



**Maja Wallstein**  
Member of the German Parliament

## Press Announcement

### **Political sponsorship: "I demand freedom for Mehdi Mohammadi".**

Member of the German Parliament Maja Wallstein takes over political sponsorship for Mehdi Mohammadi imprisoned in Iran - sign of support for around 15,000 prisoners in Iran

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***Berlin/Cottbus. With the death of 22-year-old Kurdish Iranian Jina Mahsa Amini in Tehran on September 16, 2022, protests began across Iran. Since the beginning of the current movement, the government has arrested numerous regime critics, tortured and executed meanwhile imprisoned demonstrators. The Lusatian member of the German Parliament Maja Wallstein (SPD) is therefore particularly concerned to take over the political sponsorship for one of the detainees.***

"Not only for Mehdi Mohammadi, but for the approximately 15,000 people arrested in Iran," says Wallstein, explaining her motivation for becoming a political sponsor. "My sponsorship should also be a clear sign of support for all the courageous citizens of Iran who take to the streets against the authoritarian government of the state and against police violence and arbitrariness of the guardians of morality," Wallstein says.

Mehdi Mohammadi took part in a demonstration in memory of Hafis Najafi, who had been shot earlier, "That was the reason for the Iranian regime to arrest and try him in a large group of defendants in a summary court on December 6," Wallstein explains. Five of the defendants were sentenced to death, including actor Hossein Mohammadi and physician Hamid Gahrehasanlou. "Whether Mehdi Mohammadi was also sentenced to death, or whether he is one of the eleven defendants who were sentenced to very long prison terms, cannot be verified at the moment," Wallstein adds. "Mohammadi's case exemplifies the lack of transparency in judicial proceedings in the Islamic Republic, which is why I have decided to use the sponsorship to increase political pressure," explains the member of the German Parliament.

"It is especially important that his family does not have to continue to live in worry and uncertainty and finally learn what happened to their son, brother and loved one. I would therefore like to ensure transparency, find out about his status and health condition," Wallstein said.



As a first step, Wallstein will contact the Iranian ambassador in Berlin and also involve the human rights commissioner of the German government.

"It is important that Mr. Mohammadi and all other imprisoned demonstrators receive justice, including a fair and transparent trial. I will personally campaign for this with my office, my name and my face. It is unclear whether we will be successful.

However, it is important to me to use every opportunity to improve, perhaps save, the lives of these courageous people."