

Your Excellency,

with great concern I have learnt about the recent wave of arrests in Iran. Among the detained is Abdolfattah Soltani, a lawyer and member of the Centre for Human Rights Defenders (CHRD).

Abdolfattah Soltani was arrested at his office in central Tehran on 16 June by four plain-clothed security officials. The officials, who did not show any documents to prove they were entitled to do so, confiscated his files, his briefcase; his computers and his mobile phone before taking him away.

In recent years he has already been detained for 7 months and has been banned from travelling outside Iran.

As I consider Mr Soltani to be a person detained solely for his peaceful dissent, I urge you to release him immediately. If he should be kept in detention, I ask for immediate access to his family, a lawyer of his choice and, if necessary, medical treatment.

On that occasion I urge you to allow people to voice their protest against the election procedure peacefully, instead of prohibiting and repressing any form of dissent.

Sincerely yours,