



Paris, April 27, 2020

Free Nasrin Sotoudeh!

The prominent Iranian human rights lawyer, Nasrin Sotoudeh, arrested on June 13, 2018 was sentenced on February 19, 2019 to thirty-three and a half years of prison and one hundred and forty-eight lashes for seven charges relating to national security crimes.

During her arrest, Nasrin Sotoudeh was further informed that she had been previously convicted on September 3, 2016 *in absentia* without being represented by a lawyer and sentenced to a five-year prison term by a revolutionary court in Tehran.

Despite multiple campaigns and calls for her release, Nasrin Sotoudeh remains incarcerated, forced to live in a crowded and unsanitary compound.

In just over a month, the COVID-19 pandemic has spread through Iran and has already killed thousands of people, with hundreds of new cases reported daily. The virus is also spreading through the Iranian prison system.

In Iran's Evin prison, where Nasrin Sotoudeh is currently detained, at least five inmates have contracted the virus, and the ward already ran out of medical, sanitary, and hygienic supplies. The COVID-19 outbreak has also reduced prisoners' access to food and medicine.

As part of the Iranian government efforts to prevent the spread of the virus, 85,000 prisoners have been temporarily released.

However, Nasrin Sotoudeh, alongside half of all prisoners convicted for alleged security charges, was not granted any leave.

Now, more than ever before, the signatories call the Iranian authorities to enforce the rule of law, ensure the end of all persecutions against lawyers, and guarantee the immediate acquittal and release of the lawyers unfairly prosecuted and condemned for the exercise of their Profession.

The signatories therefore call for the immediate release of Nasrin Sotoudeh and all other lawyers and human rights defenders detained in Iran without a fair trial and in breach of Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Right signed by Iran on April 4, 1968 and ratified on June 24, 1975.

The signatories will remain particularly vigilant to the situation of their colleagues and invite all civil society organizations to mobilize by signing the online petition: <https://www.change.org/p/lib%C3%A9rez-l-avocate-iranienne-nasrin-sotoudeh-freenasrin>