

Head of the Judiciary Ebrahim Raisi  
C/o Permanent Mission of Iran to the UN  
Chemin du Petit-Saconnex 28  
1209 Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Mr Raisi,

Iranian-Swedish medical doctor and academic Ahmadreza Djalali was transferred, without prior notice and while blindfolded, from Tehran's Evin prison to an unidentified location on 29 July 2019. The Iranian authorities have since concealed the details of his whereabouts from his family and lawyer, subjecting him to enforced disappearance. On 5 August, his family learned, through an informal government contact outside Iran, that he may be being held in a secret detention facility run by the Revolutionary Guards.

Ahmadreza Djalali has been allowed to make several brief phone calls to his family, revealing that he is being held in solitary confinement and is under renewed pressure to "confess" to new crimes. According to his family he sounded distressed during these phone calls and said that the authorities had threatened to implement his death sentence if he did not "confess". Amnesty International understands that he was not able to provide his family with any additional information as security officials were present in the room, preventing him from speaking freely. Amnesty International asserts that, by extracting and airing forced "confessions", Iranian authorities violate the right to the presumption of innocence, as well as the right not to be forced into incriminating oneself. These rights are guaranteed under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is a party.

Ahmadreza Djalali was sentenced to death for "corruption on earth" in October 2017 following a grossly unfair trial conducted before Branch 15 of the Revolutionary Court in Tehran. Amnesty International has consistently asserted that the offence of "corruption on earth" fails to meet requirements for clarity and precision needed in international law, and also breaches the principle of legality and legal certainty. In a letter from inside Evin prison in August 2017, Ahmadreza Djalali said he was held solely in reprisal for his refusal to use his academic ties in European institutions to spy for Iran. On 9 December 2018, his lawyers learned that the Supreme Court had upheld his sentence in a summary manner without granting them an opportunity to file their defence submissions.

I urge you to immediately disclose the fate and whereabouts of Ahmadreza Djalali, remove him from solitary confinement and allow him to receive visits from his family and lawyer. I further call on you to quash Ahmadreza Djalali's death sentence, release him immediately and accord him an enforceable right to compensation, as per the recommendation of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention in his case.

Yours sincerely,