



## **MEPs Open letter to Josep Borrell Fontelles - 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

In the early hours of 12<sup>th</sup> December 2020, only two days after the International Human Rights Day, which celebrates the United Nations declaration of human rights, the Iranian Regime unjustly executed the journalist Ruhollah Zam. Mr Zam's only crime was that through his Telegram channel and website, he spoke and provided free voice to those who were opposed to the unjust actions of the Iranian Regime. Ruhollah Zam was the founder and CEO of the AmadNews (Voice of the People) Telegram channel, and news network, which was considered to be one of the most popular Iranian news networks abroad, as it was able to consistently expose the internal corruption of the ruling regime in Iran. As well as provide valuable information to the Iranian people about the corruption, and theft of Iranian officials, and their families.

Mr Zam was executed after the Iranian Supreme Court rejected his appeal on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020, two days prior to the International Human Rights Day. All of which proves how dangerous the conditions in Iran are, and how much contempt the Iranian Regime has towards human rights. As, in Iran, there is no independent Judiciary, and innocent lives have no value. For the Supreme Court, which is supposed to be the highest judicial authority in Iran, is unable to make its own rulings and is being forced to implement the orders of the regime.

Mr. Zam's brutal execution is a clear sign of Iran's complete disregard for the most basic human rights principles. Unfortunately, Iran's human rights record clearly shows that the desire of the officials of the Iranian Regime to execute innocent people never ends.

Therefore, we are extremely concerned about the death sentence given to the Swedish-Iranian citizen, Dr. Ahmad Reza Djalali. The execution of Dr. Djalali was recently confirmed by the Supreme Court, and subsequently, he was transferred to the place of execution.

Dr. Ahmad Reza Djalali is a Swedish citizen and should have the full support of all EU member states in accordance with the principles of solidarity clause set out in Article 222 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, as well as the principle of joint consular démarche.

Accordingly, we request that all trade and diplomatic relations of the entire European Union, as well as all member states with Iran, be suspended until Dr. Ahmad Reza Djalali returns to his country of residence, Sweden.

It is certain that demanding the immediate and unconditional release of Dr. Ahmad Reza Djalali, as well as a coordinated effort by the EU member states in taking a strong stance against the Iranian Regime's violation of human rights, would send a clear message to the regime's officials, to reconsider their behaviours and reaffirm their commitments to their international obligations.

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