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زبانهای اروپایی

Stefan Engel

09.01.2020

Mr. Antonio Guterres

General Secretary of the United Nations

New York, NY 10017, USA

United Nations Plaza

info@unric.org

Protest note

Dear Mr. Guterres,

Today I received the surprising message that Mr. Arash Gangie, translator, writer and secretary of the Iranian writers' guild was arrested.

On 21 December 2019, the Iranian writers' guild published a declaration saying Arash Gangie, translator and secretary of the Iranian writers' guild was arrested on Sunday, 1 January in his house and brought to an unknown place. Now, two days later, we know that he is in the Evin prison in Teheran, being interrogated by the secret service. Mr Gangies health is endangered, he is suffering from a heart disease. Additionally, three of the current and former members of the board of the Iranian writers' guild, Reza Khandan-Mahabadi, Bektash Abtin und Keyvan Bagan, have been sentenced to up to five years and 6 months prison, accused of “propaganda against the system” and “activities against national security”.

Several years ago Mr. Gangie translated two of my books “*Twilight of the Gods – Götterdämmerung over the “New World Order” and “Dawn of the International Socialist Revolution*“ into Farsi. The books are scientific discourses on the

international history of the working-class movement, the various international organizational forms and the social perspectives of humanity. The books have been translated into further languages and are distributed internationally.

Mr. Arash Gangie is known to me as an upstanding democrat and an accomplished scientific translator. His arrest and detainment meets with incomprehension and indignation, among numerous progressive people as well. This violation of human rights is unacceptable. The conditions in Iranian prisons are condemned by human rights organizations, including reports about torture.

I am consciously addressing you personally because you, in your function as General Secretary of the UN, as well as in public, are a committed advocate of human rights and liberties.

I await your reply and thank you in advance.

Sincerely yours,

Stefan Engel

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