

CCBE STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE LAWYERS ARRESTED DURING THE REPRESSION IN IRAN

11/10/2022

The Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) represents the bars and law societies of 46 countries, and through them more than 1 million European lawyers. The defence of the rule of law, the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms and the upholding of the democratic values inextricably linked to these rights are the most important missions of the CCBE.

Following the arrest of Mahsa Amini by the morality police on 13 September and the ill-treatment that led to her death in custody, public protests intensified in several cities in Iran.

The CCBE wishes to express its deep concern at the violent repression of these rallies in solidarity with Iranian women, resulting in dozens of deaths, hundreds of injuries and thousands of arrests.

In this respect, the CCBE recalls that the freedom to demonstrate peacefully is provided for in Article 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified by Iran in 1975. The Iranian State is also bound to respect its obligations under the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including the respect of women's rights.

The CCBE is also concerned about the repression suffered by many Iranian lawyers, who are in turn subject to pressure, threats and arrests in the exercise of their profession. Mahsa Gholamalizadeh, Saeed Jalilian, Milad Panahipour, Hossein Jalilian, and Babak Paknia, Roza Etemadansari, Firouzeh Khordechi and Amir Dehghani, are among the many lawyers who were arrested while working with demonstrators against the current regime. The CCBE expresses its solidarity with its colleagues who were attacked.

The CCBE recalls that attacks on human rights lawyers and women's rights activists have intensified in Iran in recent years. The CCBE strongly condemns the arbitrary detention of several Iranian lawyers, including Nasrin Sotoudeh¹, who was sentenced to 38 years of imprisonment for defending women who peacefully demonstrated against compulsory hijab.

The CCBE therefore urges the relevant Iranian authorities to:

- **end persecution and ensure that everyone has access to a lawyer of their choice from the moment of their arrest;**
- **end all forms of harassment and intimidation of lawyers in Iran;**
- **guarantee the immediate and unconditional freedom of lawyers arbitrarily detained by the Iranian authorities;**
- **accept a public enquiry into the death of Mahsa Amini and the other victims by an independent international commission.**

¹ Who also received the [CCBE Human Rights Award](#) 2019 together with Iranian lawyers Abdolfattah Soltani, Mohammad Najafi and Amirsalar Davoudi.