

**His Excellency Dr Hassan Rouhani**  
**President of Iran**  
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**Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Hosseini Khamenei**  
**Supreme Leader of Iran**  
[contact@leader.ir](mailto:contact@leader.ir)

Sent via email

30 November 2020

**Your excellency and Ayatollah Khamenei**

**Dr Ahmadreza Djalali's planned execution**

I am writing to you, on behalf of the BMA (British Medical Association), to express grave concern regarding the imminent execution of Dr Ahmadreza Djalali.

In the BMA's view, the evidence provided for the sentencing of Dr Djalali can be described, at best, as dubious. We are particularly concerned by the claim made by Dr Djalali that he was forced to confess under torture, prohibited under international law, and the fact that he was held in solitary confinement for three months without access to a lawyer.

There have been repeated calls from the international community for Dr Djalali's release since his arrest in 2016. The World Medical Association has described Dr Djalali as a "prisoner of conscience",<sup>1</sup> which the BMA agrees with, and numerous human rights advocacy groups across the world have raised concerns, including Amnesty International.

Dr Djalali is a professional physician who specialises in emergency care medicine. He should be allowed to practise his profession without political interference in line with principles of medical neutrality and impartiality that are universally accepted.

I strongly urge you to reconsider both his execution and his conviction.

Yours sincerely

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wma.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Appeal-in-support-of-Dr.-Djalali-Nov.2020.pdf>

**Chief executive officer:** Tom Grinyer

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Chisholm". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**Dr John Chisholm CBE**  
Chair, BMA medical ethics committee