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EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS

PRESS RELEASE

DAY OF THE ENDANGERED LAWYER – 9 DECEMBER 2010 -

European Democratic Lawyers (www.aed-edl.net) is a confederation of lawyer associations from 6 European countries: Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Belgium and The Netherlands.

Among its aims are defence of the rights of the defence- lawyers, to preserve their physical integrity and to ensure that lawyers can work in freedom and will not be threatened.

The AED has decided to choose the day before the day of the Human Rights, the 9th of December, to be

The Day of the Endangered Lawyer

In 2010 the attention will be focused in particular on the situation of lawyers in Iran.

Last year the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize 2003 the prominent lawyer Shirin Ijadi, defender of women rights and children, was forced to leave Iran because she was in fear of her life.

Three lawyers of Sakineh Ashtiani (sentenced to death by stoning for adultery) are confronted with serious attacks on their work and wellbeing.

The first lawyer, Mohammad Mostafaei, was forced to leave Iran and is currently in Norway after his wife had been arrested; the next lawyer of Sakineh Ashtiani, Javid Houtan Kian, was arrested and put in prison at Tabriz; the following lawyer of Sakineh Ashtiani, Sara Sabbaghian has also been arrested, at November 13 2010.

These are only a few examples: in this way in the last two years more than 20 lawyers in Iran are threatened and prosecuted; in several ways the Government tries to make the exercise of their profession impossible.

We have noticed that the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations General Assembly –in her meeting on the 18th of November 2010 - has expressed her grave concerns about the human rights situation in Iran based on numerous cases of human rights violations.

On December the 9th 2010, in 6 European cities, The Hague, Berlin, Rome, Madrid, Paris and Brussels, a demonstration of lawyers in gowns/togas will take place at the Iranian Embassies, at which occasion lawyers will express their concern about the violation of human rights, in particular concerning the situation of the lawyers in Iran.

In this demonstration a petition will be handed over to the highest Iranian authorities through the several Ambassadors in which among others will be asked to give a group of European lawyers the opportunity to do a fact-finding mission in Iran.

The Iranian Embassy is situated at the Podbielskiallee 67, in 14195 Berlin.

The demonstration will be at 12:00 h.

For the AED:

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