

26th April, 2018

Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

Dear Foreign & Commonwealth Office:

We are members of the United Kingdom's academic community and beyond, including China, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Korea, Russia, Slovenia, and the US, working at the forefront of computer science, mathematics, and machine learning.

We are deeply concerned about the arrest of our colleague, Professor Abbas Edalat, in Iran.

Many of us have known Abbas for decades as a kind, caring, decent, and honourable man, of great intellect and integrity.

It is particularly surprising that Abbas was arrested specifically in Iran. He deeply respects his own rich heritage, background and ethnicity, and we have heard him say only positive things about the Iranian nation and people. He has always been ready to express his love for his native country.

In addition to being a prominent academic, making fundamental contributions to mathematical logic and theoretical computer science, Abbas has worked ceaselessly with organisations such as UNESCO to bridge the gap in technology, education, and development between the developed and developing worlds. He has always promoted friendship and collaboration between the United Kingdom and Iran and worked tirelessly to promote peace.

Abbas has taught many generations of students at Imperial College. Some of us have written our PhD dissertations under his supervision. Many of us owe Abbas our own achievements in computer science, mathematics, and machine learning – strategic areas of research for the United Kingdom and for the world – through his generous teaching, advice, and truly visionary thought leadership over many decades.

In addition to inflicting inexplicable suffering on our colleague, teacher, and friend, Abbas's detention is causing a lot of harm to the academic community in the United Kingdom, Iran, and worldwide.

By signing this letter, we are not trying to make a political statement or influence international affairs one way or another. We are expressing concern for our colleague, teacher, and friend.

We are all extremely concerned about Abbas's situation and would humbly solicit you to offer him whatever help is necessary to secure his release.

Yours sincerely,

**Prof. Samson Abramsky, FRS**, Christopher Strachey Professor of Computing, Fellow, Wolfson College, University of Oxford

**Prof. Luca Aceto**, Professor, School of Computer Science, Reykjavik University, Iceland

**Dr. Mauricio Alvarez-Manilla**, Director at Mitsubishi UFJ Securities International; Prof. Abbas Edalat's former PhD student

**Dr. Martin Berger**, Lecturer in Foundations of Computation (Informatics), University of Sussex

**Dr. Ulrich Berger**, Reader at the Department of Computer Science, Swansea University

**Dr. Paul Alexander Bilokon**, Lecturer in Machine Learning, Department of Mathematics, Imperial College London; Founder and CEO, Thalesians Ltd; Prof. Abbas Edalat's former PhD student

**Prof. Alan Bundy, FRS, CBE, FREng**, School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh.

**Dr. Peter Buneman, FRS, FRSE, FACM**, Professor of Database Systems, University of Edinburgh

**Dr. Giuliano Casale**, Senior Lecturer, Department of Computing, Imperial College London

**Prof. George Danezis**, Professor of Security and Privacy Engineering, University College London

**Prof. Mariangiola Dezani-Ciancaglini**, Dipartimento di Informatica, Università di Torino

**Dr. Martín Hötzel Escardó**, Reader in Theoretical Computer Science, School of Computer Science, University of Birmingham

**Prof. José Fiadeiro**, Professor of Computer Science and Head of Department, Royal Holloway University of London, UK; member of Academia Europaea

**Dr. Anandha Gopalan**, Senior Teaching Fellow, Department of Computing, Imperial College London

**Dr. Matthew Hague**, Reader and EPSRC Early Career Fellow, Department of Computer Science, Royal Holloway University of London

**Dr. Chris Heunen**, Senior Research Fellow, Quantum Informatics, School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh

**Prof. Jane Hillston, FRSE**, Director of Research and Head of School Designate, School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh

**Dr. Edward A. Hirsch**, Research Lead, Laboratory of Mathematical Logic, Steklov Institute of Mathematics at St. Petersburg

**Prof. Hykel Hosni**, Associate Professor in Logic at the University of Milan, Italy

**Prof. Michael Huth**, Professor of Computer Science, Faculty of Engineering, Department of Computing, Imperial College London

**Prof. J. M. E. Hyland**, Professor of Mathematical Logic, University of Cambridge

**Prof. Marina Jirotká**, Professor of Human Centred Computing, Department of Computer Science, University of Oxford

**Prof. Peter Johnstone**, Emeritus Professor of the Foundations of Mathematics, University of Cambridge

**Prof. Cliff Jones**, Professor of Computing Science at the Newcastle University

**Prof. Achim Jung**, Professor of Computer Science, The University of Birmingham; member of the Birmingham Theory Group

**Dr. Michal Konečný**, Lecturer in Computer Science, Aston University

**Prof. Alexander Kurz**, Professor of Computer Science, University of Leicester

**Prof. Robert Kowalski**, Professor Emeritus and Distinguished Research Fellow, Department of Computing, Imperial College London

**Prof. Marta Zofia Kwiatkowska**, Professor of Computing Systems, Fellow, Trinity College, University of Oxford

**Prof. Jimmie Lawson**, Department of Mathematics, Louisiana State University

**Prof. Giacomo Lenzi**, Department of Mathematics, Università degli Studi di Salerno

**Dr. Paul Blain Levy**, Reader in Theoretical Computer Science, University of Birmingham

**Dr. John Longley**, Lecturer, School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh; Member of Laboratory for Foundations of Computer Science, Director of Quality

**Prof. Michael W. Mislove**, Pendergraft Herbert Buchanan Professor, Department of Mathematics, Tulane University; Professor and Chairman, Computer Science Department, Tulane University, US

**Prof. Faron Moller**, FLSW, Department of Computer Science, Swansea University

**Prof. Sara Negri**, Professor of Theoretical Philosophy, University of Helsinki, Finland

**Dr. Luke Ong**, Professor of Computer Science, University of Oxford

**Prof. Catuscia Palamidessi**, Director of Research at INRIA, France, Leader of the equipe Comète

**Prof. Andrew M. Pitts**, Professor of Theoretical Computer Science, Department of Computer Science and Technology, University of Cambridge

**Prof. Gordon Plotkin, FRS**, Laboratory for Foundations of Computer Science, School of Informatics, The University of Edinburgh

**Dr. Bernhard Reus**, Senior Lecturer, Department of Informatics, University of Sussex

**Prof. Romeo Rizzi**, Associate Professor, Operations Research, University of Verona, Italy

**Prof. Giuseppe Rosolini**, Professor of Mathematical Logic, Dipartimento di Matematica, Università di Genova, Italy

**Prof. Berc Rustem**, Emeritus Professor, Faculty of Engineering, Department of Computing, Imperial College London

**Prof. Mark Ryan**, Professor of Computer Security, University of Birmingham

**Prof. Donald Sannella, FRSE**, Professor of Computer Science, Laboratory for Foundations of Computer Science, School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh

**Prof. Dana S. Scott**, FBA, FNAS, FAAS, ACM, Emeritus Hillman University Professor of Computer Science, Philosophy, and Mathematical Logic at Carnegie Mellon University; winner of the ACM Turing Award, USA

**Prof. dr. Alex Simpson**, Professor of Computer Science, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

**Prof. Luca Spada**, Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics, University of Salerno, Italy

**Dr. Iain Stark**, Senior Lecturer in Computer Science, The University of Edinburgh

**Prof. Kostas Stathis**, Department of Computer Science, Royal Holloway, University of London

**Prof. Sam Staton**, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science, University of Oxford

**Prof. Perdita Stevens**, Professor of Mathematics of Software Engineering, University of Edinburgh;  
former colleague of Prof. Abbas Edalat

**Prof. Dr. Thomas Streicher**, Professor of Mathematics at Technische Universität Darmstadt,  
Germany

**Dr. Paul Taylor**, Author, Mathematician, and Computer Scientist, University of Birmingham  
(honorary), formerly Imperial College London

**Prof. Carlo Toffalori**, Professor, Università di Camerino, Italy

**Dr. Steve Vickers**, Senior Lecturer, School of Computer Science, University of Birmingham

**Dr. Mark Wheelhouse**, Senior Teaching Fellow, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Coordinator, Department of Computing,  
Imperial College London; colleague of Prof. Abbas Edalat

**Prof. Glynn Winskel**, Professor of Computer Science, University of Cambridge

**Prof. Martin Ziegler**, Associate Professor, Complexity and Real Computation Lab, KAIST School of  
Computing, Daejeon, Korea