

## **Communiqué from the Support Committee for Fariba Adelkhah and Roland Marchal**

**March 3, 2020, 11am in Paris**

As far as we can know in the opacity of the Iranian "justice" and especially the mysteries of its power - starting with the "power in reverse" that is the Guardians of the Revolution, to use Fariba Adelkhah's expression, from the depths of Evin prison - a "trial" behind closed doors took place this morning in Tehran. Only Fariba Adelkhah appears to have been present. Roland Marchal apparently was not, and several hypotheses can be envisaged on this subject: he refused to appear before a masquerade of justice; he was not summoned; he is no longer able to appear given his deteriorating state of health.

Conflicting information is circulating as to the possible disqualification by the Iranian authorities of the lawyers (or one of the lawyers) of Fariba Adelkhah and Roland Marchal. It appears that Fariba Adelkhah did not have the assistance of her counsel at this morning's hearing.

The trial appears to have been postponed to an unknown date.

The Iranian authorities are solely responsible for any possible misinformation in this communiqué, as they are maintaining silence and secrecy.

The only thing that is certain in this matter is, unfortunately, the continuation of torture, which is no longer merely psychological, against our two colleagues. They are being kept in almost complete isolation, with Fariba Adelkhah no longer even having direct contact with her family. They still cannot meet each other. Roland Marchal's last consular visit was more than a month ago. The French consular authorities do not seem to have been able to observe this morning's hearing. Fariba Adelkhah is suffering terribly from her kidneys as a result of the hunger strike she was on for 49 days, and she has not received any treatment or medical examination that would allow a precise diagnosis to be made.

In addition, the Iranian authorities are deliberately endangering the lives of our two colleagues, who are physically weakened, by keeping them in arbitrary detention in an overcrowded prison environment at a time when the country is suffering from a serious coronavirus epidemic, the extent of which they are concealing and which, judging by the ratio of reported deaths to declared cases, they are unable to control.

We call once again for their immediate and unconditional release, before irreparable harm is done.

We reiterate our call for the suspension of all forms of institutional scientific cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran.