



The Society for the Study of Social Problems

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901 McClung Tower University of Tennessee Knoxville, TN 37996-0490
Phone: 865-689-1531 Fax: 865-689-1534 E-mail: sssp@utk.edu
www.sssp1.org

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May 15, 2022

Mr. Ebrahim Raisi, President
Islamic Republic of Iran
The Presidency
Pasteur Street, Pasteur Square
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Dear President Raisi:

We hope that this letter finds you and your family in good health. As the Executive Officer of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), an interdisciplinary organization of scholars, students, activists and practitioners committed to applying critical, scientific, and humanistic perspectives to the study of vital social problems, I am writing to express deep concern for Dr. Ahmadrza Djalali's health and to ask that you use your authority to suspend his execution on May 21, as reported by a number of news outlets. Dr. Djalali has devoted his life to the well-being of others around the world and is now in need of the same care and attention that he has so unselfishly given to others for so long.

Our concern and appeal rests principally on questions about the manner in which he was arrested and tried, and the nature of the evidence, or lack of evidence, on which the decision to execute him is based. It is our understanding that he was not provided with a warrant or access to counsel from the beginning. It is also our understanding that he made remarks under duress that have been interpreted by some as an admission of guilt. He has indicated that he was forced to read a statement given to him, under threats to his wife and children. My colleagues and I, along with many other organizations and individuals internationally, urge you to stop the execution of a man who was sentenced to death without true legal representation and due process.

While I, and many others, are calling for his outright release, we are urging you, at minimum, to suspend the execution and to ensure that Dr. Djalali is permitted access to his lawyer and family in Iran, to call to his wife and children in Sweden, and to receive the medical care that he so urgently needs. In short, we urge you to do everything in your power to allow Dr. Djalali to return to his family in Sweden.

Thank you for considering our request.

Respectfully,

Héctor L. Delgado, Ph.D.
Executive Officer, Society for the Study of Social Problems