

Via email to: iran@un.int
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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 Nations
Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations
622 Third Avenue, 34th Floor
New York, NY 10017, USA

Appeal to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei from Norwegian University of Science and Technology concerning Dr Ahmadreza Djalali

Your Excellency:

I write on behalf of the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) to express shock and deep concern at the news of the death sentence given to Dr. Ahmadreza Djalali.

I respectfully urge you to call on the relevant authorities to drop any charges against Dr. Djalali, to ensure his release.

As rector, I condemn Iran's action against an academic who has not committed any crime and who has never, in any way, posed a threat to Iran or any other nation.

Dr. Djalali is a scholar of disaster medicine who was arrested in April 2016. He is an Iranian-born resident of Sweden, whose work involves frequent international scientific collaboration. For years he has worked alongside researchers from all over the world, including Iran, to improve the operational capacity of hospitals in countries suffering from extreme poverty and affected by disasters and armed conflicts.

I am deeply concerned not only by the harm suffered by Dr. Djalali and his family, but also by the chilling effect such transgressions may have on the ability of Iran's scholars and students to peacefully study, teach, and collaborate without fear of retaliation.

I further fear that such actions may have a negative impact on the productive relationships NTNU has enjoyed with its Iranian counterparts over the years and the development of future partnerships.

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Please address all correspondence to the organizational unit and include your reference.

Your contribution to his release would be seen as a sign of the Iranian authorities' will to strengthen ties with research institutions in Europe that may be beneficial to everyone involved.

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

Sincerely yours,



Gunnar Bovim
Rector
Norwegian University of Science and Technology

CC:

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