

26 January 2022

## Iran: Narges Mohammadi sentenced to an additional eight years of prison

On 25 January 2022, woman human rights defender, **Narges Mohammadi** informed her family that Branch 26 of Tehran Revolutionary Court has sentenced her on the charge of “collusion against state security” to eight years and two months in prison, 74 lashes, a two years ban from accessing telecommunications tools and social media, two years of exile outside of Tehran, and a two years ban on membership in political groups. The woman human rights defender received this sentence on 15 January 2022 in The woman human rights defender received this sentence on 15 January 2022 in Evin prison, in Tehran.

[Narges Mohammadi](#) is a woman human rights defender, deputy director and spokesperson of the Defenders of Human Rights Centre (DHRC) in Iran. She has campaigned for the abolition of the death penalty in Iran, and was awarded the *Per Anger Prize* by the Swedish government for her human rights work in 2011. The woman human rights defender continued her human rights activities while in detention and most recently has been campaigning against the torture strategy known as “White Torture” which includes the cruel use of solitary confinement and other abusive treatment and conditions for prisoners in Iran.

On 25 January 2022, woman human rights defender Narges Mohammadi informed her family about the new sentence imposed on her by Branch 26 of Tehran Revolutionary Court. The sentence concerns eight years and two months in prison, 74 lashes, a two years ban on using and having telecommunications tools and social media, two years of exile and two years of ban on membership in political groups. The court’s decision was based on the charge of “collusion against state’s security”.

On 19 January 2022, Narges Mohammadi was transferred to Qarchak prison, in Varamin, a neighborhood in Tehran. The woman human rights defender has been denied access to telephone calls during solitary confinement, as well as access to her family and to her lawyer. For over two months, she was held in solitary confinement in Ward 2A of Evin prison, in Tehran, which is run by the intelligence service of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps since 17 November 2021. While she was in solitary confinement in Evin prison, new charges were brought against her.

On 12 January 2022, the woman human rights defender was summoned to trial, which only lasted five minutes. The trial took place after she was held in a solitary confinement for 64 consecutive days, 40 days of which she was incommunicado with no access to phone calls to her family. Narges Mohammadi has also been denied access to her lawyer up until now, despite multiple requests to do so (including in writing on 16 November 2021).

On 22 November 2021, Narges Mohammadi was brought before Shahid Moqadas Amniat (Evin) Court for a hearing regarding new charges against her and a list of human rights activities flagged as criminal acts that she has been undertaking since her release in October 2020. These activities include her nomination for a Noble Peace Prize, which has reportedly been interpreted as “espionage for a hostile state,” “participation in a memorial of the victims of November 2019 mass protest”, and “commemoration of the victims of the Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 shot down in January 2020 by the Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)”. The list also refers to the book “White Torture”, which includes testimonies of victims of solitary confinement and those who spoke out against the sexual abuse of women prisoners in the Iranian prisons.

This is not the first time that Narges Mohammadi is facing multiple acts of judicial harassment due to her peaceful human rights work in Iran. In another case dating back to 22 May 2021, she was informed that Branch 1177 of the Criminal Court II of Quds Judicial Complex had sentenced her to 30 months in prison, 80 lashes and two fines. One of the fines amounts to 100 million IRR, while the second is to be announced by the Iranian Organization of Prisons. The woman human rights defender was charged with “propaganda activity against the state” for publishing statements against death penalty, staging a sit-in the Evin prison’s bureau, disobeying the prison’s authorities to end the sit-in, breaking the windows and allegedly physical assaulting the prison’s authorities.

Front Line Defenders is extremely concerned that the woman human rights defender, who has been unjustly imprisoned for most part of the last five years, has received another long sentence while being held in a solitary confinement for over two months, predominantly incommunicado. Front Line Defenders believes that the continued prosecution of Narges Mohammadi is in reprisal for her peaceful and legitimate efforts to promote and protect human rights in Iran.

**Front Line Defenders urges the Iranian authorities to:**

1. Immediately quash the conviction against Narges Mohammadi, as Front Line Defenders believes that she has been targeted solely as a result of her legitimate human rights work;
2. Ensure that the treatment of Narges Mohammadi, while in detention, adheres to the conditions set out in the ‘Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment’, adopted by UN General Assembly resolution 43/173 of 9 December 1988’;
3. Ensure that Narges Mohammadi is allowed sufficient access to her lawyer and to phone calls to her family;
4. Cease targeting all human rights defenders in Iran and guarantee in all circumstances that they are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions - including judicial harassment.

Front Line Defenders respectfully reminds you that the United Nations Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, adopted by consensus by the UN General Assembly on 9 December 1998, recognises the legitimacy of the activities of human rights defenders, their right to freedom of association and to carry out their activities without fear of reprisals. We would particularly draw attention to Article 6 (b): “*Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others: (b) As provided for in human rights and other applicable international instruments, freely to publish, impart or disseminate to others views, information and knowledge on all human rights and fundamental freedoms*”, and to Article 12 (1 and 2): “(1) *Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to participate in peaceful activities against violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. (2) The State shall take all necessary measures to ensure the protection by the competent authorities of everyone, individually and in association with others, against any violence, threats, retaliation, de facto or de jure adverse discrimination, pressure or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the present Declaration.*”

Please inform us of any actions that may be taken with regard to the above case.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light blue background behind it.

Andrew Anderson

Executive Director

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