Why was I arrested by the Intelligence Ministry of Iran?

Since 1997 till 2007, I, Ahmadreza Djalali, was working in Iran, in the field of Natural and technological crisis management, as a researcher, lecturer and planner. My working place was the ministry of health and then I moved to the natural disaster research Institute, however had cooperation with multiple academic and research centers, affiliated to both military and civil sections. In 2008, I started studying at PhD level at Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden. The acceptance and visa issues were arranged by Dr. Gunnar Ohlen, who was the head of emergency medicine department. During the PhD studying period, I was occasionally invited to Iran to give lectures, advise research projects and provide consultancy to crisis management programs. A few months later, after receiving my PhD degree, in 2012, when I was in Iran, a person from a military center contacted me and offered a proposal asking me to stay and join a military university in Iran, which is involved in passive defense and counter-terrorism topics. I refused the suggestion and told him that I would like to continue my career in EU, as a post-doc fellow in crisis management. I was a post-doc fellow at the CRIMEDIM, Upo University, Italy, since October 2012 till 2016. I was involved in various training and research programs, from which 3 projects were granted by the EU research commission, Brussels, Belgium. These 3 projects were relevant to health system, in the subjects of crisis management, education, counter-terrorism and CBENE, of EU countries, e.g. Italy, Spain, France, UK, Germany, Sweden, etc. In parallel, I still had cooperations with Iranian University, and research centers through contributing in crisis management and passive defence programs, all public and unclassified from security aspects.

During a trip to Iran in 2014, 2 people from a military center and the intelligence ministry met me. They asked me to cooperate with them to recognize and gather information/data (to spy) from the EU states, including their critical infrastructures, counter-terrorism and CBRNE capabilities, sensitive operational plans, and also research projects, relevant to terrorism and crisis. My answer was NO, and told them that I am just a scientist, not a spy, and my scientific help to Iran's academic centers come from my love and commitment to my motherland. If you ask me to do something else such as spying, I would rather stop my cooperation with Iran, They asked me to forget that meeting and the offer, and they ensured me that there would not be any problem for me and I should continue my cooperation with Iran's academic centers. The second event happened in autumn, 2015. I was invited by the national passive defense organization (affiliated to the military system of Iran) to give a speech about health system resiliency against CBRNE terrorist attacks. Furthermore, I attended in couple of meetings about a training program relevant to passive defense and counter-terrorism, and unclassified and public project. Almost 6 months after these meetings, during my academic trip to Tehran, I was suddenly detained by the intelligence ministry, and was accused of acting against national security. They told me "you have gathered series of top secret and secret data about Iran's critical infrastructures, crisis management and passive dense systems and projects, and then have transferred them to Israel. They accused me of being the spy of Israel since 2008 and told me "all your PhD studying and post-doc fellow processes, and also the visa and residency (temporary and permanent) issues in EU (Sweden and Italy) have been arranged and offered by Israel in lieu of (in exchange for) your spying services for them". I rejected the accusation and their blames, and emphasized that all processes as well as the residency have been legally conducted by the universities. I have never had relationships and cooperation with any Intelligence services, not from Israel or any other country. I have never travelled to Israel, also had no colleague or friends from Israel. Dozens of professors and researchers in Sweden and Italy are available to be contact, who are fully informed about my daily activities (Gunnar Ohlen, Lisa Kurland, Francesco Della Corte, Luca Ragazzoni, and many more). Another

supportive reason is my scientific products within the past 9 years. The investigators from the Intelligence ministry did not care what I explained. They detained me in a 3.5 m² isolated cell at 209, using multiple psychological and physical tortures, threats, humiliating, deluding me and also not allowing me to access and attorney until month 7, which made me declare false confessions, and then fabricated a crime file full of lies and groundless accusations, without any documents and reasons.

I have never acted against my country, I have never spied for Israel or any other country. My only fault is that I did not accept to use the trust of my colleagues and universities in EU to spy for Iran's intelligence services. I have been detained since April, 2016, until now (August, 2017), remaining in custody under threat of being executed. I have several times requested to meet human right officials in Iran but was refused. Also, I am not allowed to meet the Swedish ambassador to Iran. Even, while the EU ambassadors visited Evin Prison on July 20th, 2017. I was transferred to an isolated cell in 209, to prevent any possible meeting with them.

I appreciate all my colleagues, faculties of the universities, human rights organizations and activists, governments, reporters, media, people...from the whole world that have supported me and helped my family. I ask them to please continue your support and helpful actions until I am released or dead. Your supportive voice and actions are very effective and helpful not only for me but also for all the innocent inmates that are detained in Iran because of political and military goals.