



BUNDESRECHTSANWALTSKAMMER

The President

Bundesrechtsanwaltskammer
Littenstraße 9 | 10179 Berlin

HEAD OF THE JUDICIARY

His Excellency Ayatollah Sadeq Larijani
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Berlin, 14.11.2018

Your Excellency,

The Bundesrechtsanwaltskammer (The German Federal Bar) represents the interests of the 28 German Bars and thus of the entire legal profession in the Federal Republic of Germany, which currently consists of approximately 165,500 lawyers, vis-à-vis authorities, courts and organisations – at national, European and international level.

As the representative of the German legal profession we are committed - also at the international level - to defending the independence of lawyers. This independence is the only way to guarantee that lawyers are able to fulfil their role on an equal footing alongside judges and public prosecutors in a State governed by the rule of law. Lawyers are indispensable organs of the proper administration of justice and they contribute to the realization of the rule of law.

Abdolfattah Soltani is - also in Germany - a prominent human rights lawyer. He is currently serving a long-term prison sentence imposed in 2012 for inter alia spreading „anti-government propaganda” and „founding an illegal group”. The accusations refer to his human rights work and his role as one of the founders of the Center for Human Rights Defenders (CHRD) which was banned in 2008. The Center defended non-violent political prisoners such as journalists, students and activists.

Bundesrechtsanwaltskammer

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Because of the sudden and unexpected death of his 27-year-old daughter Homa on 03.08.2018, he was granted prison leave. We have now learned however that despite his poor health our colleague was again imprisoned on 28.10.2018 and is still in prison.

We would urge you again, on humanitarian grounds, to spare Abdolfattah Soltani further imprisonment. Our colleague is a non-violent political prisoner, held in prison only because of his activity as a lawyer.

Yours respectfully,



Dr. Ulrich Wessels
Rechtsanwalt und Notar