

**Priority question for written answer P-004269/2019**

**to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Detention of Iranian activist and Sakharov Prize winner Nasrin Sotoudeh

Nasrin Sotoudeh is an Iranian human rights lawyer, one of the few who bravely defended dissidents arrested in the 2009 mass protests, before being arrested in 2010. When she was awarded the Sakharov Prize, she was serving a 6-year prison sentence, was in solitary confinement and had begun a hunger strike.

Upon her release, Ms Sotoudeh returned to activism, defending women and supporting human rights.

As documented by Amnesty International, since her last arrest Ms Sotoudeh has suffered serious human rights violations. After an irregular trial, she has been subjected to torture and arbitrary detention.

Bearing in mind that Article 6 TEU is binding on the EU's external action as regards the protection of human rights, that Nasrin Sotoudeh has been awarded the EU's highest human rights accolade, and in the light of the previous written questions of 11 July 2018 and 12 March 2019, can the High Representative answer the following questions:

Can he list the specific measures taken by the European Union and those which he intends to take in the future to promote the release of Nasrin Sotoudeh?

How can the EU effectively discourage these continuing violations of human rights in Iran?