

FARIBA ADELKHAH RETURNS TO FRANCE AFTER NEARLY FOUR YEARS IN CAPTIVITY IN IRAN

Paris, 18 October 2023 - Sciences Po is relieved to announce the return to France of Fariba Adelkhah, a Franco-Iranian researcher at Sciences Po's Centre for international studies (CERI). She was detained in Iran from June 2019 to February 2023.

A recognised specialist in Shiism and post-revolutionary Iran, Fariba Adelkhah was sentenced in May 2020 to five years' imprisonment. Since then, the Sciences Po communities have relentlessly called for her release.

On Tuesday, Fariba Adelkhah finally returned to France. On her arrival at the airport, she was greeted by Béatrice Hibou, president of her support committee, and Mathias Vicherat, director of Sciences Po.

"After she has been deprived of her freedom for so long, what a thrill it is to welcome back our colleague Fariba, a symbol of our battle for academic freedom! I solemnly thank the French authorities for their unremitting action, the support committee and all those who worked for her release. I look forward to seeing Fariba back at Sciences Po, her home, soon." **Mathias Vicherat - Director of Sciences Po.**

About Sciences Po

Since 1872, Sciences Po's mission has been to empower free minds and socially responsible individuals. It places academic excellence and social inclusion at the heart of its values. Its unique educational project offers a multidisciplinary approach built on the humanities and social sciences, with a strong international dimension and an ability to combine fundamental knowledge with professional expertise thanks to its 290 research professors and 4,600 part-time lecturers.

As a world-class research university with eleven research centres, Sciences Po assumes a social responsibility by proposing solutions to major contemporary issues, foremost among which are environmental and digital transformations, changes in public policy and the fight against inequality and discrimination. The defence of academic freedom, an essential condition for democracy and social progress, is also at the heart of the university's vision.

Each year, the institution trains 15,000 students, 50% of whom are international, on seven campuses (Dijon, Le Havre, Menton, Nancy, Paris, Poitiers and Reims) within an Undergraduate College and seven Master's-level schools (international affairs, public affairs, law, journalism, management, research and urban planning). 3,500 professionals also follow continuing education courses.

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