

- Vereinigung iranischer Ärzte und Apotheker in Berlin (VIAAB)
 - Verein deutsch-iranischer Ärzte und Zahnärzte in Hamburg e.V. (VDIAZ)
 - Präsident der Ärztekammer Hamburg, Dr. P. Emami
 - Medical Professionals for Human Rights in Iran–Austria (IRANMED)
 - Die Österreichisch-Iranische Ärztesgesellschaft (ÖIÄG)
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An Open letter to President of the World Medical Association (WMA)

Berlin, Hamburg, Vienna, Dec. 9th 2022

Dear Dr. Enabulele,

we are a group of physicians and medical professionals writing to you to seek your urgent help regarding the plight of Dr. Hamid Ghare-Hassanlou, a radiologist from Karaj, Iran, and his wife Mrs. Farzaneh Ghare-Hassanlou. The couple was arrested at their home on Friday, November 9, 2022, one day after attending the memorial service of Ms. Hadis Najafi, a young woman from Karaj who was killed by the regime's armed militia during peaceful protests. The regime's security forces broke into the Ghare-Hassanlou's home in the early hours of the morning and arrested the couple after beating and brutalizing them in front of their teenage daughter. Dr. Ghare-Hassanlou and his wife have been tortured since their arrest. Dr. Ghare-Hassanlou suffered several broken ribs. Under torture, they were forced to confess to false accusations that they participated in the murder of a member of the Basij militia during the protests. On November 12, 2022, a prosecutor in Karaj issued an indictment against Dr. Ghare-Hassanlou, his wife, and others for "spreading corruption on earth," a crime punishable by death in Iran, in addition to charging them with "propaganda against the regime on social media." The couple is now among 28 people facing execution after being illegally detained, tortured, unjustly prosecuted, and forced to make false confessions.

Dr. Ghare-Hassanlou is a compassionate and law-abiding physician with over 26 years of experience as a radiologist and involved in charitable activities such as building schools in poor and underserved areas of Iran. His wife is also a generous person and has been involved in humanitarian activities. Even the video clip released by the regime shows that she tried to give first aid to the injured militiaman to save his life.

The city prosecutor's office refused to allow the defendants to hire their own trusted private lawyers, citing "national security." What is even more alarming is that Dr. Ghare-Hassanlou's religious practices as a dervish/sufi may have played a significant role in his targeting by the Islamic regime and that the charges against him and his wife are aimed at further suppressing the followers of this marginalized group who have already suffered brutal religious persecution and oppression in Iran.

We urge you to take all possible measures to save the lives of these innocent people who have been detained in violation of their international human rights, and especially to stop the death sentence of Dr. Hamid Ghare-Hassanlou.



Vereinigung iranischer Ärzte und
Apotheker in Berlin e. V.
vorstand@viaab.de



Verein deutsch-iranischer Ärzte und
Zahnärzte in Hamburg e.V.
kontakt@vdiaz.de



Medical Professionals for
Human Rights in Iran–Austria
presse@iranmed.at



Österreichisch-Iranische
Ärztesgesellschaft
office@avicenna.at