



Joint Statement of the undersigned G7 Bar Associations and Law Societies

We, the undersigned Bar Associations and Law Societies of G7 countries, have previously expressed grave concerns about the conviction and sentencing of the lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh in Iran to 33 years in prison and 148 lashes.

Over a year ago, on 13 June 2018, Ms Sotoudeh was arrested at her home in Teheran and taken to Evin prison, where she is still being held. On 30 December 2018, she was tried in absentia and without access to a legal representative of her own choosing by the Revolutionary Court in Tehran on charges that included: “assembly and collusion against national security;” “propaganda against the state;” “encouraging corruption and prostitution;” and “appearing at the judiciary without Islamic hijab”.

Sadly, this was not the first time that Ms Sotoudeh has been arrested and then convicted. In September 2016, she was sentenced, also in absentia, whilst being also deprived access to her legal representative and without even being informed of her own conviction until two years later. In 2010, Ms Sotoudeh was also convicted and sentenced to 11 years imprisonment, was banned from practising as a lawyer, and a travel ban was imposed as well. In September 2013, after 3 years in prison, Ms Sotoudeh was released.

We believe that these repeated legal proceedings against Ms Sotoudeh constitute judicial harassment, which is unacceptable and in clear violation of Iran’s international legal obligations. It is evident that Ms Sotoudeh is being punished for carrying out her legitimate professional duties, in particular as a legal representative of women’s rights defenders, who are protesting against compulsory veiling in Iran.

Iran ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on 24 June 1975, which establishes binding obligations to respect and guarantee the right to be free from torture and ill-treatment, the right to liberty and security of the person, and the right to a fair trial.

The UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers establish that no lawyer should be hindered in carrying out his or her professional duties. Lawyers should be free to practise their profession and legally represent their clients without external interference and without being identified with their clients or their clients’ causes.

On 11 July 2019, the undersigned Bar Associations and Law Societies signed a Resolution¹ calling for Ms Sotoudeh’s immediate release and unconditional pardon. Deeply concerned by the fact that the situation remains unchanged, today we launch a social media action “one minute for Nasrin” (#1minute4Nasrin) and encourage Bar leaders and members around the world to participate by recording and sharing a one-minute message of support. We, as the official representative bodies of lawyers in our respective countries, representing over 1.800.000 members of the legal profession in total, stand in solidarity with our Iranian colleague Nasrin Sotoudeh.

We hereby call on the authorities in Iran to:

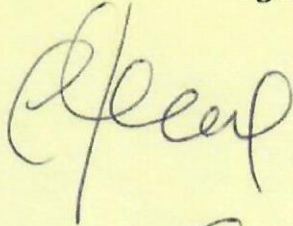
- 1. Immediately and unconditionally pardon Ms Sotoudeh, as well as exercise the power to restore Ms Sotoudeh’s freedom by strongly condemning the basis for the criminal proceedings, and put an end to judicial harassment against her;**

¹ <https://communities.lawsociety.org.uk/download?ac=90079>

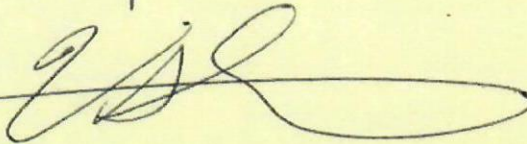
2. Pending her release, ensure the psychological and physical integrity of Ms Sotoudeh and comply with all international standards regarding conditions of detention; and
3. Comply with Iran's international obligations to ensure that members of the legal profession can carry out their professional functions without harassment and improper interference, including judicial harassment.

Signed in Paris, the 27th November 2019

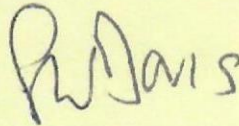
Christiane Féral-Schuhl
Conseil national des barreaux



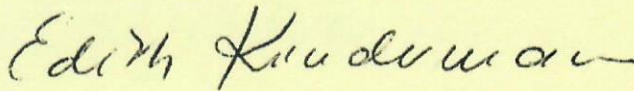
Vivene Salmon
Canadian Bar Association



Simon Davis
Law Society of England and Wales



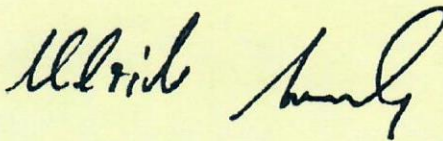
Edith Kindermann
Deutscher Anwalt Verein



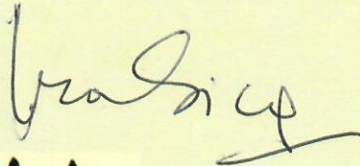
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