

URGENT ACTION

SWEDISH-IRANIAN AT GRAVE RISK OF EXECUTION IN IRAN

Swedish-Iranian academic, Ahmadreza Djalali, arbitrarily detained in Iran for over eight years, is at grave risk of execution after exhausting all legal avenues to overturn his death sentence. From June 26 to July 4, 2024, he was on hunger strike in protest at his continued arbitrary detention following a prisoner swap between Iran and Sweden on June 15, 2024. Iranian authorities must quash Ahmadreza Djalali's conviction and death sentence imposed following grossly unfair trial proceedings and release him immediately.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.
- [Click here](#) to let us know the actions you took on **Tenth Urgent Action 38.17**. It's important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

Head of judiciary, Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei

c/o Embassy of Iran to the European Union,
Avenue Franklin Roosevelt No. 15, 1050
Bruxelles, Belgium

Supreme Leader 'Ali Khamenei

c/o Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to
the United Nations
622 3rd Ave, 34th floor,
New York, NY 10017
Email: iranunny@mfa.gov.ir

Dear Mr. Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei,

Swedish-Iranian academic, **Ahmadreza Djalali**, arbitrarily detained in Tehran's Evin prison, is at grave risk of execution. He has heart arrhythmia, anemia, and high blood pressure, for which he has been denied timely and adequate access to health care.

Ahmadreza Djalali was arrested in Tehran in April 2016 and sentenced to death for "corruption on earth" (efsad-e fel-arz) in October 2017 after a grossly unfair trial before a Revolutionary Court which relied primarily on "confessions" that Ahmadreza Djalali said were obtained under torture and other ill-treatment while he was held in prolonged solitary confinement and denied access to a lawyer.

I ask you to immediately stop any plans to execute Ahmadreza Djalali, quash his conviction and death sentence, and immediately release him as his detention is rendered arbitrary due to the severe nonobservance of his fair trial rights. Pending his release, Ahmadreza Djalali must be provided with adequate medical care and protected from further torture and other ill-treatment. Prompt, independent, effective, and impartial investigations into those suspected of ordering, committing, aiding, or abetting unlawful acts against him must be conducted and those suspected of such offences must be brought to justice in fair trials. I also call on you to establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The circumstances of Hamid Nouri's pardon by the Swedish government and his return to Iran on June 15, 2024 confirm Amnesty International's earlier concerns that the Iranian authorities have been holding Swedish nationals hostage to swap them for Hamid Nouri. Swedish nationals, Johan Floderus and Saeed Azizi – also an Iranian national, returned home on June 15, 2024 after being subjected to a litany of human rights violations in Iran. Amnesty International [previously held](#) that the Swedish government's decision to release Hamid Nouri contributes to the crisis of impunity in Iran and also emboldens the Iranian authorities to commit further crimes under international law, undermines the right to justice and reparation for survivors and victims' families, and raises concerns about the commitment of Sweden's government to its obligations under international law.

Amnesty International has also previously [warned](#) that Iranian authorities held **Ahmadreza Djalali** hostage and threatened to execute him to compel third parties to swap him for former Iranian officials convicted and/or on trial abroad as well as to refrain from future prosecutions of Iranian officials. On December 19, 2023, the Court of Appeal Svea Hovrätt upheld his conviction and life sentence, imposed by the Stockholm District Court on July 14, 2022. The [next day](#), on December 20, 2023, Iranian state media aired a propaganda video with Ahmadreza Djalali's forced "confessions", which included being a spy for Israel. In a letter written from prison in August 2017, Ahmadreza Djalali said that during this period he was subjected to torture and other ill-treatment in order to force him to "confess" to being a spy, including threats to execute him, kill or otherwise harm his children in Sweden, and his mother, who lived in Iran and died in 2021. In the same letter from August 2017, Ahmadreza Djalali wrote that he was held solely because of his refusal to use his academic ties in European institutions to spy for the Iranian authorities.

Ahmadreza Djalali is a medical doctor and academic who was living in Sweden and was also a visiting professor in disaster medicine at the Vrije Universiteit Brussels. He was arbitrarily arrested on April 26, 2016 while on a business trip to Iran. He was held in Evin prison for seven months in section 209, which is under the control of the Ministry of Intelligence, which includes three months in prolonged solitary confinement, without access to a lawyer. In November 2017, the [UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention](#) called on Iran to release Ahmadreza Djalali immediately and accord him an enforceable right to compensation and other reparations. From late November 2020 to early April 2021, Ministry of Intelligence agents tortured and otherwise ill-treated Ahmadreza Djalali while he was held incommunicado again in prolonged solitary confinement in section 209 of Evin prison. During this time, agents from the Ministry of Intelligence kept a bright light on in his cell 24 hours a day, which he said caused him great mental distress, and forced him to sleep on the floor on a thin blanket for over five months. Throughout his arbitrary detention, Iranian authorities denied him access to timely and adequate health care. On July 3, 2024, while on hunger strike, he was briefly transferred to Evin prison's medical clinic, after being unwell with a weak pulse, and was administered IV fluids.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Persian, English, or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: September 27, 2024

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Ahmadreza Djalali (he/him)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/5698/2022/en/>