Head of the Judiciary Ebrahim Raisi

c/o Permanent Mission of Iran to the UN

Chemin du Petit-Saconnex 28

1209 Geneva

Switzerland

Dear Mr Raisi,

Nasrin Sotoudeh, a prominent human rights lawyer and women’s rights defender, faces a total of up to 34 years in prison and 148 lashes in relation to two ongoing court cases. I appeal to you to release her as she is a prisoner of conscience.

Nasrin Sotoudeh is awaiting a court verdict following a grossly unfair trial that took place in her and her lawyer’s absence. She has been prosecuted on seven charges, some of which are related to her opposition to forced hijab laws. Other charges brought against her are based, in part, on her work with three human rights groups.

I urge you to release Nasrin Sotoudeh immediately and unconditionally as she is a prisoner of conscience, jailed solely for her peaceful human rights work. Pending her release, please ensure that she has regular contact with her family and a lawyer of her choosing. I urge you to stop criminalizing the work of women’s rights defenders, including those who peacefully protest against forced hijab, and abolish forced hijab laws.

Yours sincerely,