

# URGENT ACTION

## NARGES MOHAMMADI'S TRIAL TO BEGIN 6 OCTOBER

**Iranian human rights defender Narges Mohammadi's trial on national security-related charges will begin on 6 October in Tehran. She is still being denied the specialized medical care she requires. She is a prisoner of conscience.**

**Narges Mohammadi's** trial is to begin on 6 October, on charges including "spreading propaganda against the system" and "gathering and colluding to commit crimes against national security". She told Amnesty International, before her arrest in May 2015, that these charges stemmed solely from her peaceful human rights activism. She said the "evidence" used against her included her media interviews, the fact that she had taken part in gatherings outside prisons before executions to support the families of death row prisoners, her connections with other human rights defenders and her March 2014 meeting with the European Union's then High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton. Narges Mohammadi has also been charged with "membership of an illegal organization whose aim is to harm national security", because she set up a group campaigning against the death penalty in Iran, Step by Step to Stop Death Penalty.

Narges Mohammadi's husband, Taghi Rahmani, has told Amnesty International that neurologists have recommended she be hospitalized to receive specialized medical care, but the authorities have rejected such a transfer. She is now receiving her medications regularly.

The office of the Prosecutor General has also been denying Narges Mohammadi the right to make phone calls to her children, eight-year-old twins who moved abroad to live with their father as there was no one to look after them in Iran. It has been over two months since she last spoke with her children.

### **Please write immediately in Persian, English, French, Spanish or your own language:**

- Calling on the Iranian authorities to release Narges Mohammadi immediately and unconditionally, as she is a prisoner of conscience, held solely for her peaceful exercise of her rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and drop the new charges against her as they relate to her peaceful human rights activism;
- Urging them to ensure that Narges Mohammadi is given immediate access to the specialized medical care she requires outside the prison;
- Urging them to allow her regular visits and phone calls from her family, including her children, and lawyer, and ensure she is protected from torture and other ill-treatment, which the denial of medical care can amount to.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 11 NOVEMBER 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: (via website)  
<http://www.leader.ir/langs/en/index.php?p=letter>  
Twitter: @khamenei\_ir (English)  
@Khamenei\_es (Spanish)  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Head of the Judiciary  
Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani  
c/o Public Relations Office  
Number 4, Deadend of 1 Azizi  
Above Pasteur Intersection  
Vali Asr Street  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran  
Email: [info@humanrights-iran.ir](mailto:info@humanrights-iran.ir)  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**And copies to:**  
Prosecutor General of Tehran  
Abbas Ja'fari Dolat Abadi  
Tehran General and Revolutionary  
Prosecution Office  
Corner (Nabsh-e) of 15 Khordad Square  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

### **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. This is the second update of UA 105/15. Further information: [www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/1612/2015/en/](http://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/1612/2015/en/)

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Narges Mohammadi had begun serving a six-year jail sentence in April 2012, for “gathering and colluding to commit crimes against national security” and “spreading propaganda against the system” through her peaceful human rights activism. She was released three months later, after being granted leave from prison to obtain medical treatment for a health condition that caused partial paralysis, which was exacerbated by her imprisonment. Narges Mohammadi has also suffered from seizures and temporary loss of vision. She was mainly at liberty until her arrest in May 2015. It appears that her arrest is related to her previous trial.

She wrote a lengthy open letter from Evin Prison to the Public Prosecutor of Tehran in July 2015, in which she said: “And I, a mother in pain who is tired of hurt and suffering, have stayed behind. My heart has been torn into hundreds of pieces. My hands – without even trying – face the sky. Dear God, please take my hands and give me the patience I need. For a long time, I won't be able to see their [her children's] innocent faces. I won't be able to hear their voices. I won't be able to smell them while holding them in my arms. Oh God, my arms feel so cold and empty without the presence of my children. My hands move towards my chest which feels as if it's on fire. My cheekbones burn from the tears that run down my face. The lava flowing from my eyes feels like fire from the depths of my heart.” See her letter in full here:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2015/08/narges-mohammadi-tearing-my-heart-to-pieces-iran/>

The Iranian authorities frequently transfer prisoners in need of medical care to hospital, but Amnesty International understands that prisoners are not always provided with actual medical care and instead are simply returned to prison. Whether done intentionally or by neglect, failing to provide adequate medical care to prisoners is a breach of Iran's international human rights obligations. The denial of medical treatment may amount to a violation of the absolute prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment, under Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is a state party. Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to which Iran is also a state party, specifically recognizes the right of every person to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. The UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Mandela Rules) also state that prisons must provide adequate medical care to prisoners without discrimination (Rules 24-35). Rule 27(1) of the Mandela Rules provides that “Prisoners who require specialized treatment or surgery shall be transferred to specialized institutions or to civil hospitals.” See this public statement

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/2508/2015/en/> for more information

Iran's own prison regulations are also routinely flouted by prison and judicial officials. The regulations governing the administration of Iranian prisons stipulate that a prisoner suffering from a serious medical condition that cannot be treated inside prison, or whose condition will worsen if they stay in prison, should be granted medical leave in order to receive treatment.

Name: Narges Mohammadi

Gender m/f: f

Further information on UA: 105/15 Index: MDE 13/2563/2015 Issue Date: 30 September 2015