's execution. Iranian authorities arrested Dr Djalali in April 2016 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 Israeli authorities. Dr Djalali has disputed the allegations, asserting that his ties to the international academic community are the basis of his prosecution. The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention found in a 2017 opinion that he was arbitrarily detained and called for his immediate release. Scholars at Risk understands that Dr Djalali has been denied the right to appeal his conviction and sentence, denied access to appropriate medical care for numerous health complications that worsened while he was in solitary confinement, denied access to his lawyer and his family in Iran, and barred from making calls to his wife and children in Sweden.

The facts as described suggest that Dr Djalali's arrest, conviction, and sentencing suggest a flagrant 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.

In light of the above, we respectfully request that you use your good offices to immediately halt the execution and secure his release so may return to his family.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Tom Solomon

Professor Tom Solomon CBE FMedSci
Academy of Medical Sciences

David Evans

Professor Sir David Edward FRSE FMedSci
The Royal Society of Edinburgh

John Bell

Professor John Bell QC (hon.) FBA
British Academy

L. O'Leary

Professor Luke Drury MRIA MAE FInstP HonFTCD
The Royal Irish Academy

Christine Chinkin

Professor Christine Chinkin CMG FBA
British Academy

Robin Grimes

Professor Sir Robin Grimes FRS FREng
The Royal Society

Michael Charlton

Professor Michael Charlton FINSTP FLSW MAE
The Learned Society of Wales

Richard Bowen

Professor Richard Bowen FREng
The Royal Academy of Engineering

Hector MacQueen

Professor Hector MacQueen CBE FBA FRSE
The Royal Society of Edinburgh

CC His Excellency Mr Baharvand Mohsen, Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran to the UK
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