

[en](#) | [de](#)

[Press release](#) | 18.09.2013

Human rights/Iran

Sakharov-winner Nasrin Sotoudeh released

Commenting on the unexpected early release of human rights activist and 2012 Sakharov Prize winner Nasrin Sotoudeh from prison in Tehran, Green MEP and chair of the EP's human rights subcommittee **Barbara Lochbihler** and Green MEP and chair of the EP delegation for relations with Iran **Tarja Cronberg** said:

"The early release of Nasrin Sotoudeh is unexpected but extremely welcome news. As a human rights activist and lawyer, she was a voice for the many victims of the Iranian regime and those whose rights it suppressed. Given the continuing human rights violations in Iran, we hope she will continue her exceptional human rights work and the Greens will support her to this end. As a first step, we hope she will be able to travel to the European Parliament to collect the Sakharov Prize awarded during her imprisonment, similar to another previous winner: Aung Sang Suu Kyi."

"In nominating the imprisoned Sotoudeh for last year's Sakharov Prize, the Greens/EFA group wanted not only to recognise her tireless work for rights and freedoms in Iran but also to draw attention to her imprisonment and put pressure on the regime to release her. We hope her release will not be a one-off but that the regime will release all political prisoners, and finally take steps towards unconditional respect and protection of human rights in Iran."

Recommended

News



PLENARY FLASH: Greens/EFA Priorities 19 to 22 January

18.01.2026

Press release

European External Action Service (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/eeas/32978511020>)



[Frozen Russian funds essential to support Ukraine](#)

18.12.2025

News

Robert Emperley (CC BY-SA 2.0)



[PLENARY FLASH : Greens/EFA Priorities 24 to 27 November 2025](#)

25.11.2025

News



[PLENARY FLASH: Greens/EFA Priorities 20 to 23 October](#)

20.10.2025

Responsible MEPs



Barbara Lochbihler

Member

Please share

• [E-Mail](#)