



the trial of Hamid Noury, an Iranian charged for war crimes, ended in Sweden. Hamid Noury was charged for his participation in the mass-execution of several thousand political prisoners in 1988.

- On 4 May, as Noury's trial concluded in Sweden, state-run media [reported](#) that Ahmadreza Djalali's [sentence would be carried out by 21 May](#) in retaliation for the trial of Hamid Noury. On 7 May, Ahmadreza's lawyer was also informed by Evin court judiciary officials that they [would be carrying out his sentence](#). On 10 May, the Judiciary's deputy denied that the two cases were linked but reiterated that his [execution would be carried out](#).

## WHO IS AHMADREZA DJALALI?

- 50-year-old Swedish-Iranian academic who was living in Sweden since 2009 and working at universities in Sweden, Italy and Belgium. He travelled to Iran at the invitation of the University of Tehran in 2016.
- Arrested on the road to Karaj (west of Tehran) by Iranian intelligence agents on 24 April 2016, he was subjected to 3 months of physical and psychological torture in the solitary cells of the Ministry of Intelligence detention centre, to force self-incriminating confessions. He was told his 2 children would be killed in Sweden if he did not cooperate with them.
- His forced confessions were aired on national television before legal proceedings had commenced in breach of his due process rights. Ahmadreza went on hunger strike on 25 December 2016 and was [threatened with a death sentence](#) by "hanging judge" Salavati on 31 January 2017 before his hearing had begun and while still on hunger strike.
- On 21 October 2017, he was [sentenced to death](#) on charges of "efsad-fil-arz (corruption on earth) through espionage for Israel" by Branch 15 of Tehran's Revolutionary Court presided over by Judge Salavati after a grossly unfair trial. The death sentence was [upheld](#) by Branch 1 of the Supreme Court a month later. His request for a [judicial review was rejected](#) without any review process or explanation.
- On 24 November 2020, Ahmadreza called his wife to say he was being [transferred for execution](#). It was 3 days before Assadollah Assadi, an Iranian diplomat was due to stand trial for [planning a terrorist attack](#) against an Iranian opposition group in Paris.
- On 2 May 2022, Kazem Gharibabadi, the secretary of Iran's High Council for Human Rights and deputy chief of the Iranian Judiciary's International Affairs [threatened](#) that the sentences of individuals linked to Sweden would be carried out. It was 2 days before

## DJALALI IS A HOSTAGE BECAUSE:

- No evidence was presented against Ahmadreza Djalali to prove espionage, neither has he confessed to the charges
- Djalali was sentenced to death after a grossly unfair trial by the Revolutionary Court behind closed doors, and no evidence has been presented even in the so-called televised confession segment
- Iranian authorities have linked Ahmadreza Djalali's scheduled execution to Hamid Noury's trial in Sweden
- Iranian authorities have also linked Djalali's execution to the Iranian diplomat Assadollah Assadi convicted by a Belgian Court of terrorism charges
- There is ample precedent in exchanges of Western hostages held by the Islamic Republic or its proxies, with Iranians charged with terrorism in other countries

## WHY WESTERN GOVERNMENTS SHOULD ACT NOW

- A strong and joint action by Western governments is the only way to save Ahmadreza Djalali from execution
- Islamic Republic's hostage-taking policy will continue as long as Western governments comply with the hostage-taking demands of the Islamic Republic and continue to not face any serious consequences over their actions
- Lack of appropriate action by European governments will put every European citizen traveling to Iran or its neighbouring countries in grave danger
- Severing diplomatic and trade relations and prosecuting the perpetrators of the murder of this hostage are actions that European governments can and should take in the event of Ahmadreza Djalali's execution; this must be made clear to the Islamic Republic before the crime is carried out