

H.E. Hamid Baeidinejad
Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Sent by email to: iranemb.lon@mfa.gov.ir

29 August 2019

Detention of Dr Ahmadreza Djalali

Your Excellency,

We are writing to you on behalf of the British Medical Association to express our grave concerns about the failure to provide adequate health care to Dr Ahmadreza Djalali while in prison in Tehran, and the Iranian government's intention to subject Dr Djalali to the death penalty.

According to reports from the United Nations, Dr Ahmadreza Djalali has been denied access to appropriate healthcare while in prison, although medical tests indicate he may have cancer. Withholding or obstructing access to healthcare and treatment contravenes both medical ethics and international law, particularly the right to health, enshrined in Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ratified by the Republic of Iran in 1975), and Article 25 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In addition, the BMA is gravely concerned by the intention to impose the death penalty. There is growing international consensus that the death penalty equates to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment which violates the right to life, protected by Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We urge the Iranian Government to immediately and unconditionally provide Dr Djalali, as well as other detainees, access to the appropriate medical treatment and care. Equally we urge the Iranian Government to cease applying the death penalty.

Yours sincerely



Dr John Chisholm CBE
Chair, Medical Ethics Committee



Dr Terry John
Chair, International Committee