

URGENT ACTION

RELEASE JAILED IRANIAN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER
Iranian human rights defender Narges Mohammadi was arrested on 5 May. She is on trial for charges stemming from her human rights activities. She is a prisoner of conscience.

Human rights defender **Narges Mohammadi**, was arrested at her home on the morning of 5 May after security forces threatened to break down her front door if she did not open it. She was subsequently taken to Tehran's Evin Prison. Two days before her arrest, she appeared at the first session of her trial before Branch 15 of the Revolutionary Court in Tehran on national security-related charges, including "spreading propaganda against the system" and "assembly and collusion against national security." Before her arrest, Narges Mohammadi told Amnesty International that the charges against her stem solely from her peaceful human rights activism. She stated that this included giving media interviews; gathering outside prisons prior to executions to support the families of death row prisoners; her connections with other human rights activists, such as Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Shirin Ebadi; and her March 2014 meeting with Catherine Ashton, the then EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. Narges Mohammadi's lawyers were not allowed to see her casefile before the start of her trial.

Narges Mohammadi also faces the charge of "membership of an illegal organization whose aim is to harm national security" for her founding of Step by Step to Stop Death Penalty, a group campaigning against the death penalty in Iran.

Narges Mohammadi was previously imprisoned in April 2012 and released in July 2012 after being granted temporary medical leave to obtain medical treatment for an existing health condition, which was exacerbated by her imprisonment. Narges Mohammadi has suffered from seizures and temporary loss of vision. Until her recent arrest she has remained mostly at liberty. It is unclear whether her arrest is related to her previous case or only to her current charges.

Please write immediately in English, Persian, Arabic or your own language:

- Calling on the Iranian authorities to release Narges Mohammadi immediately and unconditionally, as she has been held solely for the peaceful exercise of her rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly;
- Pending her release, calling on the authorities to allow her regular visits from her family and her lawyers, and to ensure that she receives any medical care she may require, including specialized care outside of prison.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 16 JUNE 2015 TO:

Leader of the Islamic Republic

Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei
 The Office of the Supreme Leader
 Islamic Republic Street - End of Shahid
 Keshvar Doust Street
 Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Email:

[http://www.leader.ir/langs/en/index.php?](http://www.leader.ir/langs/en/index.php?p=suggest)

p=suggest

Twitter: @khamenei_ir

Salutation: Your Excellency

Head of the Judiciary

Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani
 c/o Public Relations Office
 Number 4, 2 Azizi Street intersection
 Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

President of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Hassan Rouhani
 The Presidency
 Pasteur Street, Pasteur Square
 Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
 Twitter: @HassanRouhani (English) and
 @Rouhani_ir (Persian)

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

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 INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

During her first trial session on 3 May 2015, Narges Mohammadi's lawyers told the judge that they were unable to defend her because they had not been given access to her casefile. They were due back in court on 5 May to study her casefile. She told Amnesty International that the judge has accused her of being against Islam because of her stand against the death penalty. In 2014, Narges Mohammadi was summoned twice to appear before Branch Two of the Prosecutor's Office in relation to her present case, once on 8 November 2014 and earlier on 30 May 2014. When she obeyed the summons on 1 June 2014, she was briefly detained, after which she was released on a one billion Rial (US\$40,000) bail.

Narges Mohammadi, who is the Executive Chairperson for the Centre for Human Rights Defenders (CHRD), was first arrested on 10 June 2010 in her home in Tehran. Her whereabouts were unknown for a number of weeks before she was released on 1 July 2010. She had been the target of harassment by the Iranian authorities because of her activism: in 2009, she was banned from leaving the country while she was on her way to attend a conference in Guatemala organized by the Nobel Women's Initiative where she was scheduled to deliver a speech on the "Role of Women and Democracy in Iran"; she was also repeatedly summoned to a court for interrogation and told to stop her work with the CHRD and not to contact Shirin Ebadi.

Over the years, Narges Mohammadi's work has earned her prizes for her human rights work in several countries. In July 2009, she was unable to travel to Italy to collect the International Alexander Langer Award, a human rights prize awarded by the Alexander Langer Foundation – a non-governmental organization promoting and defending civil rights. Her colleague, Shirin Ebadi collected the award on her behalf. Besides her work at the CHRD, Narges Mohammadi also co-founded its End Child Executions committee, as well as the National Peace Council, which aims to relax international tensions over Iran's nuclear policy, and the Committee to Defend Free, Healthy and Fair Elections.

On International Women's Day (IWD), 8 March 2014, while on a visit to Iran, the EU's then high representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, who had been invited by Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mohammad Javad Zarif, met with a group of women human rights defenders, including Narges Mohammadi. The meeting with women human rights defenders was criticized by the Iranian authorities, particularly conservative MPs in Iran, who made a formal complaint against the Austrian Embassy in Tehran, who had organized and hosted the meeting between Catherine Ashton and the women.

On 3 March 2015, Narges Mohammadi attended an all-night vigil at Raja'i Shahr prison in Karaj, north-west of Tehran, with the families of six men who were facing execution. The vigil was an attempt to stop the executions being carried out. Hamed Ahmadi, Jahangir Dehghani, Jamshid Dehghani, Kamal Molaei, Hadi Hosseini and Sediq Mohammadi were executed the following day. On 25 January 2015, Narges Mohammadi was briefly detained and was therefore unable to meet with Germany's Vice-President, Claudia Roth, who was visiting Tehran that month. Upon her return to Germany, Claudia Roth told Deutsche Welle's Persian news service: "We realized security agents were present everywhere...we were unable to meet with human rights activists".

Name: Narges Mohammadi
Gender m/f: f

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