

Your Excellency,

I am writing this letter to express my grave concern for Nasrin Sotoudeh, a prominent human rights lawyer, who has been detained in Tehran's Evin prison since her arrest on 13 June. She is facing charges of "spreading propaganda against the system" and "gathering and colluding to commit crimes against national security", which stem from her peaceful work as a lawyer defending women who have been arrested and prosecuted for peacefully protesting against the degrading practice of compulsory veiling in Iran. According to her husband, the lawyer that she has chosen to represent her is not authorized by the authorities and she has been told to select a lawyer from the Tehran province list.

I call on you to release Nasrin Sotoudeh immediately and unconditionally as she is a prisoner of conscience detained solely for her work as a human rights lawyer, including her defence of women protesting against compulsory veiling in Iran.

I also urge you to ensure that Nasrin Sotoudeh has regular access to her family and to a lawyer of her own choosing.

In addition, please ensure that lawyers in Iran are able to carry out their work without intimidation, hindrance, harassment, or prosecution, and protect their rights to freedom of expression and to take part in public discussion of matters concerning the law, the administration of justice, and the promotion and protection of human rights.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Sincerely yours,