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 I have 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.

Sedigheh Vasmaghi is a theologian, poet, writer and women’s rights activist. She is highly respected both in Iran and abroad.

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. In October 2020 her sentence was upheld.

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

Furthermore, I 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,