

I am writing this to express my grave concern for a trade unionist and welding teacher Mohammad Habibi, who is now jailed in Tehran's Evin prison. He is a member of the board of directors of the Iran Teachers Trade Association – Tehran. He is being denied the specialized medical care he needs.

When briefly transferred to a hospital in Teheran, a general practising doctor said that he needed to have his kidneys examined urgently by a specialist physician. Despite this, he was taken back to prison without receiving the specialized medical care he needed.

He was released on bail on 15 April. However, he was arrested again on 10 May at a gathering of teachers against the poor economic circumstances of teachers and the lack of sufficient funding for public education.

In August, he was convicted of several spurious national security-related charges and sentenced to 10 and a half years in prison, 74 lashes. He is currently appealing his conviction and sentence.

So I urge you to release Mohammad Habibi immediately and unconditionally as he is a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned solely for peacefully exercising his human rights, including through his trade union activism.

I also urge you to ensure that he is given immediate access to the specialized medical care doctors say he needs in a medical facility outside prison, in compliance with international standards and medical ethics, including the principles of confidentiality, autonomy and informed consent.

Last but not the least, I urge you to investigate Mohammad Habibi's allegations of torture or other ill-treatment, both in detention and during his arrests in March and May 2018, and ensure that those responsible are brought to justice in fair trials.

Thank you for your prompt attention to the above.

Sincerely yours,