

23 April 2019

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Richard Atkins QC
Schona Jolly QC
Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales
Doughty Street Chambers
53-54 Doughty Street, London
WC1N 2LS



Foreign &
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King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Minister of State

Dear Richard & Schona,

Thank you for your letter of 20 March to the Foreign Secretary about Iran. I am replying as Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

On 12 March the Foreign Secretary publicly shared his concerns about the sentencing of Nasrin Sotoudeh. We regularly raise the issue of human rights with the Iranian Government at all levels and urge them to cease the harassment and arbitrary detention of all human rights defenders.

Iran's human rights record continues to be of serious concern to the UK and the FCO has designated it as one of its Human Rights Priority Countries. The continued use of the death penalty; weak rule of law; and restrictions on freedoms of expression, religion and belief are deeply worrying.

I would like to assure you that the UK continues to lead international efforts to encourage Iran to improve its human rights record. We continue to raise individual cases with the Iranian Government, in addition to concerning trends such as the use of the death penalty, juvenile executions, and continued persecution of religious minorities.

Yours sincerely,
Mark Field

The Rt Hon Mark Field MP
Minister of State