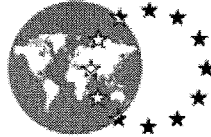


EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE

Brussels, 03 AVR. 2012
A(2012)252839 - 280680

Dear Petitioner,

Thank you for your message of 2 March 2012.

Rest assured that the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy is following closely the case of Protestant Christian Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani in Iran.

In February 2012, in her most recent public statement on this case, Catherine Ashton called on the Iranian authorities to immediately release Pastor Nadarkhani. He should be able to freely practice his religion in accordance with the international human rights obligations that Iran has itself signed up to, notably regarding the freedom of religion and belief. The statement was published on the internet and transmitted via social media.

The European Union Foreign Ministers made a united call for the release of Pastor Nadarkhani as a conclusion of their meeting in Brussels in October 2011.

It is the EU's hope that pastor Nadarkhani will be released soon.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. ...', with a long horizontal stroke underneath.