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ELDH European Association of
Lawyers for Democracy and
World Human Rights



Republikanischer
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RAV

Press release on the Human Rights Day, 10th of December 2012

Freedom for the Iranian Lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh

Several organisations criticize the conditions of detention of Nasrin Sotoudeh and demand her release.

Today, on the Human Rights Day, several organisations demand the Iranian authorities to release and protect the lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh. Mrs Sotoudeh is in prison for the last 26 months for her work in the domain of human rights. **Based on the charge she was spreading propaganda and conspiring to harm national security**, she was condemned on the 9th January to a prison sentence of 11 years. Furthermore, she was barred from working and from leaving the country for the next 20 years. An appeals court later commuted Sotoudeh's prison sentence to six years, and her ban from working as a lawyer to ten years. Since her imprisonment on the 4th of September 2010, she has suffered from long periods in solitary confinement and has engaged several times in hunger strikes.

Nasrin Sotoudeh has begun a hunger strike once more on the 17th of October to protest against restrictions placed on her family visits. Her 12 year old daughter was forbidden from leaving the country, her husband denied visiting her. An explanation was not given. Mrs. Sotoudeh fights with her hunger strike for the right to regular visits from her family, the right to communicate with them without a clear barrier, as well as the lifting of her daughter's ban to leave the country.

Nasrin Sotoudeh was born in 1963 and in her work as a lawyer, she has actively engaged in the defence of human rights. She has prominently represented activists of the opposition, who were imprisoned in connection with the protests against the manipulation of the presidential elections in June 2009. She represented young people, women and political prisoners who were condemned to death. The lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh has won together with the film director Jafar Panahi the Sacharow price for intellectual freedom of the European Parliament this year. She has a 12 year old daughter and a five year old son.

We are very worried about Nasrin Sotoudeh, her health is severely weakened due to the hunger strikes.

Amnesty International considers Nasrin Sotoudeh a peaceful political prisoner, who is in detention only due to her work as lawyer and demands her immediate and unconditionate release.

We join this demand and ask the German government to also engage in her release.

On the 10.12.2012 a rally on the situation of Nasrin Sotoudeh and other Iranian political prisoners will be held at 13:00 in front of the Iranian embassy in Berlin. This demonstration will be followed by the association of Iranian refugees, the Committee for the defence of political prisoners in Iran, as well as representatives of the RAV, VDJ and the Bar association of Berlin.

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<http://dustandtrash.blogspot.de/2012/11/nasrin-sotoudeh-hungerstreik.html>

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