

Head of Judiciary, Ebrahim Raisi  
c/o Embassy of Iran to the European Union  
Avenue Franklin Roosevelt No. 15,  
1050 Bruxelles, Belgium

Dear Mr Raisi,

I am writing to express concern at the continued arbitrary detention of Nahid Taghavi, a 66-year-old German-Iranian national, in Section 2A of Tehran's Evin prison. Revolutionary Guards arrested her on 16 October 2020 from her home in Tehran and confiscated her laptop, mobile phone, memory sticks, money, books, photographs and German passport.

Nahid Taghavi is a habitual resident of Germany but spends several months a year visiting family in Iran and had never previously been detained. During interrogations in detention, she has been asked about her personal history, including her activism when she was a student, and the reasons she travels to Iran.

She has high blood pressure for which she needs daily medication and suffers from back problems. Evin prison authorities initially refused to accept her blood pressure medication when her family tried to deliver it. In detention, she has begun to suffer from and take medication for diabetes, a condition she had previously been able to reverse through healthy eating and exercise. She was also scheduled to have dental surgery when she was arrested for a condition which causes her pain. Despite this, the authorities have refused to transfer her to a specialist dental facility. The spread of COVID-19 in Iran's prisons puts her at heightened risk of severe illness or death due her age and medical conditions.

I ask you to immediately and unconditionally release Nahid Taghavi as she is a prisoner of conscience detained solely in connection with her peacefully exercising her rights to freedom of expression and association. Pending her release, give her regular access to a lawyer of her choosing and family, as well as to any health care she needs, including medication and transfer to outside facilities for treatment unavailable in prison, and ensure that she is granted access to consular assistance from the German authorities.

Yours sincerely,