

Doc\_Number: EU000123



Tue Aug 11, 2009 | 15:54

Sweden summons Iran's ambassador over post-election trials.



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## In Iran trial, French lecturer offers apology

Sat, 08 Aug 2009 14:50:01 GMT

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Clotilde Reiss

A female French lecturer on trial charged with 'acting against Iran's national security' following the disputed presidential election has reportedly asked for clemency.

"I should not have taken part in illegal protests (that erupted in Iran following the June 12 vote)... I regret (my activities)," Clotilde Reiss, the 24-year-old Frenchwoman, said in the court on Saturday.

The mass trial against those charged over the violence that followed the disputed re-election of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad resumed on Saturday.

Reiss, who turned 24 in Tehran's Evin prison on July 31, told the court that she had written about Iran's nuclear power program as well as the post-vote developments

for the French embassy, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

"I apologize to the Iranian nation and the court and hope they will pardon me," she was quoted as saying.

A recent master's graduate, Reiss was working in Iran as a lecturer for the Isfahan Technical University. She was detained near Tehran on July 1 at the Imam Khomeini International Airport (IKIA) as she tried to fly home.

"Following the closure of the Isfahan Technical University in the aftermath of the post-poll events, I was planning to leave Iran, but I took part in rallies of June 15 and 17 in Tehran and took photographs and film," the academic told the court, Fars News Agency reported.

"I did this out of curiosity and to be aware of the political situation. I wanted to know of what was happening," she said. "I was interested in obtaining information about rallies of students in Iran. It was my own decision. No one had asked me to do anything."

Reiss confessed that she sent e-mails to her French friends and relatives and added, "I have written a one-page report and submitted it to an official at the cultural department of the French embassy who was not a diplomat."

The arrest of the French national came amidst turmoil in Iran where hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets in protest at the conduct and result of the 10th presidential election that named Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as the official victor with nearly two-thirds of the June 12 votes.

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