**From:**Vasudevan Lakshminarayanan <vengulak@uwaterloo.ca>
**Date:**Friday, March 27, 2020 at 10:55
**To:**"Catherine.Langlais@saint-gobain.com" <Catherine.Langlais@saint-gobain.com>
**Cc:**"contact@sfpnet.fr" <contact@sfpnet.fr>, Michele Irwin <irwin@aps.org>
**Subject:**Dr. Narges Mohammadi.

Dear Professor Langlais,

I write on behalf of the American Physical Society's (APS) Committee on International Freedom of Scientists (CIFS). CIFS is charged with monitoring the rights of scientists worldwide and advising the APS leadership on possible actions as needed.

You may be aware of the situation of Iranian physicist, engineer, and human rights activist Dr. Narges Mohammadi. She is known for her efforts to protect the rights of women, prisoners of conscience, and minorities. In May 2015, she was arrested and is currently serving a 16-year sentence in Evin prison in Tehran, notorious for is exceptional cruelty toward prisoners—especially women. Amnesty International has designated her a prisoner of conscience.

Her husband and two daughters are currently living in exile in France. Given this circumstance and Dr. Mohammadi’s ill health, CIFS is considering to write to the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs to ask whether they can encourage the Iranian government to release Dr. Mohammadi from prison so she can be reunited with her family in France. Before doing so, CIFS wants to consult with the French Physical Society regarding any updates, insights, advice, or potential contacts that you may have regarding this approach.

For your information, below are some links concerning Dr. Mohammadi’s situation:

* [Center for Human Rights in Iran](https://iranhumanrights.org/2019/10/political-prisoner-narges-mohammadi-has-been-separated-from-her-children-for-five-years-and-counting/)
* [Amnesty International](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/1784/2020/en/)
* Mohammadi named APS Andrei Sakharov [Prize recipient](https://www.aps.org/programs/honors/prizes/prizerecipient.cfm?last_nm=Mohammadi&first_nm=Narges&year=2018" \t "_blank) in 2018

Thank you for your time and assistance. We eagerly wait for your response.

Sincerely,

Vasudevan Lakshminarayanan

Chair, CIFS 2020