

To UNHCR
Ankara Office
Turkey
Email: turan@unhcr.org

29 June 2020

Re: Cases of Mr Arash Yavari (UNHCR Registration No: 414-15C21416)

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), the world's largest organisation of journalists representing over 600.000 members in 141 countries worldwide, wishes to draw your attention to the case of **Mr. Mr Arash Yavari**, an Iranian journalist who has been granted UN refugee status in Iran, along with his wife **Mrs Masoomeh Hatamkhani** who is also a journalist and their son **Radin Yavari**.

The IFJ defends the right of journalists and promotes their interest worldwide. We constantly monitor the situation of journalists with a view to denouncing any violations of journalists' rights and press freedom anywhere and by whomever.

In this regard, the IFJ has on many occasions condemned the exceptionnally hostile and dangerous regime to press freedom in Iran, where the office of our affiliate the Association of Iranian Journalists (AOIJ) was closed in 2009 by the regime and many of its members have been forced into exile to escape arrest.

We have also denounced the campaign of intimidation against Iranian journalists working for international media organisations such as the BBC. We are therefore deeply concerned that **Mr Yavari** and his wife are at risk of being returned to Iran, despite their recognition as refugees under the UN Refugee Convention which entitles them to UN protection.

The couple have spoken about the similar attempts by the Iranian regime to intimidate them after they had gone into exile in Turkey. The risk to their physical safety and wellbeing as well as that of their young is real and grave.

That is why we urge your Office to uphold international law and provide them protection either in Turkey or somewhere else. We also strongly recommend that you press on the Turkish authorities the need for them to comply with their internatinonal obligations towards Mr Yavari and his family, as people under the UN protection.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require further information on the present letter of support.



**International
Federation of
Journalists**

Younes Mjahed
President

Anthony Bellanger
General Secretary

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Bellanger', written over a faint rectangular outline.

Anthony Bellanger
IFJ General Secretary