

Subject: Personal Statement of Maria Damanaki, European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries on the impending stoning of Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani

In Iran a woman, Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani, is in immediate danger of being killed by stoning, after being sentenced by an Iranian Court. The handing down of justice is of course a matter of national sovereignty and is not subject to interventions by third parties. Stoning however it is not a national matter. It is a direct crime against civilisation, and it concerns us all.

Stoning is against the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which Iran is a party, as well as the Declaration on the protection of all persons from being subjected to torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment as adopted by the United Nations.

As a woman politician I feel that I have the moral duty to join my voice to those of the hundreds of thousands of citizens and personalities from around the world who are asking that the stoning sentence against Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani should not be carried out.

Do not allow this barbarism of a bygone era to overshadow the history and culture of the 21st century.

Athens, 24-8-2010

Maria Damanaki

European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries