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Ayatollah Ali Khamenei  
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c/o H.E. Mr. Gholamali Khoshroo  
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(cc: see final page)

14. Dec. 2017

## **Supreme Court's Affirmation of Death Sentence Issued to Dr. Ahmadreza Djalali**

Your Excellency:

Once again, I write to express grave concern over the death sentence recently issued to Dr. Ahmadreza Djalali, a scholar of disaster medicine who was arrested in April 2016 in apparent retaliation for peacefully exercising the right to academic freedom. We have been informed that the death sentence against Dr. Djalali, initially issued on 21 October, was summarily affirmed by the Supreme Court on 9 December, and that he would now be executed. We have also learned that, in an extremely worrying development, Dr. Djalali appears to have been denied a proper appeal. I respectfully urge you to call on the appropriate authorities to reverse Dr. Djalali's capital sentence immediately and to ensure his unconditional release.

The German Rectors' Conference (Hochschulrektorenkonferenz / HRK) is the umbrella organisation of public and government-recognised universities in Germany. The HRK brings together all major German universities and universities of applied sciences. Like the HRK itself, a steadily growing number of its member institutions sees great potential in German-Iranian cooperation in the fields of science, research, and exchange. Only recently, in July 2017, a delegation of high-ranking university and HRK representatives visited the Islamic Republic of Iran to strengthen the ties between our two countries. We would like to build on the very positive outcomes of numerous joint initiatives, workshops and visits of both German and Iranian delegations.

However, we also strongly believe that safeguarding academic freedom and the protection of human rights are the absolute preconditions for international cooperation. Without these a fruitful partnership between Iran and Germany will be difficult to maintain.

The German Rectors' Conference and its 268 member institutions strongly condemn the egregious violation of accepted judicial norms and Dr. Djalali's rights. Dr. Djalali's conviction, capital sentence, and the affirmation thereof – in addition to the circumstances of his arrest and confinement – suggest 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 to intervene, urging the relevant authorities to reverse Dr. Djalali's capital sentence immediately, to ensure his unconditional release from prison, and to drop all charges against him.

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

Sincerely,



Professor Dr. Horst Hippler  
President

cc:

- Scholars at Risk  
New York, United States of America
- The Honorable Ayatollah Sadeqh Larijani  
Head of the Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran
- The Honorable Anna Segall  
Director of the Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs, UNESCO
- The Honorable Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein  
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- The Honorable Rex Tillerson  
United States Secretary of State
- The Honorable Stefan Löfven  
Prime Minister of Sweden
- The Honorable Didier Reynders  
Foreign Minister of Belgium
- The Honorable Angelino Alfano  
Foreign Minister of Italy
- The Honorable Asma Jahangir  
United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran
- The Honorable Federica Mogherini  
High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission
- President Hassan Rouhani  
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran