



Date: _____

Head of Judiciary, Ebrahim Raisi
c/o H.E. Majid Takht Ravanchi
Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran
622 Third Avenue, 34th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr Raisi,

I'm writing regarding the renowned human rights lawyer **Nasrin Sotoudeh** who continues serving her almost four-decade-long prison sentence in Iran's notorious Qarchak prison after her brief medical furlough was abruptly canceled on 19 January 2021.

Nasrin Sotoudeh is an attorney and a human rights defender whose charges stem from her work representing opposition activists including women prosecuted for removing their headscarf. She was sentenced to a total of 38 years and six months in prison and 148 lashes following two grossly unfair trials in 2016 and 2018. In March 2020, a prison official verbally told Nasrin Sotoudeh that she had been granted a pardon for the 2016 sentence, but she has not been formally notified about it in writing.

On 10 August 2020, imprisoned Nasrin Sotoudeh began a hunger strike in protest of the Iranian authorities' ongoing abuses in the criminal justice system. By 19 September 2020 her health had deteriorated to the extent that she had to be transferred to a hospital outside of prison. During her hospitalization, security forces barred her family from communicating with her and from access to her treating physicians or test results. Soon after being transferred to Qarchak prison that is famous for its unsanitary conditions, Nasrin Sotoudeh contracted COVID-19. She also suffers from a severe heart condition for which she requires specialized medical care.

I urge you to release Nasrin Sotoudeh immediately and unconditionally as she is a prisoner of conscience, jailed solely for her peaceful human rights work. Pending her release, ensure that she is provided with the specialized health care she needs outside prison, in compliance with medical ethics, including the principles of confidentiality, autonomy, and informed consent, and that she has family visits. I also urge you to end state harassment and intimidation of her family.

Yours sincerely,

Address: _____