



הארגון הבינלאומי של עורכי-דין ומשפטנים יהודים (ע"ר)
THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LAWYERS AND JURISTS (R.A.)

May 17, 2012

Att:

Dr. Navanethem Pillay
U.N. High Commissioner For Human Rights
Geneva

Dear Madam,

As a recognized NGO at the UN, The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists ("**the Association**") addresses your Excellency on the following matter:

Attorney Mohammad Ali Dadkhah , an Iranian lawyer, has been sentenced to nine years in prison for defending clients facing the death penalty.

In a telephone interview from Tehran, he told the British [Guardian](#) that he has also been banned from practicing law or teaching at universities for another 10 years after that.

He said he was convicted of acting contrary to national security, spreading propaganda and having banned books at home. "I was in a court in Tehran defending one of my clients, Davoud Arjangi, a jailed political activist on death row, when the judge told me that my own sentence has been approved and I will be shortly summoned to jail to serve the nine-year sentence," he told the newspaper.

According to the Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA) (Teheran, July 4, 2011, translated from Persian), in the original ruling which he appealed and was now upheld, he had been found guilty of propagating against and intending to topple the ruling system. He was also sentenced to pay 300,000 tumans (around \$300) for possessing a satellite [dish and receiver] and 400,000 tumans (around \$400 instead of five lashes!

Dadkhah appears to have been targeted due to his having defended the rights of political and human rights activists in Iran, including Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani who was sentenced to death in 2010 for apostasy.

This case illustrates Iran's continued repression of its citizens' fundamental rights. Dadkhah was acting courageously while defending a person refusing to renounce his faith. Advocate Dakhah's sentence on trumped up charges should not be tolerated by freedom loving States, by international organizations espousing basic human rights and by lawyers' associations upholding the time honored and universally recognized role of lawyers.

Accordingly, the Association urges the High Commissioner to condemn the acts of the Iranian Government and asks her to call the Government of Iran and to demand an overturn of the unjust sentence of Advocate Dadkhah, delivered as a sanction against his role as a lawyer defending his client.

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Respectfully,

Irit Kohn, Adv.

President