



THOMSON REUTERS
FOUNDATION

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**STATEMENT FROM THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION CEO
MONIQUE VILLA IN RESPONSE TO THE SUPREME COURT REJECTING
NAZANIN ZAGHARI-RATCLIFFE'S FINAL APPEAL AGAINST HER
FIVE-YEAR SENTENCE**

“The Supreme Court has upheld the five year prison sentence of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, originally passed by the Revolutionary Court in Iran, in September 2016. This extinguishes the last hope we have had of legally overturning a punishment where the crime remains a mystery.

Nazanin was given no court hearing for this final judgement. Instead it was a closed review of the file by a panel of judges. Throughout this terrible ordeal, Nazanin was given minimal access to a lawyer and was allowed no participation in her appeals. The exact charges against her are still not known.

The fact that the Supreme Court has rejected Nazanin’s final appeal to overturn her sentence is a huge blow. I would like to reiterate that I am entirely convinced of Nazanin’s innocence. She is not a spy but an innocent mother who travelled to Iran only to show her baby to her parents. I stand united with Richard in calling for her immediate release.

Nazanin has suffered terribly over the past year. We continue to be very concerned for her health and wellbeing, and she is desperately missed by her family and all at the Foundation. I ask for clemency.

I repeat that Nazanin has never had dealings with Iran whatsoever in her professional capacity at the Thomson Reuters Foundation. The Foundation does not operate in Iran directly or indirectly.”

Monique Villa, Thomson Reuters Foundation CEO

Media Enquiries:

Jenny Vereker
Deputy Communications Director
Thomson Reuters Foundation
Office: +44.20.7542.8111
Mobile: +44.7932.966.331
jenny.vereker@thomsonreuters.com