

The Long-Awaited Release of Unlawfully Detained Americans in Iran.

September 18, 2023 -- At long last, we joyously celebrate and welcome the freedom of Siamak Namazi, Morad Tahbaz and Emad Sharghi from their unlawful detention in Iran in addition to 2 unknown Americans.

Hostage Aid Worldwide is immensely glad and relieved that these wrongfully detained Americans are finally free: Siamak Namazi, a businessman who was imprisoned in 2015 and left behind several times by the U.S administration, Morad Tahbaz, a British-American environmentalist who was arrested in January 2018 and left behind by the UK in 2022, and Emad Sharghi, a businessman who has been detained since December 2020. The two other Americans were detained more recently but all five have thankfully been released and are returning home to their families.

Nizar Zakka, President of HAW commented "These innocent citizens are finally returning to their families and homes to begin a long recovery process. I am personally very grateful for the long overdue release of Siamak Namazi who was imprisoned only 2 weeks after my arrest in Iran and was then left behind when I was freed. I can't wait to see him and give him a welcome home hug. However, we must not forget the many others who remain deprived of their freedom by Iran and other ruthless regimes which put their own interests ahead of human rights."

Adding to this, Barry Rosen who was himself a hostage in Iran in 1979, stated "This is a bittersweet occasion for me. I am extremely grateful to the negotiators who have worked hard to resolve these cases, but I am angered that the Islamic Republic, among others, has been able to operate its hostage business model with impunity for over 40 years."

Our heartfelt wishes go to the families of the freed detainees and we applaud their perseverance and unwavering determination in fighting for the return of their loved ones. We urge Special Presidential Envoy Carstens to provide the necessary medical, psychological, and financial support and assistance the freed hostages need to overcome any challenges they face upon their return in order to reintegrate smoothly into society.

Finally, Hostage Aid Worldwide calls on the Biden Administration to immediately take the necessary steps in this ongoing release process to relentlessly press for the swift release of all remaining U.S hostages and unlawfully detained in Iran, namely Shahab Dalili and Jamshid Sharmahd and bring them safely back home too. It would be really shameful to leave any American national behind in the execution of this deal. Even while we celebrate the return of 5 unlawfully detained Americans, our hearts are with Shahab, Jamshid and their families as well as the families of any other Americans who are still being unlawfully held in Iran. Hostage Aid also urges the Biden administration to coordinate with our international allies and put strict measures in place to hold accountable any country that takes Americans hostage again.

