

The Bar Council of Milan, in the meeting held on March 14th, 2019

Having learned

The serious news coming from Teheran on the sentencing of the Iranian Lawyer **Nasrin Sotoudeh** to an extraordinary high condemnation, actually equivalent to an imprisonment for life, unacceptable in the way it was inflicted, in the absence of the party and with the additional penalty of 148 lashes in public;

Having taken into account

The fact that the sentence, even if referring to a series of crimes against public safety and public morals, is in fact only related to the professional activity in defending human rights carried on by Ms. Sotoudeh, awarded with the Sakharov Prize 2012 by the European Parliament, being since long time engaged in the defence especially of women, of young protesters against the Iranian regime, in turn arrested and sentenced to unjust and disproportionate penalties.

Having observed

The fact that the violation of human and defence rights in Iran and in many other countries is increasingly accompanied by the violation of freedom and independence of lawyers, in Iran as in Turkey, in Egypt or in China, through the intimidation, detention and violence against them, in evident breach of the Protocol on Fundamental Principles on the role of lawyers, adopted by the United Nations since 1990 in Havana, at the eighth international crime prevention Conference;

Having taken note

- of the prompt reaction of the European Union through the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, as well as Vice-President of the European Commission;
- of the statement released by Oiad, the International Observatory for Attorneys in Danger, established in 2016 in Madrid by the forensic institutions of Spain, Italy and France, to which the Milan Bar Association adheres;

Having noted

The fact that in order to be effective the timeliness initial reactions must be accompanied by a visible, continuous and coordinated commitment of both national and supranational institutions, and forensic organizations; as well by a strong pressure on the Iranian government.

The Council resolves:

- to express the utmost solidarity with Mrs Nasrin;

- to invite the Italian government, each individual MP and the law professors of the Universities in Milan (to whom this resolution will be sent) to propose the candidacy of Nasrin Sotoudeh as Nobel Prize for Peace;
- to invite all lawyers and forensic associations in Milan to express their concern by sending messages to the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Milan (via Monte Bianco 59 - 20149), to which this resolution will be transmitted by the Bar;
- to organize, within the month of May, also in collaboration with the Universities in Milan an international conference on the defence of human rights and the physical, moral and professional protection of the lawyers exposed;
- to send this resolution to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Italian Government, to the President of the European Parliament, to the High Representative for Foreign Affairs of the European Union, to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to the Presidents of the Senate of the Republic and of the Chamber of Deputies of the Republic, to the *Conseil des barreaux européens* (Ccbe), to Oiad, to the National Bar, in order to urge everyone, within their own responsibilities, to take political and diplomatic initiatives aimed to obtaining immediate release of Nasrin Sotoudeh from prison; as well as promoting parliamentary debates and motions so that information on the Sotoudeh case can involve public opinion and all Italian and European MPs, also on other cases of threatened and endangered lawyers within the performance of their duties.

The Secretary Counsel
Lawyer Cinzia Preti

The President
Lawyer Remo Danovi