



Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Grand Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei
The Office of the Supreme Leader Islamic Republic Street
End of Shahid Keshvar Doust Street
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

Your Excellency,

It is with great concern Swedish PEN has learnt that the well-known poet and lawyer, Sedigheh Vasmaghi has been sentenced to one year in prison for signing a petition criticizing police brutally against protesters who had participated in demonstrations in November 2019.

She has previously been sentenced to a five-year suspended sentence for her legitimate human rights work. Thus, she faces a total of six years in prison on charges which are clearly a serious breach of her fundamental right to freedom of expression and association.

We call for the dismissal of both the one-year sentence and the removal of the five-year suspended term.

Furthermore, we call for the lifting of the ban on Sedigheh Vasmaghis publications in Iran and that she be allowed to continue her legitimate practice as writer and human rights activist without further hindrance.

Yours sincerely,

Elisabeth Löfgren
Swedish Pen, Chair Writers in Prison Committee