



Amnesty International Southend Group



Nasrin Sotoudeh – Iran 38 years and 148 lashes for defending women's rights

Human rights lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh has been sentenced to 38 years in prison and 148 lashes after two unfair trials. The charges against her stem solely from her peaceful human rights work, including her work as a lawyer defending women who protested against Iran's abusive forced hijab (veiling) laws. Hers is the harshest sentence recorded against a human rights defender in Iran in recent years.

Nasrin was arrested at her home in Tehran on 13 June 2018, and taken to Evin prison, where she has been ever since. She was denied a lawyer of her choosing for months, and refused to attend her trial, in December 2018, saying the proceedings were unfair. After her arrest, the authorities told her that in September 2016 a court had convicted her, in her absence, in a separate case and sentenced her to five years in prison. A fearless advocate for human rights, Nasrin has faced years of harassment, intimidation and imprisonment.

APPEAL Urge the authorities to release Nasrin Sotoudeh immediately and unconditionally, and pending her release ensure she has regular contact with her family and a lawyer of her choosing. Call on them to stop criminalising the defence of women's rights, including peaceful protest against forced hijab, and abolish forced hijab laws.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei
c/o Permanent Mission of Iran to the UN
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281209 Geneva
Switzerland

Salutation: Dear Supreme Leader

His Excellency HE Hamid Baeidinejad
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16 Princes Gate
London SW7 1PT

Salutation: Your Excellency: Your Excellency