FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT FROM HOSTAGE AID WORLDWIDE ON HOSTAGE NEGOTIATIONS WITH IRAN

March 15, Washington D.C---. Hostage Aid Worldwide (HAW) is encouraged by the news on recent developments in the ongoing progress of the UK hostage negotiations with Iran, and potential imminent release of British hostages Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and Anousheh Ashoori held in Iran. We would like to use this occasion to highly encourage the Biden administration to diligently pursue the freedom of American hostages held in Iran.

The Obama administration’s January 2016 exchange of prisoners left Siamak Namazi behind. It is unforgivable that to this day Siamak Namazi still languishes in Iran’s Evin Prison. In addition to Siamak Namazi, there are at least three other Americans under Iranian custody or banned from leaving Iran today, including Siamak’s father, Baquer Namazi who was arrested a few weeks after the Implementation of the JCPOA and has not been allowed to leave the country ever since, American businessman Emad Sharghi, who was re-arrested after Biden was elected president, and Morad Tahbaz, a conservationist who’s been imprisoned since 2018, as well as Shehab Dalili who is a Legal Permanent Resident of the US.

HAW has been closely monitoring the negotiations on hostages. HAW’s President had very productive interactions with the families of hostages as well as concerned stakeholders in his trip to London last week. We continue to remain hopeful for the imminent release of all the hostages.

HAW requests that the Biden administration act on its promise and pursue immediate release of the American hostages held in Iran.

HAW is a non-profit apolitical NGO founded by ex-hostages and subject matter experts with a mission to provide support to family members of hostages and to develop technology which identifies and tracks the individuals responsible for this crime so that they can be brought to justice. Since its founding HAW has sponsored multiple international events with legal experts specializing in human rights, and continuously advocated with politicians and diplomats including organizing a week-long hunger strike during the JCPOA talks in Vienna to increase public awareness of the issue.

For more information please contact media@hostageaid.org