



SCHOLARS AT RISK STUDENTS, RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM  
44780 Bochum | Germany  
c/o Anna Bosbach | [anna.bosbach@rub.de](mailto:anna.bosbach@rub.de)

Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Annalena Baerbock, MdB  
Platz der Republik 1  
11011 Berlin | Germany

May 13, 2022

### **Imminent Execution of Dr. Ahmadreza Djalali in Iran**

Dear Ms. Annalena Baerbock, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs,

We as students and teaching assistants of the Scholars at Risk Advocacy Seminar of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum are members of the international higher education community and in this capacity deeply concerned about Dr. Ahmadreza Djalali. We have already been committed to Dr. Ahmadreza Djalali since the beginning of 2021 and have implemented a variety of actions to support him.

Today we write to respectfully urge you to call on the appropriate authorities to press for immediately halting 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.

Dr. Djalali is a disaster medicine physician and scientist who has held academic positions at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden, Università del Piemonte Orientale in Italy, and Vrije Universiteit Brussel in Belgium. In December 2020, he was awarded a Scholars at Risk Harvard Fellowship at Harvard University in the United States, a position he was not able to take up.

On May 4, 2022, Iran's ISNA news agency reported that Iranian authorities were taking steps to execute Dr. Djalali by May 21. This is the third time in the last three years that authorities have threatened to execute Dr. Djalali. Iranian authorities arrested Dr. Djalali in April 2016 while he was participating in a series of workshops hosted by universities in Tehran and Shiraz. On October 21, 2017, Dr. Djalali was sentenced to death for "corruption on earth" (ifsad fil-arz) based on unsubstantiated allegations that he provided information to Israeli authorities. Dr. Djalali has denied the charges, claiming that his connections to the international academic community were the basis

for his conviction. The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention stated in a 2017 statement that he was arbitrarily detained and called for his immediate release. Scholars at Risk reports that Dr. Djalali was denied the right to appeal his conviction and sentence, denied access to appropriate medical care for numerous health complications that worsened during his solitary confinement, denied access to his lawyer and family in Iran, and denied phone calls to his wife and children in Sweden.

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

We appreciate your attention to this important and incredibly distressing and alarming matter.

Sincerely,

Students and Teaching Assistants of the Scholars at Risk Advocacy Seminars 2021 and 2022,  
Ruhr-Universität Bochum