



THOMSON REUTERS
FOUNDATION

Thomson Reuters Foundation pays tribute to Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe one year on from her arrest and imprisonment

London (Strictly embargoed until 00:01 April 3, 2017) - In a show of solidarity and hope for Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, her colleagues marked the first anniversary of her arrest and imprisonment in Iran by gathering around her empty desk in the London offices in which she worked.

Monique Villa, CEO of the [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#), said: “We all remember Nazanin as a warm, genuine and loving colleague, who delighted in motherhood and her close-knit family.

“She is a consummate professional at work, committed and driven; but also approachable and supportive. We have fond memories of her proudly showing off her latest sewing creations, often clothes for her baby daughter Gabriella, or a bag she’d make for a colleague.

“She has a strong sense of what is fair, and what isn’t, and fought for justice in the workplace with determination and courage.

“It has been one year since Nazanin was arrested, separated from her daughter and subsequently sentenced to five years in jail on unknown charges. This unbearable situation has lasted way too long, and has caused Nazanin and her family unimaginable pain. Nazanin’s physical and mental health is deteriorating rapidly and she is being denied urgent medical attention. She desperately needs hospital treatment for a slipped disc in her neck, is in severe pain and her hair is falling out. I am extremely worried about her physical and mental well-being.

“In the past year I have spent a lot of time with Richard Ratcliffe, Nazanin’s husband, who has demonstrated extreme courage despite his life literally being put on hold. He is not only separated from his wife, but also Gabriella, an English national who now lives in Tehran with her grandparents.

“Today, we stand united in remembering Nazanin. I am totally convinced of her innocence. We continue to urge for her immediate release and hope for her swift return.”



THOMSON REUTERS
FOUNDATION

Nazanin, a dual British-Iranian citizen born in Iran, who works within the media development programme of the Thomson Reuters Foundation, was arrested at Tehran's Imam Khomeini Airport, and separated from her then two-year-old daughter, Gabriella, while returning from a holiday with her parents on April 3 2016.

She was held for seven weeks in solitary confinement before being tried in secret, and sentenced to five years imprisonment in September 2016. She remains incarcerated in Evin Prison. A subsequent appeal in January this year, also held in secret, has been unsuccessful. The charges remain unknown.

Nazanin's daughter, Gabriella, whose passport has been confiscated, remains in Iran with her grandparents. Nazanin's husband Richard continues to spearhead a campaign for Nazanin's release from the UK.

You can find more information about the Free Nazanin campaign [here](#).

About the Thomson Reuters Foundation

The Thomson Reuters Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the world's leading news and information provider, acts to promote socio-economic progress and the rule of law worldwide. The organisation runs initiatives that inform, connect and ultimately empower people around the world: access to free legal assistance, media development and training, editorial coverage of the world's under-reported news, and Trust Conference, the Foundation's annual forum committed to putting the rule of law behind human rights. For more information visit www.trust.org.

Media Enquiries

UK: **Jenny Vereker**

Deputy Communications Director

Thomson Reuters Foundation

Office: +44.20.7542.8111

Mobile: +44.7932.966.331