

The President
Prof Dr Peter-André Alt

HRK Hochschulrektorenkonferenz, Leipziger Platz 11, 10117 Berlin
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
Nations
Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of
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C5

(cc: see final page)

May 6, 2022

RE: Preventing Imminent Execution of Dr. Ahmadreza Djalali

Your Excellency,

I write on behalf of the German Rectors' Conference to respectfully urge you to do everything in your power to immediately halt the imminent execution of Dr. Ahmadreza Djalali, an Iranian-Swedish scholar of disaster medicine wrongfully sentenced to death in Iran.

I understand from Amnesty International and Scholars at Risk (SaR) that Iranian authorities are taking steps to execute Dr. Djalali by May 21.

The German Rectors' Conference (Hochschulrektorenkonferenz / HRK) is the umbrella organisation of universities in Germany. The HRK itself and a large number of its 268 member institutions believe that German - Iranian cooperation in the fields of science, research, and exchange holds great potential. The broad scope of cooperation ranges from the exchange of students, doctoral candidates, and senior researchers to joint research and publications. 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.

These achievements are severely at risk should Iran execute Dr Ahmadreza Djalali. I strongly believe that German - Iranian cooperation in science, research, and exchange cannot continue as before should Iranian authorities fail to suspend the death sentence against a highly respected member of the international academic community and citizen of the European Union.

As mentioned in an entire series of letters in support of Dr Djalali, 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.

Dr. Djalali and his family have been living a nightmare for the past six years. His life must be saved. He must be released. We respectfully urge you to do everything in your power to prevent the execution and secure Dr. Djalali's release and safe return to Sweden and to his wife and two children.

We appreciate your attention to this life-and-death matter and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Alt'.

Professor Dr. Peter-André Alt

cc:

- Scholars at Risk Network
New York, United States of America
- Ayatollah Ebrahim Raisi
President 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
- Mr. Josep Borrell Fontelles
High Representative / Vice-President, European Commission
- Mr. Eamon Gilmore
EU Special Representative for Human Rights
- Ms. Cornelia Ernst
Chair of the European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with Iran
- Task Force Iran
European Union external Action Service