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Offener Brief Iran

Maintal, 15.12.2022

## Open Letter

**Dear Chancellor Scholz, dear Secretary of State Baerbock**

We write to you as medical professionals who are gravely concerned about the human rights and medical situation facing the civilian population of Iran. Since the violent death of twenty-two year old Mahsa Jina Amini on the 16th September of this year, people from various social groups across the country have put their lives at risk to gather together in protest against the Islamic Republic of Iran; among those protesting are many medical students and practitioners.

While the people advocate for their freedom and the right to self-determination, they are faced with increasingly brutal repression at the hands of the security services. The regime is attempting to suppress these protests by any means, including extreme violence. Again and again, Amnesty International has documented the use of tear gas and water cannons, the use of live ammunition as well as the widespread deployment of batons against protesters. Over 15,000 people have been arrested; even minors have been beaten to death, shot, or abducted. Over 400 people have been murdered thus far, including many minors. The whereabouts of numerous political prisoners is still unknown after the fire at Evin prison in Tehran on 15.10.2022. There are growing reports of rape and torture in these prisons. It is extremely concerning to see the start of criminal trials against political prisoners in these times. Since political prisoners can face execution in Iran, we fear that the lives of countless people are acutely at risk. The current violent attacks of the Iranian armed forces against Kurdish territories represent a further dramatic escalation of state violence against civilians.

We would like to draw attention to the particularly treacherous nature of the security services' violence against medical professionals. The latter's political demonstrations have, among other things,

voiced dismay at the presence of security personnel in hospitals. Doctors have been forced to treat their patients secretly, often outside of health centres; medical professionals have, themselves, become the targets of repression. We express solidarity with our medical colleagues in Iran and demand that they are permitted to continue practising their necessary work in accordance with the Geneva Convention for the protection and wellbeing of their patients.

We health workers see it as our duty to show solidarity with all those protesting for women's rights, human rights and freedom in Iran. We admire the courage it takes to put one's life at risk for one's beliefs and, as befits our understanding of our profession, we call for the unconditional right to physical and mental integrity.

***We call on the German federal government to do everything in its power to put an end to this human catastrophe. We demand a politics that protects and supports civilians.***



*Dr. Nadja Rakowitz, press spokesman*

### **Signatories**

- Bundesärztekammer (German Medical Association)
- Bundesweite Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Psychosozialen Zentren für Flüchtlinge und Folteropfer e.V. (The German Association of Psychosocial Centres for Refugees and Victims of Torture)
- FrAktion Gesundheit in der Landesärztekammer Berlin (FrAktion Gesundheit of the State Chamber of Physicians of Berlin)
- IPPNW - Deutsche Sektion der Internationalen Ärzt\*innen für die Verhütung des Atomkrieges / Ärzt\*innen in sozialer Verantwortung e.V. (International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War)
- Landesärztekammer Hessen (State Chamber of Physicians of Hesse)
- Landesärztekammer Thüringen (State Chamber of Physicians of Thuringia)
- Liste demokratischer Ärztinnen und Ärzte Hessen (Electoral List of Democratic Physicians Hesse)
- Marburger Bund Bundesverband (Federal Trade Union of Physicians in Germany)
- Marburger Bund Landesverband Hamburg (Trade Union of Physicians Hamburg)
- Prof. Dr. Frank Ulrich Montgomery, Vorstandsvorsitzender des Weltärztebundes (CEO of World Medical Association/WMA)
- Verein demokratischer Ärzt\*innen (Association of Democratic Physicians)
- Zentrum Überleben (Center ÜBERLEBEN, psychosocial center for refugees and victims of torture)

Belege:

<https://www.tagesschau.de/ausland/asien/iran-proteste-kurden-101.html>;  
<https://www.tagesschau.de/ausland/asien/iran-ende-trauerzeit-amini-105.html>;  
<https://www.tagesschau.de/ausland/asien/iran-todesurteile-101.html>;  
<https://www.mdr.de/nachrichten/welt/politik/iran-proteste-todesstrafe-mohareb-100.html>;  
<https://www.tagesschau.de/ausland/iran-727.html>; <https://www1.wdr.de/nachrichten/brand-evin-gefaengnisseheran-100.html>; <https://www.tagesschau.de/ausland/asien/iran-proteste-215.html>;  
<https://www.tagesschau.de/ausland/asien/iran-kurdengebiet-proteste-gewalt-101.html>;  
<https://www.tagesschau.de/ausland/asien/iran-proteste-223.html>