

ACAT (Harrow) - prayer case of the month (July 2022)

In their latest mailing, ACAT-UK have featured twelve dual nationals being held in Iran, including Morad Tahbaz, our prayer case for June. We have decided to feature one more of these cases.

Please pray as you feel led for **Almadreza Djalali** (Iran-Sweden) who was sentenced to death in October 2017 following what human rights groups described as a grossly unfair trial.



Ahmadreza Djalali (50) was detained in Iran in April 2016 while on an academic visit from Sweden. **Almadreza Djalali**, a medical doctor and lecturer at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm and visiting professor in disaster medicine at the Vrije Universiteit in Brussels, was accused of spreading 'corruption on earth', spying and providing information to Israel to help it assassinate several senior nuclear scientists. He was held in solitary confinement for 5-7 months before being given access to a lawyer. He was reportedly tortured and ill-treated to extract a 'confession' and his family in Sweden were also threatened. He was due to be executed in November 2020. However, following global interventions, the sentence was not carried out. In May 2022, the authorities announced his imminent execution. This was again postponed – but he is still at serious risk.

Almadreza Djalali believes he may have been prosecuted for refusing to use his academic ties in European institutions to spy for Iran. However, there is mounting evidence to indicate that Iranian authorities are also using him as a hostage. Detailed research and analysis by *Amnesty International* raise serious concerns that the Iranian authorities are threatening to execute him to compel Belgium and Sweden to hand over two Iranian imprisoned former officials, and to deter those countries and others from future prosecutions of Iranian officials.

“The Iranian authorities are using **Ahmadreza Djalali’s** life as a pawn in a cruel political game, escalating their threats to execute him in retaliation for their demands going unmet,” said *Amnesty International’s* Deputy Director for the Middle East and North Africa.