Head of judiciary, Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei

c/o Embassy of Iran to the European Union

Avenue Franklin Roosevelt No. 15,

1050 Bruxelles

Belgium

Dear Mr Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei,

I am deeply concerned about the detention and alleged ill-treatment of human rights defender Narges Mohammadi. She is reported to be held in prolonged solitary confinement in section 209 of Tehran's Evin prison, where she is denied contact with her family and lawyer.

Narges Mohamamdi was arrested on 16 November 2021 by agents of Iran's ministry of intelligence who, according to her husband, brutally beat her before taking her to an unknown location. The next day, she was able to call her family and inform them that she was in Evin prison and had been told she was to serve a two-and-a-half-year prison sentence.

Apparently, on 23 May 2021 Branch 1188 of Criminal Court Two in Tehran sentenced Narges Mohammadi to two-and-a-half years in prison, 80 lashes and two separate fines for charges that included "spreading propaganda against the system" in relation to her peaceful human rights activities while she was serving another jail sentence. The “offences” Ms. Mohammadi reportedly was sentenced for included participating in a sit-in with other prisoners to protest the killings of protesters during the November 2019 nationwide protests, issuing statements condemning the death penalty and speaking out publicly about how prison, security and judicial officials subjected her to torture and other ill-treatment during and shortly after her peaceful sit-in.

While serving the current prison sentence, Narges Mohammadi has received at least two further sentences related to her peaceful work for human rights, and especially her work against violence against women.

I appeal to the Iranian authorities to:

- immediately and unconditionally release Narges Mohammadi as she is a prisoner of conscience detained solely for her peaceful human rights activities and quash her unjust conviction and sentence

- Pending her release, ensure she is protected from all forms of torture and other ill-treatment, including floggings

- Drop all criminal proceedings against Narges Mohammadi in relation to her exercising her rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly

- Conduct a prompt, independent and impartial investigation into her allegations of torture and other ill-treatment, including while she was released from detention and during her previous detention.

Yours sincerely,