Head of the Judiciary Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani

c/o Public Relations Office

Number 4 Deadend of 1 Azizi

Above Pasteur Intersection

Vali Asr Street Tehran

Iran

Your Excellency,

I write to call your attention to the case of Dutch-Iranian national Sabri Hassanpour, detained in Evin Prison since 19 April 2016. Mr. Hassanpour is being denied urgently needed open heart surgery by the Iranian authorities for want of payment. This denial of medical care is a clear violation of his human rights and represents a breach of international law and a violation of internationally accepted standards of treatment for prisoners.

Furthermore, Mr. Hassanpour’s detention appears to be unjustified. The charges against him remain unclear. However, they are likely related to his political activities in the Netherlands, which advocated for political change in Iran, including the separation of religion and state. To detain him under these circumstances is a violation of human rights.

I respectfully urge you to release Sabri Hassanpour immediately and unconditionally if he is being held solely for the peaceful exercise of his rights to freedom of expression and association through his political activities. I ask you to ensure that, pending his release, he is granted immediate access to specialized medical care outside of prison, is allowed regular access to his family and a lawyer of his own choosing, and is granted access to Dutch consular assistance. Finally, I urge you to end the practice of requiring prisoners to pay for their medical treatment, which violates international law.

Sincerely,