

Petition regarding Nasrin Sotoudeh to the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran

The Hague, 26 November 2012

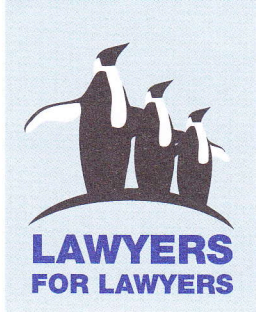
Excellency,

The Dutch Lawyers for Lawyers Foundation (*‘Stichting Advocaten voor Advocaten’*) has repeatedly expressed our grave concerns about the current situation of our colleague Nasrin Sotoudeh. On 16 November 2012 we sent you a request to discuss her situation and we referred to the necessity of the application of the United Nations *Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers*. However, we were informed that you would not be able to meet with us on short notice.

During the past months Ms. Sotoudeh has been subjected to several restrictions that violate her basic human rights and amount to unequal treatment of her as a prisoner. As a consequence Ms. Sotoudeh started her hunger strike on 17 October 2012, 47 days ago. Since her health is deteriorating severely, we feel that our last resort to bring her situation under your attention is to present you with this petition along with a lawyers’ presence outside of your Embassy.

Therefore, we urge the Iranian authorities to:

1. create conditions under which Nasrin Sotoudeh will be able to end her hunger strike, entailing among other things allowing weekly face-to-face visits by her son, daughter and husband and lifting the travel ban that has been imposed on her husband and daughter;
2. assure that the international human rights treaties to which Iran is a Party as well as the United Nations *Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers*, adopted in 1990 with the support of Iran, will be fully respected and fulfilled with respect to Nasrin Sotoudeh.



Once more we would like to remind you of Iran's obligations under the *Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers*.¹ As stated in our earlier letter this includes:

- Governments shall ensure that lawyers (a) are able to perform all of their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference; (b) are able to travel and to consult with their clients freely both within their own country and abroad; and (c) shall not suffer, or be threatened with, prosecution or administrative, economic or other sanctions for any action taken in accordance with recognized professional duties, standards and ethics.²
- Where the security of lawyers is threatened as a result of discharging their functions, they shall be adequately safeguarded by the authorities.³
- Lawyers shall not be identified with their clients or their clients' causes as a result of discharging their functions.⁴

We will continue to monitor Nasrin Sotoudeh's case closely and will continue to express our grave concerns should her situation not improve. We remain at all times available to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss these issues more extensively.

We utterly hope that your good will and sense of justice will prevail.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of our highest esteem,

Phon van den Biesen
President of Lawyers for Lawyers

Adrie van de Streek
Executive Director

¹ The Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers were adopted by the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in 1990.

² Article 16 of the Basic Principles.

³ Article 17 of the Basic Principles.

⁴ Article 18 of the Basic Principles.