



LAWYERS FOR LAWYERS
URGENTLY REQUESTS FAIR AND EQUAL TREATMENT FOR IMPRISONED
IRANIAN TOP LAWYER NASRIN SOTOUDEH

THE HAGUE, 26 NOVEMBER 2012
Iranian Embassy
Crossing Hogeweg and Duinweg
from 10.45 a.m. through 11.30 a.m.

The Dutch organization *Lawyers for Lawyers* (L4L, www.lawyersforlawyers.nl) will be heading a group of Lawyers on Monday 26 November 2012 at 11 a.m. in front of the Iranian Embassy in order to hand over a petition to the Iranian Ambassador in The Netherlands, his Excellency Mr. Gharibabadi.

This step is set on behalf of an Iranian top-lawyer, Ms. **Nasrin Sotoudeh**, who is currently in prison in Teheran. She was sentenced to a six-year term in prison after she had spent many years defending activists and journalists and after she became a leading lawyer in cases of child abuse and women's rights. In 2010 Ms. Sotoudeh was representing Zahra Bahrami, a Dutch-Iranian dual citizen charged with security offenses. Ms. Sotoudeh has been charged with "activities against national security" and "propaganda against the regime." Please see the attached fact-sheet for additional information.

Currently, while imprisoned, Ms. Sotoudeh receives a special treatment: until last week, she has been held in isolation, while her husband was not allowed to visit her; her children are barred from visiting her as well or are allowed only very sporadic visits for extremely limited time-slots. Her husband is not allowed to travel abroad, nor is her eldest daughter.

Ms. Sotoudeh's protesting against this special treatment did not lead to any positive result. Therefore, she went on hunger strike on 17 October 2012 and is set to continue this hunger strike until she and her family will receive fair and equal treatment.

Lawyers for Lawyers is very concerned about Ms. Sotoudeh's rapidly deterring health situation. "Human Rights Lawyers do not belong in prison in the first place, and under all circumstances they are entitled to decent and equal treatment like any other prisoner", says Phon van den Biesen, President of *Lawyers for Lawyers*. "Apart from that, no prisoner should be punished by seeing her husband and family punished." Therefore, *Lawyers for Lawyers* requests the Iranian Ambassador to transmit its request for decent and equal treatment of Nasrin Sotoudeh to the Authorities in Teheran, so she will be able to end her hunger strike on the shortest possible notice. *Lawyers for Lawyers* reminds the Iranian authorities that Iran has adopted the United Nations *Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers*, which instructs governments to protect lawyers that are discharging of their professional duties and to not identify them with their clients or their client's causes.

Reference for *Basic Principles*: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/lawyers.htm>