



*Mission Permanente
de la République Islamique d'Iran
auprès des Nations Unies
et des autres Organisations Internationales à Genève*

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Ref. 2050/698423

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to the latter's Communication No. UA IRN 21/2020 dated 8 September 2020, has the honor to transmit, herewith, the comments of the Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding **Ms. Nasrin Sotudeh, Ms. Atena Daemi, Mr. Jafar Azimzadeh, Mr. Esmail Abdi and Mr. Arash Sadeqi.**

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 17 February 2021



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In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Comment

By

The High Council for Human Rights

Of

The Islamic Republic of Iran

**Regarding Nasrin Sotudeh, Atena Daemi, Jafar Azimzadeh, Esmail Abdi
and Arash Sadeqi**

In response to joint communication received by the Special Procedures Mandate-Holders appertaining to cases of **Nasrin Sotudeh, Atena Daemi, Jafar Azimzadeh, Esmail Abdi** and **Arash Sadeqi**, the latest situations of the abovenamed, as per announcement by the Tehran Province Justice Administration, are outlined as hereunder:

Nasrin Sotudeh was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment for a) assembly and conspiracy with the purpose of committing crimes against national security; and b) launching propaganda campaign against the State and public order. Her prison term commenced as of 17 March 2020 and is scheduled to come to an end on 6 January 2032. Upon court accord, the aforesaid was released on temporarily furlough for five days after satisfying a IRR 20bn bail. The abovenamed – following claims suggesting her infection with COVID-19 – was referred to the forensic medical organisation on 11 December 2020; thereafter, it was ordered on 14 December 2020 that the aforesaid, for the purpose of further protection from the disease, remain unimprisoned for three weeks. She therefore referred to prison on 1 January 2021 after two days of absence. Upon order from the forensic medical organisation committee, the aforementioned had to undergo angiography; therefor, the abovenamed was temporarily released as of 8 January 2021 to 20 January 2021. As for health conditions of the abovenamed and her access to medical and health

facilities, this is to be notified that she has hitherto been referred to medical centers situated out of prison for further clinical assessments on four occasions. The abovenamed – similar to every other prisoner and notwithstanding *actus reus* and the nature thereof – enjoys full and unhindered access to medical and health facilities. Furthermore, and in application of rules and regulations, she has hitherto been granted 175 family visits, 35 of which have taken place during this year. Remanded in a general population prison, the aforesaid has unrestricted telephone access.

Atena Daemi has been pronounced guilty in two separate cases. In application of Article 134 of the Islamic Penal Code, the aforesaid was sentenced to two years and one-month imprisonment for a) launching propaganda campaign against the State and public order; and b) insulting the sanctities including the Leader of the Islamic Revolution. She was given a one-year discretionary imprisonment for disrupting prison order and peace by insulting the sanctities through celebrating, partying and dancing during the mourning for the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (PBHU), the third Shia Imam. Her prison term is scheduled to come to an end on 19 July 2023, with previous detention period excluded. In response to allegations suggesting prison conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic, this is to be notified that all prisons – for the purpose of maintaining best possible conditions thereof – strictly follow health protocols and instructions set forth by the Ministry of Health and Medical Education as well as the National Taskforce for Fighting Coronavirus. The health protocols and instructions are observed to a point that prison conditions are considered to be more preferable than anywhere else in terms of safety in the face of the disease. Prison cells are disinfected three times during the day; they are also equipped with air conditioner, ventilator, bed and other facilities. The aforesaid, similar to every other prisoner, enjoys access to medical facilities; moreover, all prisoners can buy protective equipment including masks, gloves and sanitizers if needed. She also has full and unhindered access to medical and health facilities.

Jafar Azimzadeh has been found guilty for a) assembly and conspiracy with the purpose of committing crimes against the State and public order; and b) launching propaganda campaign against the State and public order. For crimes attributed thereto, the aforesaid was ergo sentenced to five years discretionary imprisonment. The commencement of his prison term was dated 8 November 2015 and is scheduled to come to an end on 15 March 2023 – with 41 days of previous detention period and 931 days of unexcused absence from prison deducted. In a

separate case, he was sentenced to one year and one-month discretionary imprisonment for launching propaganda campaign against the State and public order by releasing and distributing statements against the public order whilst in prison. Please be advised that upon announcement by the State Prisons and Security and Corrective Measures Organisation, the general health condition of the abovenamed was declared good when visited by the Rajaei-Shahr Prison doctor; furthermore, the aforesaid did also not have any clinical complaints. Pursuant to notification made by the abovenamed, he had undergone arteriography and been under medical treatment therefor prior to imprisonment. Hence, given the clinical assessment of the aforesaid and electrocardiogram tests, there has been no evidence suggesting acute ischemia; the abovenamed was only recommended to continue medical treatment.

Esmail Abdi has been pronounced guilty in two separate cases. He was sentenced to five years' discretionary imprisonment for a) assembly and conspiracy with the purpose of committing crimes against the State and national security; and b) launching propaganda campaign against the State and national security. His prison term commenced on 9 November 2020 and is scheduled to come to an end on 11 January 2021, with 323 days of previous detention period and 48 days of unexcused absence from prison deducted. As for launching propaganda campaign against the Islamic Republic of Iran and espionage, the aforesaid was sentenced to ten years discretionary imprisonment – the commencement of which was dated 11 January 2021.

Arash Sadeqi has been sentenced to seven years and six months imprisonment for a) assembly and conspiracy against the State with the purpose of committing crimes against national security; and b) launching propaganda campaign against the Establishment and public order and defamation of State officials. His prison term commenced as of 7 June 2016 and was scheduled to come to an end in 21 April 2023. However, his prison sentence was commuted for two years pursuant to execution of the recently-ratified law on commutation of discretionary punishment. The aforesaid has hitherto chosen not to enjoy from temporarily release from prison during the COVID-19 pandemic.