

18 November 2021

Iran- Narges Mohammadi physically assaulted, arrested and detained in solitary confinement with imminent risk of flogging

On 17 November 2021, **Narges Mohammadi** informed her family during a short phone call that she is being held in a solitary confinement in Ward 2A of Evin prison, which is run by the intelligence service of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps. On 16 November 2021, she was physically assaulted and arrested without a warrant while attending the second death anniversary of a protester who was killed during the November 2019 general protest in Iran. After her arrest, the woman human rights defender was told that the 30 months prison sentence and 80 lashes handed down to her by Branch 1177 of Tehran Criminal Court II of Quds Judicial Complex on 22 May 2021 was now in effect.

[Narges Mohammadi](#) is a woman human rights defender and 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 17 November 2021, Narges Mohammadi told her family that she was detained in solitary confinement in Ward 2A of Evin prison, which is run by the intelligence service of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps. On 16 November 2021, the woman human rights defender was physically attacked and violently arrested without a warrant by intelligence service agents while she was attending the second death anniversary of a protester who was killed in during November 2019 general protest in Iran. While in detention, Narges Mohammadi was informed that the sentence handed down to her on 22 May 2021 was in effect immediately.

On 22 May 2021, Narges Mohammadi was informed that Branch 1177 of Tehran Criminal Court II of Quds Judicial Complex had sentenced her to 30 months in prison, 80 lashes and two fines. The woman human rights defender refused to take part in any of the court proceedings, stating publicly that the new charges are based on her continuous human rights work, including her work from inside Evin and Zanjan prisons where she had been detained, and a legal complaint she made regarding her treatment there. On 26 September 2021, Narges Mohammadi was summoned to prison and informed that her sentence is final and effective, however she refused to comply to the court’s sentence without a fair trial.

Narges Mohammadi’s arrest happens in the context of the five-day International People’s Tribunal on Iran Atrocities of November 2019 which took place in London between 9-14 November 2021. During this symbolic tribunal, witnesses testified to atrocities committed by Iran security forces, which according to the final statement of the Tribunal can amount to gross human rights violations and crimes against humanity. Amnesty International [documented](#) that approximately 324 men, women and children were killed by Iran’s security force’s use of disproportionate lethal force

against civilians during crackdown on the mass protests that erupted across Iran between 15 and 19 November 2019, following the government's announcement about the significant overnight rise in the price of fuel.

Front Line Defenders is seriously concerned by the arrest, physical assault and judicial harassment against Narges Mohammadi. Of particular concern is the latest sentence brought against the woman human rights defender without a fair trial, and in particular the cruel punishment of 80 lashes, which seemingly is imminent in reprisal for her attempts to commemorate the victims of the November 2019 mass protest in Iran. Front Line Defenders believes that Narges Mohammadi has been targeted solely as a result of her peaceful and legitimate human rights work and in reprisal for her defence of right to freedom of association and freedom of assembly in Iran.

Front Line Defenders urges the Iranian authorities to:

1. Immediately and unconditionally release Narges Mohammadi and quash the convictions against her;
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 Narges Mohammadi is allowed sufficient access to her lawyer and telephone calls with her family while in detention;
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 judicial harassment.

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