



INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK

OF ACADEMIES AND SCHOLARLY SOCIETIES

December 15, 2017

The International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies (H.R. Network) supports and defends the fundamental rights of fellow academics worldwide. We, members of the H.R. Network's Executive Committee, are deeply troubled to learn that Dr. Ahmadreza Djalali, an Iranian medical doctor, university lecturer, and researcher in disaster medicine, is facing imminent execution. In October 2017, following a deeply flawed trial, Dr. Djalali was sentenced to death. Reliable reports indicate that Branch 1 of the Supreme Court, in secret session, has decided to uphold his verdict and death sentence. We understand that Dr. Djalali's lawyers were denied the right to present their arguments and legal documentation for their client's defense because the court failed to notify them of the date and Branch where the appeal would take place, despite their repeated requests.

Dr. Djalali is an Iranian national and resident of Sweden, who holds a doctorate degree in medicine from Tabriz University and a Ph.D. in disaster medicine from Sweden's Karolinska Institute and has taught in universities in Belgium, Italy, and Sweden. On April 25, 2016—while visiting Iran, at the invitation of the University of Tehran and Shiraz University, to participate in disaster medicine workshops—he was arrested by security forces of the Ministry of Intelligence and accused of national security-related crimes, including collaborating with a hostile government. We are greatly concerned by reliable reports that Dr. Djalali was forced, under extreme duress that included threats against his children, into signing false statements saying he was “spying” for “a hostile government” and that those statements were used as evidence against him in court. We further understand that the government dismissed his lawyer and forced him to be represented by government-appointed counsel.

Given that no credible evidence was presented at Dr. Djalali's fall 2017 trial to support the charges against him and that he has worked together with individuals from a host of different countries on best practices for delivering medical care in catastrophic situations, it is feared that his arrest and conviction stem from the international collaborative nature of his medical work, in violation of his rights to freedom of expression and association and the right not to be arbitrarily deprived of his life. As a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Islamic Republic of Iran is obligated to uphold these internationally protected rights.

SECRETARIAT

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Academies in the Network support and promote the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, assist unjustly incarcerated nonviolent professional colleagues, address grave science-related human rights issues, and advocate for member institutions whose independence is threatened.

(The U.S. National Academies, non-profit, non-governmental honorary societies, host the Network secretariat.)

www.nas.edu.hnetwork

In the absence of a judicial process that accords with international fair trial standards, we call upon the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to take measures to ensure that Dr. Ahmadreza Djalali is immediately and unconditionally released from prison and permitted to return to his family and medical work.

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