

15 June 2018

Iran: Prominent human rights lawyer, Nasrin Sotoudeh, arrested

On 13 June 2018, **Nasrin Sotoudeh**, the human rights defender was arrested at her home in Tehran. She was transferred to prosecutor's office of Evin prison.

[Nasrin Sotoudeh](#) is a prominent human rights lawyer who in recent months has acted as the lawyer for women's rights activists who protested against the compulsory veiling in Iran and were subsequently prosecuted. According to her husband, Reza Khandan, Nasrin Sotoudeh was informed that she will be imprisoned for five years, however neither of them are aware of the charges against her.

In 2010, Nasrin Sotoudeh was given a prison sentence of eleven years and banned from working as a lawyer or leaving the country for twenty years. Nasrin Sotoudeh remained in prison for three years under charges of 'spreading propaganda' and 'conspiring to harm state security', designed to force her to stop her legitimate and peaceful human rights activities. Nasrin Sotoudeh was finally released in [September 2013](#) after receiving a pardon. Prior to her detention, Nasrin Sotoudeh represented many human rights defenders opposed to the current regime in Iran, and worked extensively with young prisoners who had been sentenced to death for crimes they committed when they were under 18.

Front Line Defenders believes that the recent arrest of Nasrin Sotoudeh is directly related to her activities in the defence of human rights, particularly her work as a human rights lawyer.

Front Line Defenders urges the authorities in Iran to:

1. Immediately and unconditionally release Nasrin Sotoudeh, as Front Line Defenders believes she is being held solely as a result of her legitimate and peaceful work in the defence of human rights;
2. Drop all charges against her;
3. Ensure that the treatment of Nasrin Sotoudeh, 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;
4. Guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights defenders in Iran are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions, including deprivation of liberty and judicial harassment.