

Medical Professionals for Human Rights in Iran – Austria

گروه پزشکان و کادر پزشکی مدافع حقوق بشر در ایران- اتریش



Vienna, 05.09.22

A Blatant Blackmail by the Islamic Republic of Iran

Dear Sir or Madam

The Iranian government's threat to execute Swedish scientist Dr. Ahmadreza Djalali later this month is aimed at thwarting the trial in Sweden of Iranian official Hamid Nouri, who is charged with war crimes.

In doing so, the Iranian government is pursuing intimidation tactics aimed at preventing a fair trial in Sweden of a man accused of heinous human rights abuses.

Dr. Djalali is an Iranian-born Swedish physician and researcher who specializes in disaster medicine. He was detained in 2016 by agents of the Ministry of Intelligence in Tehran after traveling from Stockholm to Tehran at the invitation of Tehran University.

For months, he was held in complete solitary confinement, separated from his relatives, including his lawyer, where he was forced to make incriminating statements against himself on camera.

Regime-controlled Iranian television later broadcast edited versions of his incriminating statements on state television.

In a letter from prison, Dr. Djalali stated that Iranian intelligence pressured him to commit espionage, and after he refused, he was forced to make false confessions on camera without access to a lawyer. He was subsequently charged with espionage in a secret trial in Tehran. And sentenced to death in 2017.

The United Nations and international [human rights groups](#), as well as more than [hundred Nobel laureates](#) have vociferously condemned the Iranian government's unlawful detention of Dr. Djalali and called for his release.

According to Djalali's wife (Vida Mehrannia), Djalali's health has deteriorated greatly over the years in Evin Prison.

Committee for the Defence of Human Rights in Iran– Austria

جامعه دفاع از حقوق بشر در ایران- اتریش

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Although the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has committed itself to the [International Convention against the Taking of Hostages](#), it repeatedly uses the detention of dual nationals as a means of exerting pressure to score points in economic and diplomatic dealings with Western countries. This image of moral decay is unacceptable. Dr. Jalali is one of at least 15 dual nationals detained in Iran without due process.

Therefore, we call on the international community, the European Union, the Swedish government and the Austrian government not to engage in any kind of "swap" with the Islamic Republic and to use all means in their power to transparently bring about the release of dual nationals.

There must be an end to this "hostage industry," which unfortunately has been a common practice for decades and is a fixture in the foreign policy of the regime in Tehran. The free world must not forget that human life is not negotiable and that the release of hostages must take place before any agreement or deal is made with an unreliable regime in Tehran!

The historic trial of Hamid Nouri in Sweden, in which dozens of witnesses testified, is the first time that one of the worst crimes committed in the Islamic Republic of Iran has been thoroughly investigated and exposed by an independent tribunal.

Dr. Behrouz Bayat

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