

HRK Hochschulrektorenkonferenz, Ahrstraße 39, D-53175 Bonn  
Ayatollah Ali Khamenei  
Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
c/o H.E. Mr. Gholamali Khoshroo  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of  
the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United  
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Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of  
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(cc: see final page)

5 March 2018

## Release Dr. Ahmadreza Djalali on medical parole

Your Excellency:

I write to express grave concern for the health and well-being of Dr. Ahmadreza Djalali, who repeatedly has been refused medical care in prison. I respectfully urge you to call on the appropriate authorities to immediately release Dr. Djalali on medical parole.

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. The HRK itself and a larger number of its 268 member institutions believe that German-Iranian cooperation in the fields of science, research, and exchange holds great potential. Currently, there are 77 formal agreements between higher education institutions in Germany and Iran. The broad scope of cooperation ranges from the exchange of students, doctoral candidates, and senior researchers to joint research and publications. Over the last three years, in particular, we have taken significant steps towards strengthening our ties with partner institutions in Iran. We would like to build on these success stories and the positive outcomes of numerous joint initiatives, workshops and visits of both German and Iranian delegations.

As mentioned in several previous letters in support of Dr. Djalali, we strongly believe that international cooperation must be firmly grounded in the standards of academic freedom and the protection of human rights. Without these principles, a

successful and lasting partnership between Iran and Germany will be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to uphold.

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.

Compounding these due process concerns are reports that Dr. Djalali is facing increasing health complications, including diarrhea, weight loss, and a possible tumor. He has been denied medical care several times and has recently been informed that his bone marrow cells have severely weakened, indicating a high possibility of leukemia. Dr. Djalali was scheduled to see a blood and cancer specialist at a hospital on February 5; however, prison authorities prevented him from going.

I therefore respectfully ask you to intervene, urging the relevant authorities to immediately release Dr. Djalali on medical parole.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter-André Alt', written in a cursive style.

Professor Dr. Peter-André Alt  
President

cc:

- Scholars at Risk Network  
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 Michelle Bachelet  
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- The Honorable Mike Pompeo  
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 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