

I am writing to express my grave concern on Elderly human rights defender Dr Mohammad Maleki who is being prevented from leaving Iran to visit his children in the Netherlands and Canada. The authorities have placed him on a travel ban since 2011, in reprisal for his peaceful human rights activism. He suffers from several serious health problems and wants to be reunited with his family.

I should urge the authorities to lift the travel ban imposed on Dr Mohammad Maleki immediately and unconditionally, as he is being solely punished for the peaceful exercise of his human rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly. I should also request you to respect the right of everyone to leave their country, as guaranteed under Article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is a state party.

Lastly please explicitly recognize the legitimate work of human rights defenders, and end the criminalization of peaceful activities that promote and defend human rights, including communication with UN human rights mechanisms.

Your attention on this matter would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely,