

Via email to: statsradsberedningen.registrator@gov.se

The Honorable Magdalena Andersson
Prime Minister
Sweden

May 4, 2022

URGENT re: Preventing Imminent Execution of Dr. Ahmadreza Djalali

Your Excellency:

I write on behalf of Scholars at Risk 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. We seek your urgent intervention now after news that Iranian authorities are preparing to carry out their execution of Dr. Djalali by May 21.

Scholars at Risk (SAR) is an international network of more than 600 universities and colleges in 42 countries dedicated to protecting the human rights of scholars around the world, and to raising awareness, understanding of, and respect for the principles of academic freedom and its constituent freedoms of expression, opinion, thought, association, and travel. Dr. Djalali is a disaster medicine scholar and scientist who has held academic positions at Karolinska Institute, in Sweden; the Università del Piemonte Orientale, in Italy; and Vrije Universiteit Brussel, in Belgium. In December 2020, he was awarded a SAR Harvard Fellowship at Harvard University, in the United States, a position he has not been allowed to take up.

On May 4, 2022, Iran's ISNA news agency reported that Iranian authorities are taking steps to execute Dr. Djalali by May 21. 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 October 21, 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. SAR 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.

SCHOLARS AT RISK

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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,



Robert Quinn
Executive Director

CC:

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