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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 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)

9 Sept. 2019

Release Dr. Ahmadreza Djalali

Your Excellency:

I write to express grave concern for Dr. Ahmadreza Djalali, a scholar of disaster medicine who was sentenced to death in October 2017. I understand that Dr. Djalali was unexpectedly transferred to an undisclosed location on July 29, 2019, where he was kept in solitary confinement and allegedly subjected to torture and threatened with the execution of the death sentence issued against him in order to force confessions from him. He has since been returned to Evin Prison. I respectfully urge you to call on the appropriate authorities to immediately release Dr. Djalali.

I acknowledge receipt of the letter dated 18 July 2019 from His Excellency Mahmoud Farazandeh, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Germany. While I am grateful for the response to my open letter in support of Dr. Djalali dated 5 March 2019, I continue to be deeply concerned by recent reports that Dr Djalali still has no adequate access to medical care despite the critical condition of his health. This will remain a matter of grave concern for me until the day on which Iranian authorities finally release Dr. Djalali from prison.

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 81 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 four 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 an entire series of 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. I once again ask you to respect the foundations on which the future of Iranian-German partnership must rest. A strong and unwavering commitment to academic freedom and human rights must be at the very centre of our cooperation.

Dr. Djalali's conviction, capital sentence, and the affirmation thereof, unexpected transfer, and torture – 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.

I therefore respectfully urge you to instruct the relevant authorities to immediately release Dr. Djalali and, pending such action, to ensure his well-being and access to legal counsel, family, and medical treatment.

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

Sincerely,



Professor Dr. Peter-André Alt
President

cc:

- Scholars at Risk Network
New York, United States of America
- President Hassan Rouhani
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran
- The Honorable Ayatollah Ebrahim Raeisi
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 Javād Rehman
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
- The Honorable Stefan Löfven
Prime Minister of Sweden
- The Honorable Didier Reynders
Foreign Minister of Belgium
- The Honorable Mike Pompeo
United States Secretary of State
- The Honorable Margot Wallström
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden