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The Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP

Secretary of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London, SW1A 2AH

30 August 2019

Dear Foreign Secretary,

We are writing to you, on behalf of the BMA (British Medical Association), to express our grave concern about the failure to provide adequate healthcare to Dr Ahmadreza Djalali, a medical doctor, while in prison in Tehran, as well as 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 despite medical tests indicating he may have cancer. As you will be aware, withholding or obstructing access to healthcare and treatment contravenes both medical ethics and international law, particularly the right to health. This right has been 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*.

Furthermore, the BMA is gravely concerned by reports of the Iranian Government's intention to impose the death penalty on Dr Djalali. There is growing international consensus that the death penalty equates to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, which violates the right to life – a right that is protected by Article 2 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

We urge you to raise these reports with your Iranian counterparts, expressing the UK's utmost concern regarding Dr Djalali's treatment and the threat of the death penalty. We are also writing to the UK's Iranian Ambassador to urge the Iranian Government to immediately and unconditionally provide Dr Djalali, as well as other detainees, access to the appropriate medical treatment and care – and to remove the threat of the death penalty from its citizens.

Yours sincerely,



Dr John Chisholm CBE
Chair, BMA medical ethics committee



Dr Terry John
Chair, BMA international committee

