



University and College Union

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Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei
The Office of the Supreme Leader
Islamic Republic Street –
End of Shahid Keshvar-Doust Street
Tehran Islamic Republic of Iran

Your Excellency

On behalf of the 122,000 members of the University and College Union (UCU) in the United Kingdom, I am writing to you with regard to Mr Abdolreza Ghanbari who is currently being held in Evin Prison under sentence of death.

Mr Ghanbari was arrested on the 27th December 2009 following demonstrations against the regime in which he did not even take part. His wife, daughter and witnesses have made it clear that Mr Ghanbari was at home during the time of the demonstrations but they have been denied the chance to present their evidence, as Mr Ghanbari was sentenced by Tehran's revolutionary court charged with "waging war against God." We understand that a request for pardon made to the Commission of Justice in Tehran was recently rejected meaning that the path is now clear for the state to proceed with Mr Ghanbari's execution.

UCU believes that Mr Ghanbari, who is not known to have been involved in politics, has been targeted because of his former activities in the now disbanded teachers' trade union in breach of the International Labour Organisation's conventions on freedom of association.

I am writing to you to demand the immediate release of Mr Ghanbari and all other prisoners currently held for their trade union activities.

I also call on you to register the Coordinating Council of Iranian Teachers' Trade Associations (CCITTA) and allow it to hold trade union activities and reach out to members.

Yours sincerely

Sally Hunt
UCU General Secretary