



THOMSON REUTERS  
FOUNDATION

London, November 20, 2016

**STATEMENT FROM THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION CEO  
MONIQUE VILLA IN RELATION TO NAZANIN ZAGHARI-  
RATCLIFFE'S HUNGER STRIKE**

*"I have learnt today from Richard Ratcliffe that his wife and our colleague at the Thomson Reuters Foundation, Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, has started a hunger strike to protest her innocence. I am particularly concerned by this latest development given her precarious health.*

*Nazanin received on Friday the visit of her family in Evin's jail. She had started a hunger strike five days before and at her sight, Nazanin's mother fainted. She later persuaded Nazanin to eat some cheese. Her daughter Gabriella, 2 years and a half, was present and was traumatised by the whole scene.*

*Richard had no contact with Nazanin recently and we are therefore not in a position to confirm whether Nazanin has resumed her hunger strike or not.*

*This development is deeply worrying, as well as the persisting silence of the Foreign Office and the British government on the whole issue.*

*Seven months after her arrest and two months after her condemnation to five years in jail, without any known charges, Nazanin who is a British-Iranian bi-national has still not received a visit from the British Ambassador or any member of the Embassy in Tehran. What more does the British Government need to act promptly?"*

**Monique Villa, Thomson Reuters Foundation CEO**