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By email

13 February 2018

Dear Special Rapporteur Melzer

Re: Torture and ill-treatment of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe in Kerman and Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

REDRESS¹ submits this urgent appeal for your intervention in the above matter in your capacity as Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Special Rapporteur on Torture).

This urgent appeal relates to the treatment of Mrs Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, a British-Iranian dual national, who has been arbitrarily detained by the Revolutionary Guard of the Islamic Republic of Iran since 3 April 2016.

We urge you to intervene in her case to ensure that she is treated in line with international standards, that all torture and other ill-treatment is ceased immediately and that those responsible are investigated and prosecuted.

The Office of the Special Rapporteur on Torture has been part of previous interventions by the UN Special Procedures in Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's case. On 1 July 2016 the Special Rapporteur on Torture at that time, Professor Méndez, along with several other UN Special Rapporteurs, submitted a joint Communication to the Government of Iran highlighting their serious concerns about Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's arrest and detention.² Subsequently, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (UNWGAD) issued an Opinion on Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's case on 7 September 2016, finding that Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's detention was arbitrary, and referring the case to the Special Rapporteur on Torture for further investigation.³ On 6 October 2016 the Special Rapporteur on Torture and other UN Special Rapporteurs sent a further Communication to the Government of Iran, expressing again their serious concerns about Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's situation.⁴

¹ REDRESS is an international human rights organisation based in London and The Hague, with a mandate to support victims of torture and other international crimes in their quest for justice, including reparation.

² Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Communication to Islamic Republic of Iran, IRN 20/2016, 1 July 2016, at <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gld=3232>.

³ United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, Opinion No. 28/2016 concerning Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, 7 September 2016, at <https://redress.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/wgad-opinion-7-september-2016.pdf>.

⁴ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Communication to Islamic Republic of Iran, IRN 26/2016, 6 October 2016, at <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gld=3363>.

This urgent appeal is submitted in follow-up to those earlier interventions. It focuses specifically and in more detail on the severe treatment to which the Iranian authorities have subjected, and continue to subject, Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe during her detention, along with the evident purpose of that treatment. It also contains new information about recent developments in Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's treatment in detention.

In summary, over the course of their detention of Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe, the treatment that the Iranian authorities have subjected her to has included:

- a total of eight and a half months of solitary confinement;
- inhumane conditions of detention;
- the denial of consular visits;
- the denial of family visits and phone calls;
- the denial of various medical services;
- the repeated use of threats, including to take away her young daughter;
- the repeated use of threats against others, including Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's husband, family in Iran and the prosecution of her lawyer;
- the use of state TV propaganda wrongly accusing Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe of being a spy, particularly in the build up to court proceedings;
- repeatedly making promises to release her then failing to carry them out; and
- subjecting her to duplicative court proceedings.

Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's treatment is based on discrimination against her for being a British citizen, and inflicted for the purposes of: (i) coercing the British Government into negotiating a deal for her release; (ii) coercing her into giving a confession; and (iii) forcing her into providing information about others.

The different forms of ill-treatment are inflicted often in combination and as part of a state orchestrated campaign against Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe, led by a coordinated range of state authorities, involving the Revolutionary Guard interrogators, the judiciary and even the state TV and consular services. While it has serious effects on her physical health, the combined effect of this campaign has been to exert consistently maximum psychological pressure on Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe, to demoralise her and put her in a situation of complete powerlessness. The treatment has been inflicted on her over an extended period of time, and while she was, and continues to be, at her most vulnerable, a recent mother, in prison abroad and away from her family in the United Kingdom, without consular access and without allowing her family to visit. As set out in detail in this urgent appeal, the treatment has had a severe impact on Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's physical and mental health, causing her, among other things, the inability to walk and to use her arms and hands, severe weight and hair loss, blackouts, panic attacks, and suicidal tendencies. She has been diagnosed as suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and advanced depression. Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's health has continued to decline in recent weeks.

Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe cannot speak freely about the treatment she is being subjected to, and no independent, Istanbul Protocol compliant medical examination has been carried out to document the extent of the harm inflicted upon her. However, information available at present about the treatment and resulting harm suffered strongly suggests that the treatment amounts to torture, particularly if taken cumulatively and in light of the duration of the treatment, the purpose for which it is inflicted upon her while in prison, Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's vulnerability in prison abroad and her situation as a mother and her forced separation from a 21-month-old infant who she was still breastfeeding at the time of her arrest. This interpretation is in line with the view that the decisive criteria for distinguishing torture from cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment may best be understood to be the purpose of the treatment and the powerlessness of the victim, rather than the

intensity of the pain or suffering inflicted.⁵ This is particularly true in the context of ill-treatment inflicted upon detainees, given the powerlessness of the detainee. In addition, as will be outlined below, solitary confinement in and of itself may amount to ill-treatment and torture, depending on the circumstances of the specific case, such as the overall detention conditions, length and effect of the solitary confinement as well as the subjective conditions of each victim.⁶

Unless urgent action is taken now, such treatment is likely to continue and Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe will remain at significant risk of further deterioration of her physical and mental health.

We therefore respectfully request that as a matter of urgency your office:

- enquire into this matter with the Government of Iran to ensure that:
 - Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe is treated in compliance with international standards and any torture and ill-treatment of her is ceased immediately;
 - the allegations of torture and ill-treatment are promptly, thoroughly and impartially investigated and that the investigative results are published;
 - those responsible for the treatment are held to account;
 - MPs from the Article 90 Commission are allowed to visit Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe;
 - her husband is provided with a visa and is allowed to visit her;
 - UK consular officials are granted consular access;
 - the Government of Iran affirms that, by ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, it has recognised that torture has no place in its judicial system;
 - Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe is provided immediately with an independent, Istanbul Protocol compliant, medical examination that will assess the physical and psychological impact of the treatment she has suffered while in detention, sufficient to:
 - o determine what further physical and psychological medical treatment is necessary; and
 - o document the physical and psychological effects of Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's treatment for future evidentiary use;
 - Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe is provided immediately with any physical and psychological medical care she requires;
 - the results of the independent medical examination and Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's other medical records are released immediately to her family; and
 - an independent investigation by the Government of Iran is commenced immediately into Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's torture and ill-treatment while in detention;
- enquire into this matter further with the Government of the United Kingdom and discuss with it the steps taken by the Government of the United Kingdom to protect Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe from torture and ill-treatment; and
- provide an update on the steps taken so far in Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's case by the Special Rapporteur on Torture, following the referral of the case to his office by the UNWGAD;

We confirm that Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe consents to her name being disclosed in any Communications relating to this urgent appeal and in any public reports to the Human Rights Council. We are ready to

⁵ See Manfred Nowak and Elizabeth McArthur, *The United Nations Convention Against Torture, A commentary*, Oxford Commentaries on International Law, pp. 75-77.

⁶ UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Juan Méndez, *Interim report*, A/66/268, 5 August 2011, para. 71.

provide you with further information or to clarify any issues in relation to this matter as far as we are able.

We would be grateful if you could please direct any correspondence to Charlie Loudon, International Legal Adviser, REDRESS, at charlie@redress.org.

Yours sincerely

Charlie Loudon

International Legal Adviser, REDRESS

Rupert Skilbeck

Director, REDRESS

CC:

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I. IDENTITY OF THE PERSON SUBJECTED TO TORTURE

A. Family Name – Zaghari-Ratcliffe

B. First and other names – Nazanin

C. Sex - Female

D. Birth date – 16 September 1978

E. Nationality – British-Iranian dual national

F. Occupation – Project Manager

F. Activities (trade union, political, religious, humanitarian/ solidarity, press, etc.) – Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe works for the Thomson Reuters Foundation as a Project Manager

G. Residential address – London, United Kingdom

II. CONTEXT

1. The UN as well as human rights organisations working on Iran regularly highlight serious concerns about the widespread use of torture and ill-treatment in Iran, including in particular in the context of detention. The UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (Special Rapporteur on Iran) for instance noted in 2017 that in addition to a wide range of forms of physical torture, Iranian authorities resort to prolonged periods of solitary confinement and denial of access to proper and necessary medical treatment for detainees. According to the Special Rapporteur, there have been “numerous reports and instances in which prisoners were deprived of family visits and/or medical care.”⁷
2. Political prisoners and those convicted on “national security charges” are frequently held in Evin prison, which has a notorious reputation for being used to unlawfully detain, torture and, at times, execute prisoners.⁸ Prisoners are reportedly kept in prolonged solitary confinement, interrogated for hours and subjected to torture and other prohibited inhuman and cruel treatment.⁹ This is particularly true for wards controlled by the Revolutionary Guard.¹⁰ In addition, conditions have been reported to be characterised by “chronic overcrowding, severely limited hot water, poor ventilation, and infestations of cockroaches and mice. Prisoners have described being forced to sleep on the floor because of a shortage of beds and being fed “barely edible” meals.”¹¹
3. Iranian authorities commit torture and other violations with impunity, and Iran continues to ignore calls for accountability for the serious human rights violations committed.¹² The Special Rapporteur on Iran concluded in September 2016 that “those who violate national

⁷ See for instance, Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, A/HRC/34/65, 17 March 2017, para. 30.

⁸ See, Human Rights Watch, Will Iran’s Parliamentary Visit to Evin Prison Bear Fruit?, 26 January 2018, at <https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/01/26/will-irans-parliamentary-visit-evin-prison-bear-fruit>.

⁹ See for instance, Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, A/HRC31/CRP.5, 10 March 2016, paras. 36, 39, 40, 41.

¹⁰ Raha Bahreini, Amnesty International, Iran just gave foreign delegates a tour around a ‘luxury part of one of their most notorious prisons’, in, The Independent, 13 July 2017, at <http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/iranian-evin-prison-iran-luxury-foreign-delegates-tour-prisoners-inhumane-conditions-torture-human-a7838786.html>.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² See for instance, UN General Assembly Resolution, Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, A/RES/71/204, 1 February 2017, para. 17.

and international rights protections continue to enjoy impunity in an atmosphere that justifies serious human rights violations perpetrated by some of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including members of the judiciary.”¹³

III. STATEMENT OF FACTS¹⁴

4. The Iranian Revolutionary Guard arrested Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe on 3 April 2016 at Tehran’s Imam Khomeini Airport as she was about to return to the UK, having been in Tehran with her daughter, Gabriella, to visit her family. Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was not given any reasons for her arrest. Gabriella’s British passport was confiscated, and she was left in the care of Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe’s parents.
5. Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was detained in Tehran for one night. She was blindfolded and taken to an unknown location, where interrogators questioned her about her personal and work emails and social media accounts. She was pressured into providing her interrogators with the passwords to her email and social media accounts.
6. The following day, on 4 April 2016, Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was flown to an undisclosed location in Kerman, southern Iran, around one thousand kilometres from Tehran. Between 4 April and 18 May 2016, the Kerman Revolutionary Guard held Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe for 44 days in solitary confinement at an undisclosed detention centre in Kerman. On 18 May 2016 she was transferred to the general women’s section of Kerman Central Prison.
7. On or around 13 June 2016 she was then transferred to the notorious Evin Prison in Tehran. The Tehran Revolutionary Guard held her for a further seven months in solitary confinement in the high security Section 2A of Evin Prison.
8. On 1 July 2016 a number of UN Special Rapporteurs, including the Special Rapporteur on Iran and the Special Rapporteur on Torture, submitted a joint Communication to the Government of Iran highlighting their serious concerns about Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe’s arrest and detention.¹⁵
9. On 14 August 2016 Judge Salavati, Head of the 15th branch of the Islamic Revolutionary Court in Tehran, tried Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe for undisclosed national security related crimes. Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was only allowed access to a lawyer three days before this trial. The trial was conducted in secret and lasted only two and a half hours. Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe’s lawyer was given five minutes to defend her, and Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was not given the opportunity to testify in her own defence. Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was convicted on 6 September 2016 and sentenced to five years’ imprisonment. Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe’s lawyer filed an appeal against her conviction on 14 September 2016.

¹³ UN General Assembly, Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, 30 September 2016, A/71/418, para.80.

¹⁴ Unless otherwise stated, the information in this urgent appeal has been provided by Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe’s husband, Richard Ratcliffe, based partly on his conversations with Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe and her family. Further details of Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe’s detention are set out in REDRESS’ submission to the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (UNWGAD) in the case of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, 17 June 2016, ANNEX 1; the UNWGAD’s Opinion No. 28/2016, 7 September 2016, paras. 3-39, ANNEX 2; and REDRESS’ submission on the Implementation of the recommendations of the UNWGAD’s Opinion No.28/2016 of 13 April 2017, ANNEX 3.

¹⁵ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Communication to Islamic Republic of Iran, IRN 20/2016, 1 July 2016, at <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=3232>.

10. On 7 September 2016, the UNWGAD issued an Opinion on Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's case.¹⁶ It found, *inter alia*, that:
1. Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's arrest and detention were arbitrary contrary to Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR);
 2. her right to a fair trial was violated contrary to Article 14 ICCPR;
 3. the Iranian authorities subjected her to treatment in violation of Article 10(1) ICCPR, noting with "grave concern Ms. Ratcliffe's deteriorating health since her arrest and detention in April 2016" as a result of her solitary detention and forced separation from her child.
11. The UNWGAD referred the case to the Special Rapporteur on Torture for further investigation, including of whether Article 7 ICCPR had been violated.
12. The UNWGAD requested the Government of Iran to, *inter alia*:
1. take "the necessary steps to remedy the situation of Ms Ratcliffe without delay";
 2. release her immediately;
 3. accord her an enforceable right to compensation; and
 4. investigate the circumstances of her arrest and detention.
13. On 6 October 2016 a number of UN Special Rapporteurs, including the Special Rapporteur on Torture, submitted a Communication to the Government of Iran, repeating their serious concerns about Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's situation, in particular about her lack of a fair trial and her physical and psychological health as a result of her treatment in detention.¹⁷
14. On 25 December 2016 Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was transferred to the general cells for women political prisoners (under the control of the Iranian prison services) in Evin Prison. Under Iranian law, she should have been transferred to the general cells six months previously, on 11 July 2016, when she was indicted.
15. Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's appeal hearing took place on 4 January 2017. On 22 January 2017 the spokesperson for the Iranian Judiciary announced that Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's appeal against her conviction had been refused.
16. On 27 January 2017 and 17 March 2017, the Special Rapporteur on Iran and UNWGAD sent further Communications to Iran, expressing their concern in particular about Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's continued detention, the lack of fair trial, and Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's physical and psychological health as a result of her treatment in detention.¹⁸

¹⁶ ANNEX 2, at paras. 56-59.

¹⁷ OHCHR, Communication to Islamic Republic of Iran, IRN 26/2016, 6 October 2016, at <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=3363>.

¹⁸ OHCHR, Communication to Islamic Republic of Iran, IRN 4/2017, 27 January 2017, at <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=22965>; OHCHR, Communication to Islamic Republic of Iran, IRN 8/2017, 17 March 2017, at <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=23028>.

17. On 13 April 2017 REDRESS, as representatives of Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe, filed an implementation submission with the UNWGAD, outlining that Iran had failed to implement the UNWGAD findings of September 2016 and updating the UNWGAD further on Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's condition.¹⁹
18. The Iranian Supreme Court in April 2017 refused a further appeal filed by Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's lawyer.
19. On 8 October 2017 the Iranian authorities informed Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe that she would face new charges, including "spreading propaganda against the regime". These charges have not yet been tried.
20. On 20 October 2017 the Special Rapporteur on Iran and the UNWGAD called again for Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's release, and expressed their grave concern about the psychological and physical impact on Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe of the new charges.²⁰
21. The Iranian Prosecutor's Office, Judiciary and Ministry of Foreign Affairs have indicated to Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe, her family and her lawyer on several occasions that Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe would be eligible for temporary or early release. However, to-date Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe remains imprisoned in the women political prisoners section of Evin Prison.

IV. CIRCUMSTANCES OF TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

22. The below section sets out in more detail the different types of treatment to which the Revolutionary Guard, the Iranian Judiciary and other members of the Iranian authorities have subjected Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe since her detention.

A. Solitary confinement

23. Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe has been detained in solitary confinement for a total of approximately eight and a half months over the course of her detention. No reasons were provided to her for placing her into solitary confinement.
24. The previous Special Rapporteur on Torture, Juan Méndez, considered solitary confinement as "the physical isolation of individuals who are confined to their cells for 22- 24 hours a day" with meaningful contact with other people (outside the detention centre) reduced to a minimum.²¹ According to Méndez, prolonged solitary confinement is any period of solitary confinement in excess of 15 days, and per se amounts to torture or ill-treatment.²² Solitary confinement of any duration may amount to torture or ill-treatment where, for example, it is used during pre-trial detention, as punishment, or "as a technique for the purpose of obtaining information or a confession."²³
25. In Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's case, the Kerman Revolutionary Guard first placed her in solitary confinement at an undisclosed detention centre in Kerman between 4 April and 18 May 2016. While she was allowed to make approximately ten phone calls to her family in Tehran,

¹⁹ See ANNEX 3.

²⁰ OHCHR, Press Release: Iran: UN rights experts urge immediate release of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe after fresh charges, 20 October 2017, at <http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22267&LangID=E>.

²¹ UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Juan Méndez, Interim report, A/66/268, 5 August 2011, para.25.

²² Ibid, para. 79.

²³ Ibid, para. 72.

she was not allowed to call, speak to, or have access to a lawyer. She was denied access to books and newspapers, and was not permitted a family visit for the first 37 days.

26. From 13 June 2016 to 25 December 2016, the Tehran Revolutionary Guard held Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe for a further seven months in solitary confinement in Evin Prison in Tehran.
27. Following the announcement of new charges against Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe in October 2017, Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's family had to pay bail (30 million toman (6,000 GBP)) to prevent the Revolutionary Guard transferring her once again to solitary confinement.²⁴

B. Conditions of detention

28. During her 44 days of solitary confinement in Kerman, from 4 April to 18 May 2016, Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was detained in a small cell measuring 1.5 x 3 square metres. The cell had no window and no natural light or air. She was not permitted outside to exercise and to get fresh air. She was only allowed drinking water three times a day. The only times she was permitted out of her cell were for interrogation. The lights in the cell were kept on permanently during this period.
29. In the general wing of Kerman Central Prison Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was detained in a crowded cell for 18 days. To some extent, the conditions were an improvement upon those in solitary confinement, as she had better access to shower facilities and shampoo (although the prison did not always have hot water). However, she was obliged to sleep on the floor of the cell, as no bed was available due to overcrowding, although the other detainees had bunks. She was allowed to visit the mosque daily.
30. During the seven month (13 June 2016 to 25 December 2016) period of solitary confinement in Section 2A, Evin prison in Tehran, the cell measured 1.5 x 2 square metres. Again, the cell had no window, no natural light and air. She was permitted 30 minutes of exercise (walking) twice a day. During this time Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was blindfolded from the moment she left her cell and until she was returned to her cell. She was permitted a shower every two days. The food was of appalling quality.

C. Denial of family visits and phone calls

31. During her initial 44 days of solitary confinement in Kerman, between 4 April and 18 May 2016, Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's interrogators repeatedly told her that if she cooperated with their questioning and signed a number of statements and confessions, she would be allowed to speak to her family in Tehran at the end of the day. Throughout this period she was allowed to make approximately 10 phone calls to her family in Tehran. These phone calls were a "reward" at the discretion of her interrogator, who would stand over her while she made a call. She was not allowed to call her husband.
32. For the first 37 days of the same initial period of detention in Kerman the Revolutionary Guard did not allow Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe any family visits. This is of particular concern as at that point, her daughter Gabriella had not been completely weaned and Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was still breastfeeding. At this point the Iranian authorities had confiscated

²⁴ Richard Ratcliffe, Iran has jailed my wife Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe illegally – the Foreign Office must act, Comment in the Evening Standard, 12 October 2017, at <https://www.standard.co.uk/comment/comment/iran-has-jailed-my-wife-illegally-the-foreign-office-must-act-a3656861.html>.

Gabriella's passport and were threatening Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe that they would send Gabriella home to the UK (see further below).

33. One family visit was allowed while Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was kept in Kerman on 11 May 2016. Her parents and daughter flew down to Kerman, some 1,000km from their family home, and from a hotel were taken blindfolded to an unknown location in Kerman to meet Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe. At that meeting, Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was not able to get out of her chair unaided, and had to have Gabriella lifted onto her lap.
34. Subsequent to this visit, Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was transferred to the general women's wing (for criminal prisoners) in Kerman Central Prison on 18 May 2016, where she was allowed one 15-minute phone call per day to her parents, for which she had to queue up. She was still not allowed to call her husband in the UK. When the authorities discovered that she had attempted to speak to him via a relative, she was banned from all calls for a period, and her family in Tehran were threatened. The authorities in Kerman denied her all contact with Mr Ratcliffe during this first period, demonstrating to Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe that she was alone, could not protect her family and that they were in control.
35. The authorities told Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe that she would be released in time for her daughter's second birthday on 11 June 2016. However, instead, they moved her to a different prison, prevented her from calling her daughter for her birthday and did not disclose to her family in Tehran where she was being held. She was only allowed a visit from her family, including her daughter, some days after her daughter's birthday.
36. The frequency of family visits varied during the course of her detention. There have been periods of a few weeks or more, particularly during the periods prior to Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's trial and appeal hearing, in which she was not permitted any visits from her family or daughter. At other times promised visits were suddenly revoked, or Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's family and young daughter would be made to wait inside prison before the visit for a number of hours, cutting short the duration of the visit. At initial visits the family were blindfolded whilst being moved around inside the prison.
37. Following Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's transfer to the general ward of Evin Prison on 25 December 2016, and until the dismissal of her appeal on 22 January 2017, her family were prevented from joining the regular visiting times of her cellmates, despite having written authorisations from the Judiciary. Her family visits were still held in the high security wing, under the discretion of her former interrogators. Since the dismissal of Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's appeal on 22 January 2017 she has been permitted weekly visits from her family, which is standard practice for women political prisoners. Since early April 2017 she has been permitted a second family visit per week for Gabriella (also standard practice for small children of women prisoners).
38. Following Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's transfer to the general ward of Evin Prison, permission to call her husband was also severely limited. From 25 December 2016 until 10 April 2017 Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was only allowed three 10-15 minute calls to her husband. On 19 February 2017 the Prosecutor's Office approved a monthly phone call to her husband, but that approval was subsequently revoked and it was denied that it had ever been issued. Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe informed her family on 9 April 2017 that she would go on hunger strike if a direct call to her husband was not allowed. On 10 April 2017 Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was allowed to call her husband. Since July 2017, she is allowed to call him twice per week.

39. Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's family in the UK have never been able to call her. They can only receive calls. The Iranian authorities do not permit her to write to her husband. They have also denied Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe access to other mail, and are sending back all the letters received at Evin prison for Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe (e.g. from Amnesty International groups). In addition, her husband has never been allowed to visit his wife in prison. He has not been granted a visa since her arrest, despite several requests.

D. Denial of consular visits

40. Since her arrest at Tehran Airport in March 2016, Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe has consistently and repeatedly asserted her British citizenship and made repeated requests for consular access. The Iranian authorities have refused to grant her any visits from British consular staff for the whole of her detention.

E. Threats against Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe

41. Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was repeatedly threatened during interrogations carried out during her solitary confinement in Section 2A, Evin prison between 13 June 2016 and December 2016.

42. Following the publication in July 2016 of the Tehran Revolutionary Guard's message to the British Government inviting negotiations for her release (see section K (iii) below), her interrogators pressured her and her family to deny that the Revolutionary Guard had made such an offer. Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's interrogators called her down to the interrogation room and were very angry. When she pointed out that they could check on the prison cameras that the offer had been made, Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe thought that they might kill her. They threatened to send Gabriella to Britain, to never let Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe go back home, and to let her die in prison alone. Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe then called her husband requesting him to retract the published statement and to clarify that they never made the offer.

43. Following her first trial in August 2016, Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was not allowed to speak to her lawyer about her appeal, but had to put into writing what she wanted her lawyer to raise during the appeal. She was then blindfolded to meet with an interrogator who angrily interrogated her while still blindfolded on what she had written to her lawyer, and screamed at her that he would make sure she would never leave prison.

44. Following her hunger strike in November 2016 Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was told that if she filmed a confession, she would be released. During this filming in late November 2016 her interrogator asked her to repeat his words on camera. This included a number of statements that were not true. In particular, he wanted her to say that she had been involved in a project that aimed to train journalists for BBC Farsi. Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe refused to say this since it was not true. Her interrogator threatened to send her back to Judge Salavati – whom Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe is terrified of – to sentence her to 11 years in jail.

F. Threats against and other references to third parties

(i) Gabriella Ratcliffe

45. Gabriella, Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's daughter, was 21 months old and was still breastfed when Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was detained. Gabriella's passport was confiscated by her interrogators and taken with them to Kerman. They emphasised to Mrs. Zaghari-Ratcliffe their complete

control over her infant daughter's fate. The Revolutionary Guard repeatedly told her that her husband and the British Government were planning on taking Gabriella away.

46. Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was not allowed to see Gabriella for the first 38 days of her arrest, and then a second time only on day 71 (13 June 2016). She was not allowed any contact with her daughter on her daughter's second birthday. Visits from Gabriella were subsequently offered to Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe during interrogations as a reward for cooperation.
47. During Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's solitary confinement in Section 2A, Evin Prison, in the build up to pressuring her to record a confession in late November 2016, the guards undertook a programme of calling their own young children on speaker phone in the evening outside her door, to speak to them and tell them how much they looked forward to seeing them soon. Simultaneously, her interrogators insisted on playing with, kissing, and cuddling Gabriella every visit in front of Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe.
48. In December 2016, following comments made by UK Prime Minister Theresa May to the UK Parliament regarding the British Government's readiness to bring Gabriella back to the UK, Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe told her husband by telephone that she was being pressured to choose between moving Gabriella into prison or signing a document renouncing all her rights to her child. When she told her interrogators that she could not live without her daughter, they told her that the British authorities were pressuring the Iranian government to send Gabriella back to London.
49. In December 2016, prior to her transfer from solitary confinement in Section 2A (controlled by the Revolutionary Guard), Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe informed her husband in a phone call in the presence of her interrogators that she was being pressured to sign a document confirming that she wanted the Revolutionary Guard to keep hold of Gabriella's passport, otherwise, she was told, the British Government was going to take her baby away from her. Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe refused to sign the document without speaking to her lawyer. Following her refusal to sign, her interrogator lost his temper and told her that he was writing in his report that Gabriella needed to be sent back to the UK, and that it was all her fault that she would lose Gabriella. It took a further five months for the Revolutionary Guard to return Gabriella's passport to Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's family in Iran, only following the conclusion of her appeal and Supreme Court review. Gabriella was not moved into prison or deported.

(ii) Richard Ratcliffe

50. Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's interrogators frequently talk to Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe about her husband, Richard Ratcliffe. During her initial period of solitary confinement in Kerman between 4 April and 18 May 2016, Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was repeatedly told that her husband had abandoned her, and that he was unfaithful. The interrogators told Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe that Mr Ratcliffe was not really an accountant, but an undercover spy for the British Government. They questioned whether she had ever actually visited his office, and suggested that all of his colleagues that she had met were fake. She was also told that she had been fired from her job. She still continues to check periodically whether the Thomson Reuters Foundation has made her redundant.

(iii) Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's family in Iran

51. Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's family in Iran is very concerned about communicating publicly about her situation in prison and about her husband's public campaign for her release, fearing that it may result in intimidation and reprisals against them. These concerns are compounded by the fact that they are currently looking after Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's daughter, Gabriella, who is dependent on their support.
52. Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe told her interrogators during interrogations between 13 June 2016 and December 2016, that her mother and brother were ill. Her interrogators began to threaten Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's parents, brother, and husband during subsequent family visits. Threats have been made against one family member on three separate occasions, during family visits and by phone, that they would be detained, and that they would not have access to necessary medication whilst in detention.
53. In July 2016, following Mr Ratcliffe's publication of the Tehran Revolutionary Guard's message to the British Government about a possible agreement for Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's release (see section K (iii) below), Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's parents were invited to the prison for a family visit, but her mother was prevented from entering the visiting room. Her father was taken aside, threatened with reprisals against himself and his children and persuaded to call the Revolutionary Guard to apologise for the mistakes of his son-in-law.
54. Some of Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's family members have lost their employment following visits by the Revolutionary Guard to their employers.

(iv) Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's lawyer

55. The Iranian authorities have prosecuted Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's lawyer for his role in defending her. In October 2016 charges were brought against Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's lawyer for "unprofessionalism", as a result of his referring in official court papers to the offer made by Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's Revolutionary Guard interrogators that her case would be dropped if the British Government reached an agreement with Iran (see section K (iii) below). The prosecution of Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's lawyer has not yet reached an outcome, and remains pending.
56. As a result, Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe had to appoint a second lawyer. However, this lawyer was not approved by Judge Salavati to defend her in the second set of court proceedings.

G. State propaganda and misuse of private information

57. Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's interrogators forced her to reveal her email and social media passwords during her interrogations in solitary confinement in Kerman prison and subsequently interrogated her on everything they found.
58. In the build up to her second round of court proceedings (see below) in November 2017 Iranian state television channels broadcast pictures of Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's friends, family (including Gabriella), private emails, payslips, invoices, and her university admission letter, obtained from her email and social media accounts. The reports included falsified claims of Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe participating in courses training BBC Farsi journalists in Istanbul, showing videos of events she had not attended with faces of participants blurred out. They have also broadcast images of Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe not wearing a headscarf, which is illegal

in Iran, aimed at depicting her as an Iranian who had become westernised and someone who had sold out her country. The broadcasts placed heavy emphasis on comments made by the UK Foreign Secretary, as simultaneously revealing her professional activities in Iran and her significance to the UK government. In the same vein, the broadcasts have also called Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe a spy and a traitor.

59. Such claims formed part of the authorities' coordinated campaign against Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe, and continued for several weeks in the main evening news and international TV channels, ensuring widespread dissemination of these false accusations. The accusations were also repeated as though true in Friday prayers at the Imam Reza Shrine in Mashhad. The campaign was highly effective – and influential. Friends and neighbours of Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's family in Tehran contacted the family following these reports. As some of these broadcasts are also shown to detainees in Evin Prison, Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was forced to watch how these accusations were reported on national television. Following the first broadcast on 23 November 2017, she collapsed and had to be carried to the prison clinic by her fellow prisoners, unable to speak and suffering what the prison doctor termed a "PTSD attack." She later reported to her husband how she would subsequently hide away while others were watching the news, rocking herself with her hands over her ears.
60. The propaganda continued until the eve of the main trial hearing in the second case that was opened against her, scheduled for 10 December 2017, making it clear to Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe that this new trial would again be unfair and nothing but a "show-trial". The hearing was annulled, though subsequently revived with a new hearing date yet to be set (see below).

H. False promises of release and duplicative court proceedings

61. The Iranian authorities have promised to release Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe numerous times throughout her detention and then refused to do so. During initial interrogations immediately after her arrest on 3 April 2016 she was told that if she cooperated, the Kerman Branch of the Revolutionary Guard would release her after a couple of days. Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was told that she would be released at the end of the first week of her detention. She was allowed to call her parents and tell them this. After this week passed, her family were told she would be held in Kerman for two to three weeks more. The Revolutionary Guard later told them that the investigation she was involved in would take two to three months.
62. Two weeks after she was let out of solitary confinement in Kerman she was told she was being released and sent back home for her daughter's second birthday. Again she was allowed to call her parents to inform them. Instead she was transferred to Section 2A, Evin Prison, and was put back into solitary confinement. Believing that she was being released, she left her forwarding number with her ex-cellmates when she left the prison in Kerman, who subsequently called her parents over the next couple of weeks asking to speak to her.
63. Once she was transferred to Tehran on 13 June 2016, her interrogators told her that she would not be charged, and would be released once the UK made an agreement with Iran (see section K (iii) below). Then she was informed she would be taken to court, but was told it would likely only be a sentence of a few months, much of which she had already served, up to a maximum of 2 years – but this sentence would be suspended because she was a woman who has a young baby, and because she was a dual national, whose cases are treated differently. Her interrogators told her that because she had been quiet and

cooperative, that would definitely have a positive effect on the Judge when giving her a verdict.

64. Instead she was sentenced to five years' imprisonment in September 2016, with some of those interrogators who had promised release previously now acting as informants against her.
65. Her interrogators in Tehran told her constantly following the hearing that her sentence would be dismissed on appeal, that it was common practice for it to be dismissed, or reduced to the period she had already served, and that she would soon be given parole, and that if there was a remaining period she could always pay monetary compensation for the remainder of her imprisonment and be able to leave. Both of her lawyers had confirmed to her that there was not enough evidence in her file to indict her in the first place, let alone convict her. Once her appeal and Supreme Court review had both been rejected, she and her family were then told that she would soon be eligible for early release, having served a third of her sentence.
66. At both her main trial and appeal the Judges recommended that it would help Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's case if she request her interrogators to film a televised interview where she refuted all the claims made in the foreign media about her by her husband and others. She refused on the grounds she had not been able to see the foreign media, and so could not comment. It was only something she could do once released.
67. In September 2017 the Prosecutor's Office told Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe and her family that she was to be given temporary release ("*furlough*") the following week as a precursor to full release. It is a legal right for prisoners in Iran to be given four days' temporary release for every four months served, so at that point Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe would have been entitled to three weeks' temporary release. Her lawyer had submitted formal applications both for temporary release and full early release.
68. Instead, on 8 October 2017 the Iranian authorities informed Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe that she would face a new set of charges, including "spreading propaganda against the regime", which could result in up to 16 years' imprisonment. These new charges were duplicative of her existing conviction, in that they related to conduct and relied on evidence that had already been addressed in her original court proceedings. The timing of the new court case coincided with the deferral of a court case in London for the settlement of a debt owed by a company belonging to the UK Ministry of Defence to the Iranian government and Iranian Ministry of Defence (see section K (iii) below). Following the deferral, the new court case against Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was opened.
69. The new charges came as a shock to Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe, her family in Tehran and her husband in the UK. She had a PTSD attack in court (as later diagnosed by the prison doctor) and had to be carried out of the courtroom.
70. The Iranian authorities have since issued several conflicting official statements about whether the new charges are being pursued. The Prosecutor's Office and Ministry of Foreign Affairs have both told Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's family that she would be released imminently. Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's lawyer has also reported that she was marked on the Judiciary database as eligible for release. The President of the Tehran Revolutionary Court publicly stated in December 2017 that the second court case was closed, giving rise to hopes that Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe would be home for Christmas. However the spokespersons for the

Judiciary and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs then announced on 24 and 25 December 2017 that the second court case was in fact still open.

71. The British Embassy in Iran subsequently reported to Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's family that they had heard Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was to be released on 29 December 2017.
72. The Prosecutor's Office informed the family on 14 January 2018 that Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe had been close to release, but that that release had been postponed. The Prosecutor's Office subsequently informed her lawyer on 30 January that a deal for her release had been on the table for a number of weeks, pending cooperation from the UK.
73. On 3 February 2018, the Prosecutor's Office informed Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe and her family that her case had been closed by the Judiciary and the Revolutionary Guard, and that the Foreign Ministry was now responsible for managing her release.

I. Impact of the above treatment on Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's health

74. The treatment highlighted above had a severe impact on Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's physical and psychological health, which sharply deteriorated during the period she was first held in solitary confinement in Kerman. Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe had great difficulty walking, and her hair began to fall out. Her family observed at their first meeting with her, on day 39 of her detention, that she was too weak to pick up her daughter. Instead, she remained seated and her daughter was placed on her lap for her. She had lost at least 5kg in weight. Prior to her arrest, Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was healthy and had no ailments. Once she was transferred out of solitary confinement to the general women's wing in Kerman Central Prison on 18 May 2016, Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was extremely weak and would frequently black out when she tried to walk. In January 2017, she complained of a number of further physical ailments, including blurred eyesight, back pains, dental problems and uncontrollable palpitations.
75. The Iranian authorities' treatment of Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe in detention, the separation from her daughter and other family, the inability to communicate with her husband and the authorities' false promises of release furthermore seriously undermined her morale and severely affected her psychologically. On 16 October 2016 Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe confessed to her family that she was feeling suicidal and had drafted a goodbye letter.
76. In November 2016 Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe went on hunger strike in protest against her treatment. She only broke the strike when her mother came to visit her with her daughter to plead with her to eat. Under stress, Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's mother passed out in front of her, causing Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's daughter, Gabriella, to become panic-stricken and extremely upset. Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe continued to express suicidal thoughts throughout her detention.
77. Since she was moved from solitary confinement, she has continued to report being unable to sleep. She started taking sleeping pills in July 2017 once she had access to an outside psychiatrist. She continues to suffer from panic attacks and stress. She has told her family that she has been feeling an inescapable pressure and depression and has written that, "Every day and every second I would submerge more and more in an ocean of doubt, fear, threat, loneliness and more than anything mistrust."
78. On 15 October 2017 she communicated to her husband that she was again experiencing rapid mood swings, long periods of depression, isolation, and a lack of concentration. She

had little appetite, and was just drinking cups of sugary tea. Her hair has begun to fall out again and she continues to struggle to put on weight. In November 2017, the prison psychologist diagnosed her as suffering from advanced depression and PTSD.

J. Limited access to medical services

79. Access to relevant medical services to treat Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe is extremely limited and often sporadic. Following numerous repeated requests, on or around 3 February 2017, Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was taken to the prison clinic, where the onsite GP X-rayed her shoulder. The GP recommended that she be sent to a neck and shoulder specialist as a matter of urgency. On 19 February 2017, a specialised neurologist recommended immediate hospitalisation. To date the authorities have not acted on the recommendation. In early March she was given an MRI scan, paid for by her family.
80. After over three months' wait, on 15 May 2017 Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was taken to hospital for an assessment of her neurological health. The appointment lasted two hours and she was prescribed 20 physiotherapy sessions on her shoulder, which were administered before mid-July 2017, and paid for by her family. Her family was subsequently allowed to provide her with a neck brace to wear during the day. However, she continues to suffer from spasms in her back, and on one occasion passed out and could not speak when she woke up.
81. During her detention in Evin Prison Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe requested to see an independent female counsellor or psychiatrist. However, the prison psychiatrist insisted that she should see him instead. He then told Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe that if she refused to take the sedatives that he prescribed, he would commit her to a mental asylum.
82. Following the Supreme Court rejection of her appeal in April 2017, and as a result of significant media coverage about her continued precarious mental health condition, Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was permitted to see an independent female psychiatrist on 19 July 2017. She was classified as high security and required to attend these appointments in handcuffs. This psychiatrist diagnosed Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe with advanced depression. The psychiatrist has also detailed a number of traumatic effects of her detention, including loss of concentration, an inability to sleep, resulting in taking increasingly strong anti-depressants, sedatives, and sleeping pills, a loss of appetite, mood swings, heart palpitations, and increasing paranoia.
83. When Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's second set of charges was first announced on 8 October 2017, appointments with her psychiatrist were cancelled. When the subsequent court hearing was cancelled she was allowed to schedule a new appointment on 9 December 2017. Following this session Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's psychiatrist doubled her dosage of anti-depressants. However, subsequent appointments were cancelled when the Judiciary and Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokespersons revived the possibility of a second case around 22 December 2017. Her family have been told to reapply for a permit for access to a doctor. Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe continually has health appointments cancelled, or postponed requiring additional permissions. It is often not clear which permits are required for access to a doctor.
84. In November 2017 Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe wrote to the Prosecutor's Office to communicate her intention to go on hunger strike again, which prompted the Prosecutor to request the health commission to review her health records, including the psychiatric report to review whether she was medically fit to stay in prison.

85. Neither Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe, her husband, her family nor her lawyer has had access to this report or any of her health records. The authorities failed to share the psychiatrist's report or neurologist's report with her family, and her family does not have access to any of her health records, despite frequent requests. Similarly, the Iranian Government has refused to share the records with the UK government and has not responded to requests to confirm whether it regards Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe as medically fit to stay in prison and to stand trial. She has in recent weeks discussed with other prisoners how to access pills for an overdose. Currently her psychiatrist has recommended she be seen at least once every two weeks.

K. Purpose of Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's detention and treatment in detention

86. It is believed that the purpose of Iran's unlawful and arbitrary detention of Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe, and also of the treatment the Iranian authorities have subjected her to during this detention, has been: (i) to force her into giving a confession; (ii) to force her into providing information about others; and (iii) to coerce the British Government into negotiating a deal for her release, as a result of Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe being a British citizen.

(i) Confession

87. In the first months of her detention, Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe was subjected to repeated emotional pressure with the aim of extracting a confession that she had trained BBC journalists, that she worked for the British Government and that she was on a work trip. She was also pressed to confess that she was working in Iran for the Thomson Reuters Foundation. None of these claims are true, and no evidence was presented to support these claims.

88. As set out above at para. 47, Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's interrogators told her in November 2016 that she would be released if she filmed a confession. When she refused to confess to statements that were not true, her interrogators threatened that Judge Salavati would sentence her to a further eleven years in prison.

(ii) Information about Others

89. The interrogators further used their treatment of Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe to put pressure on her to provide information about Iranian ex-colleagues from BBC Media Action. Her interrogators promised to release her at the end of the first week if she promised to undertake this task. At the end of the first week her interrogators did not release her, telling Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe that they had a change of plan.

(iii) Coercion of the British Government and discrimination because of British nationality

90. There have been indications throughout that Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe has been targeted specifically because she is British, and that through its treatment of Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe, Iran may be seeking to coerce the UK Government into negotiating a deal for her release. This is in line with a broader strategy of Iran targeting dual nationals for arrest. In 2016, the UNWGAD and UN Special Rapporteur on Iran for instance identified "an emerging pattern involving the arbitrary deprivation of liberty of dual nationals in the Islamic Republic of Iran."²⁵

²⁵ UN Special Rapporteur on Iran, Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, A/2/322, 14 August 2017, paras. 43-48.

91. In June 2016, the Tehran Revolutionary Guard sent messages for Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's family to pass on to the British Government, that if an agreement was reached between Iran and the UK then Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe would be released without charge. During a visit on 21 June 2016, Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's interrogators told her family that Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe would be released without charge if the UK Government reached an agreement with Iran, but the details of what this agreement referred to were, at that time, not explained.²⁶ On or around 11 July 2016, as a result of Mr Ratcliffe's engagement with UK media, several stories appeared about this offer of an agreement. On 13 July 2016, during a further family visit, the senior interrogator told the family in Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's presence that the agreement involved an exchange ("*tabadol*" in Farsi).
92. However, on 27 July 2016 Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's father was told by the interrogators that this offer of an exchange was either a misunderstanding by the family or a deliberate distortion by the family, as any negotiations about Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's release would be undertaken through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and not through the Revolutionary Guard.
93. However, over the following months the Prosecutor's Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs continued to refer Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's family to the possibility of negotiations with the UK.
94. Unnamed UK ministers told UK newspapers in November 2017 that Iran was demanding payment of an outstanding debt of several hundred million British pounds owed by the UK to Iran for a cancelled arms deal in the 1970s as part of a political deal to release Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe.²⁷ When a court case regarding the settlement of the debt was deferred in London in early October 2017, new charges were presented in Tehran on 8 October 2017 against Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe.²⁸ These new charges were initially explained by account of her links to the British authorities, with TV propaganda then emphasising her importance to the British government, as revealed by the UK Foreign Secretary, as someone worth negotiating over.
95. The trial for Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's second set of charges had been scheduled to take place during a visit to Iran by the British Foreign Secretary, on 10 December 2017. It was, however, postponed during that visit, and cancelled immediately thereafter. Following the Foreign Secretary's visit, the Prosecutor's Office privately told Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe that a deal for her release had been agreed, and that she was being released in return for payment of the debt owed to Iran. In public her second court case was cancelled by the President of the Tehran Revolutionary Court, giving rise to hopes that she would be home for Christmas.

²⁶ It subsequently appeared that this related to a potential agreement for the payment of a historic debt owed by the UK to Iran (see below, para. 94). An English court hearing about the debt was scheduled to take place in May 2016 (see Company Accounts of International Military Services Limited for the Year Ended 31 December 2015, ANNEX 4, at p 1, "Strategic Review and Principal Activities"), which was shortly before the references to an agreement were made to Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's family in June 2016, but the issue was not resolved at the May 2016 court hearing (which is evident from the fact that the debt was still referred to in the company accounts of International Military Services Limited for 2016 – see footnote 28 below).

²⁷ See e.g. The Telegraph, Britain preparing plan to transfer £400m to Iran as Boris Johnson vows to do everything to bring home Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, 16 November 2017, at http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/11/15/britain-preparing-plan-transfer-400m-iran-boris-johnson-vows/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter; The Sun, Britain preparing to pay a long standing £450m debt to Iran that will help free Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe', 16 November 2017, at <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4923596/britain-450m-imprisoned-iran/>.

²⁸ See reference to October 2017 court hearing in Company Accounts of International Military Services Limited for the Year Ended 31 December 2016, ANNEX 5, at p 1, "Strategic Review and Principal Activities".

However, a week later the Judiciary and Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokespersons revived the potential second court case.

96. However, on 3 February 2018, the Prosecutor's Office informed Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe and her family that her case had been closed by the Judiciary and the Revolutionary Guard, that they had accepted the deal, and that the Foreign Ministry was now responsible for managing her release.

V. REMEDIAL ACTION

97. Iranian authorities have actively frustrated any attempts to have the allegations of torture and ill-treatment of Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe investigated in Iran. Authorities threatened Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe as well as her family and are prosecuting her lawyer for defending her, thereby creating a climate of intimidation that makes it impossible for her family and lawyers to insist on an investigation and prosecution of those responsible for her treatment.
98. This is furthermore illustrated by the authorities' reaction to the attempts to obtain further information about Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's treatment and health in prison. Her lawyer requested the Article 90 Commission in the Iranian Parliament to investigate her case. The MPs subsequently applied to visit her in detention whilst on a visit to Evin Prison, yet their request was not granted. In addition, her family's and husband's attempts to obtain medical reports from the authorities have similarly been rejected.
99. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs advised her family to write a letter requesting the Ministry to intervene in her case with the Revolutionary Guard. The Ministry dictated the wording of the letter and advised the family to make clear that they had no complaints with Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's treatment by the authorities, and to mention that they would only like her release on humanitarian grounds.

VI. INFORMATION CONCERNING THE AUTHOR OF THE PRESENT REPORT

A. Author – REDRESS

B. Relationship to victim – Instructed by husband of victim, Richard Ratcliffe

C. Present full addresses

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VII. ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: REDRESS, Submission to the UNWGAD in the case of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, 17 June 2016

ANNEX 2: UNWGAD's Opinion No. 28/2016, 7 September 2016

ANNEX 3: REDRESS, Submission on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the UNWGAD's Opinion No.28/2016, 13 April 2017

ANNEX 4: Company Accounts of International Military Services Limited for the Year Ended 31 December 2015

ANNEX 5: Company Accounts of International Military Services Limited for the Year Ended 31 December 2016