

# **NARGES MOHAMMADI**

## **IRANIAN PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE**



Narges Mohammadi is a leading Iranian human rights defender and the 2009 recipient of Alexander Langer award for peaceful activism. She was arrested in May 2015 for her human rights advocacy and has been detained in Evin Prison ever since.

### **WHAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CAN DO**

- Urge Iranian authorities to end the arbitrary detention of Bahareh Hedayat
- Raise her case in bilateral meetings with the government, parliamentary and judicial official
- Raise her case from the floor of the United Nations General Assembly and Human Rights Council
- Urge Iranian authorities to grant Ms. Mohammadi Hedayat access to proper medical care

## HER STORY

Narges Mohammadi, is the former vice-president of the Defenders of Human Rights Center, an NGO founded by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Shirin Ebadi, and co-founder of the group ‘Step by Step to Stop the Death Penalty’, a coalition aiming to abolish death penalty in Iran. Mohammadi, despite suffering from various health complications, has been a prominent voice for human rights and advocate for victims of right violations inside the country.

In March 2015, Mohammadi was the target of intense attacks by Iranian hardliners after she met with Catherine Ashton, EU foreign policy chief, in the Austrian Embassy in Tehran to discuss human rights concerns. Gohar Eshghi, the mother of Sattar Beheshti, a blogger died in the custody of Iran’s cyber-police in 2012, accompanied Mohamad in the meeting.

## HER CASE

On 5 May 2015, Iranian security forces arrested Mohammadi at her apartment and transferred her to Evin prison to serve the remainder of the six-year prison sentence she had received in 2012.

In September 2011, the Court of First Instance sentenced Mohammadi to 11 years in prison on charges of “assembly and collusion to disrupt the national security”, “membership in illegal group of Defenders of Human Rights Centre”, and “propaganda against the state”. The Appeal Court subsequently reduced her sentenced to 6 years in prison in 2012.

On 31 July 2012, Mohammadi was arrested to begin her prison sentence. As her health condition deteriorated, she was determined by the Medical Examiner’s office to be unable to serve as a result of illness<sup>1</sup> and was subsequently released from prison on medical grounds. She reportedly developed an “undiagnosed epilepsy-like disease which causes her to lose control over her muscles temporarily”<sup>2</sup> that led to her temporary release prior to trial.

Despite the Medical Examiner’s opinion, Mohammadi was rearrested in May to serve the remainder of her prison sentence. Currently detained in Evin prison, Mohammadi, has been denied urgent medical care and reports indicate is facing new charges for her human rights advocacy.

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<sup>1</sup> Interview with Taghi Rahmani, Nargess Mohammadi’s husband, 13 May 2015, <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2015/05/narges-mohammadi-5/>

<sup>2</sup> Iranian activist Narges Mohammadi jailed for 11 years, 28 September 2012, <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/sep/28/iranian-activist-narges-mohammadi-jailed>.