

Kungl. Vetenskapsakademien har till uppgift att främja vetenskaperna och stärka deras inflytande i samhället. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has as its aim to promote the sciences and strengthen their influence in society.

Stockholm 16 April 2020

Elisabeth Rachlew /ch

His Excellency Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran The Office of the Supreme Leader Islamic Republic Street – End of Shadid Keshvar Doust Street Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Your Excellency,

We, the joint Human Rights Committee of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities, the Swedish Academy and the Young Academy of Sweden, write respectfully to express our most urgent concern about the health and well-being of four professional colleagues imprisoned in Iran as a result of their peaceful exercise of rights protected by international law and which Iran has undertaken to respect. The colleagues are Dr. Ahmadreza Djalali, an Iranian-Swedish disaster medicine specialist, Ms. Narges Mohammadi, an Iranian physicist, engineer, and human rights defender, Dr. Kylie Moore-Gilbert, an Australian-British political scientist, and Dr. Fariba Adelkhah, an Iranian-French anthropologist.

All four of these individuals suffer from health conditions that make them especially vulnerable to serious consequences in case of a coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) infection. We understand that, while more than 85,000 prisoners in Iran have been released temporarily in an effort to stem the spread of COVID-19, Dr. Djalali, Dr. Moore-Gilbert, and Dr. Adelkhah remain held in Evin Prison, and Ms. Mohammadi continues to be held in a provincial prison in Zanjan.

The World Health Organization and United Nations human rights experts have called on public authorities to take immediate steps to address prison overcrowding, including the priority release of prisoners who have been detained for offenses not recognized under international law. In light of this urgent situation, we respectfully request your help in ensuring Dr. Djalali's, Ms. Mohammadi's, Dr. Moore-Gilbert's, and Dr. Adelkhah's release from prison on humanitarian grounds without delay. Such assistance would be widely welcomed throughout the international scientific community.

We thank you, Your Excellency, for your attention to this important matter. These are dire and challenging times and we send our best wishes to you and the people of Iran.

Sincerely yours,

Elisabeth Rachlew

Professor, Chairman of the Human Rights Committee

Copy:

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Stockholm, Sweden The Embassy of Sweden in Iran



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His Excellency Hassan Rouhani President of the Islamic Republic of Iran c/o His Excellency Majid Takht Ravanchi Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations 622 Third Avenue, 34th Floor New York, NY 10017

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Stockholm 16 April 2020

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His Excellency Ebrahim Raisi
Head of the Judiciary
c/o His Excellency Majid Takht Ravanchi
Permanent Representative of the Islamic
Republic of Iran to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of the Islamic
Republic of Iran to the United Nations
622 Third Avenue, 34th Floor
New York, NY 10017

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