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## **Statement by the spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the recent sentencing of Iranian human rights lawyer Mohammad Ali Dadkhah**

The spokesperson of Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, issued the following statement today:

*“The High Representative expresses her serious concern over the increasingly difficult conditions for human rights lawyers in Iran. The latest example is the case of prominent human rights lawyer Mohammad Ali Dadkhah, who was arrested in 2009 and recently sentenced to 9 years in prison and a 10 year occupational ban. The persecution of human rights defenders in Iran is in breach of the international obligations that Iran has itself signed up to. The High Representative calls on Iran to respect these obligations, which she believes would warrant a review of the case of Mohammad Ali Dadkhah.”*

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**P R E S S**

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