

# “Hostage Aid Worldwide Honors Former Hostage Siamak Namazi and Human Rights Lawyer Jared Genser”



*Nizar Zakka: "Meeting Siamak face to face was like a dream especially as we had spent almost 4 years in the same section of Evin prison without being allowed to see each other by our captors."*

**November 22, 2023** – On November 16, 2023, two former hostages, Siamak Namazi and Nizar Zakka, finally met for the first time outside the walls of Iran's notorious Evin prison to celebrate Siamak's long awaited return home.

Nizar Zakka, President of Hostage Aid Worldwide and Board members Geoffrey Dive and Ali Arab proudly presented Siamak Namazi with a token of recognition for all the suffering he endured during his hostage taking ordeal. Hostage Aid also presented international human rights lawyer Jared Genser with a token of appreciation for his relentless fight and pro bono work to free Siamak Namazi and many other hostages and unlawfully detained individuals across the globe.

Siamak Namazi was unlawfully detained in Iran in October 2015. His incarceration spanned three Administrations. He was left behind countless times, and went on several hunger strikes. He finally took desperate measures to get the attention of the Biden Administration by taking the risk of going live on CNN from Evin Prison. Siamak was released on September 18, 2023 after 2,898 days.

Jared Genser is a renowned international human rights lawyer who has represented the world's most famous political prisoners – the list includes, in addition to Siamak Namazi, Václav Havel in the former Czechoslovakia, Desmond Tutu in South Africa and Félix Maradiaga in Nicaragua. Genser has successfully freed more than 300 prisoners of conscience from 20 countries over the years.

Both Siamak and Jared were honored for their resilience and perseverance; Siamak for his resilience in enduring 8 horrific years of imprisonment in Iran, and Jared for his unwavering commitment to defend those wrongfully detained and persecuted.



Hostage Aid Worldwide

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