

**NASRIN  
SOTOUDEH  
IRAN**

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



**FREE THE  
PRISONERS OF  
CONSCIENCE**

## NASRIN SOTOUDEH



Arrested on 4 September 2010, Iranian lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh has spent much of her time since in solitary confinement in Tehran's Evin Prison. On 9 January 2011, she was sentenced to 11 years imprisonment, banned from practicing law and forbidden from leaving Iran for 20 years.

Nasrin Sotoudeh was sentenced to 10 years for "acting against national security - including membership of the Centre for Human Rights Defenders (CHRD)", a human rights organization forcibly closed by the authorities - and an additional year for "propaganda against the system." She and her lawyers deny that she has ever been a member of the CHRD.

Nasrin Sotoudeh has gone on hunger strike several times in protest against her detention without charge or trial and the conditions in which she is held. Initially allowed very infrequent contact with her family and lawyer, she is now allowed to call her family once a week. She once refused water for eleven days and her weight has reportedly dropped from 128 to 97 pounds. Nasrin Sotoudeh was transferred to Evin Prison's infirmary on numerous occasions due to her dangerously deteriorating health caused by her many hunger strikes.

When her father passed away in September 2010, she was denied leave to attend memorial services for him. Nasrin Sotoudeh has not seen her mother since her incarceration because her mother is too ill to visit her in Evin Prison.

Between September 2010 and April 2011 Nasrin Sotoudeh was incarcerated in solitary confinement and in Section 209 of Evin Prison. On 20 April, Nasrin Sotoudeh was moved to the Women's Methadone section of the prison which is primarily for those with a history of substance abuse.

Prisoners held in the Methadone Ward are only provided access to fresh air for less than one hour a day. They are also deprived of books and use of the prison library and they are not allowed telephone privileges. The prisoners are deprived of face-to-face visitation with their families, visiting with them from behind a glass screen (a "cabin").

Her husband Reza Khandan has also been targeted by authorities, and was brought in for questioning to Evin Prison on 16 January 2011 and detained overnight. He has openly campaigned against his wife's treatment. He was accused of "publishing lies" and "disturbing public opinion" on account of an unpublished letter he wrote to the Prosecutor's Office. He was released on a guarantee of 500 million Iranian Rials (about US\$50,000) but remains at risk of harassment.

Nasrin Sotoudeh is a member of the Human Rights Defenders Organization, the One Million Signature Campaign to Change Discriminatory Laws against Women and the Children's Rights Society. She has represented human rights and women's rights activists, children who were victims of abuse, and juvenile offenders facing the death penalty. Nasrin Sotoudeh was legal council to several political prisoners who were arrested and imprisoned after the protests disputing the presidential elections in 2009.

Amnesty International considers Nasrin Sotoudeh a prisoner of conscience, held solely for the peaceful exercise of her rights to freedom of expression and association, including her work as a lawyer. Her only "crime" is rising in defence of those who cannot defend themselves.

Nasrin Sotoudeh, 47, is married and has two young children by names of Mehraveh and Nima. She has won several international awards for her human rights work such as the 2008 International Human Rights Committee of Italy award, the 2010 Golden Poppy Award bestowed by the city of Florence, Italy and the 2011 PEN/Barbara Goldsmith Freedom to Write Award. Nasrin Sotoudeh has a degree in International Law from Shahid Beheshti University. Since 1991, she has given interviews and written articles for the media outlets including *Jamee*, *Toos*, *Sobh e Emrooz* newspapers, and *Aban* magazine among others.