



THOMSON REUTERS  
FOUNDATION

London, November 6, 2017

**STATEMENT FROM THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION CEO  
MONIQUE VILLA ON NEW THREAT OF DOUBLE SENTENCE  
FOR NAZANIN ZAGHARI-RATCLIFFE**

*“I once again urge Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson to immediately correct the serious mistake he made at the Foreign Affairs Committee in Parliament.*

*On 1 November he said that Nazanin ‘was training journalists’ in Iran. I have immediately clarified that this is not right as she is not a journalist and has never trained journalists at the Thomson Reuters Foundation where she is project manager in my Media Development team.*

*She was in Iran on holiday to show her daughter Gabriella to her grandparents when she was arrested at Tehran Airport on 3 April 2016. Like Richard Ratcliffe, her husband, I see a direct correlation between this statement by Boris Johnson, who rightly condemned the treatment that Nazanin has received in Iran, and the fact that Nazanin was brought once again into Court on Saturday 4 November and accused of ‘spreading propaganda against the regime.’*

*This accusation from Judge Salavati can only worsen her sentence. She is obviously a bargaining chip between the UK government and Iran and this injustice must stop as soon as possible. Whatever is at stake should be paid attention to by the UK government.”*

Monique Villa, Thomson Reuters Foundation CEO