

URGENT ACTION

IRANIAN-AMERICAN JOURNALIST DETAINED

Iranian-American journalist Jason Rezaian has spent six months in solitary confinement in Tehran's Evin Prison. He has had no access to a lawyer, but was brought to court for the first time on 6 December. He is a prisoner of conscience.

Jason Rezaian, an Iran-based correspondent for the Washington Post, was arrested by plainclothes security officials in the evening of 22 July 2014 along with his wife, Yeganeh Salehi, who writes for the United Arab Emirates newspaper *The National*. Their home was searched and their passports were confiscated. Their family did not learn their whereabouts for about a month. Yeganeh Salehi was released on bail in October. According to his brother Ali Rezaian, Jason Rezaian has been interrogated repeatedly. A lawyer hired by his family has not been allowed to meet with Jason Rezaian or see any court documents that relate to the case. During what his brother said was an all-day session before a Revolutionary Court on 6 December, Jason Rezaian had only a translator to assist him and was required to sign a document acknowledging the charges before him. It is not known what Jason Rezaian has been charged with or why.

Since his arrest, Jason Rezaian has been held in solitary confinement in Evin Prison with only occasional visits from his family. He has high blood pressure, for which he needs daily medication.

In an interview with news agency EuroNews on 6 November, the head of Iran's High Council for Human Rights, Mohammad Javad Larijani, was asked when Jason Rezaian would be released and said, "I anticipate less than a month". Less than a week later, the deputy chief of the Judiciary, Hadi Sadeghi, said, "[Jason] Rezaian's case is still under investigation, which can take more than a month. Nothing definite can be said about his case." The Iranian authorities have said nothing about why Jason Rezaian was detained.

Please write immediately in Persian, English, Spanish, French or your own language:

- Call on the Iranian authorities to release Jason Rezaian immediately and unconditionally if he is being held solely for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression through his work as a journalist with the Washington Post;
- Urge them to allow Jason Rezaian immediate access to his lawyer and any medical attention he may require, including specific medication he must take for high blood pressure;
- Remind them that Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is state party, protects the right to freedom of expression, which includes journalistic activities.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 20 JANUARY 2015 TO:

Leader of the Islamic Republic
Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei
The Office of the Supreme Leader
Islamic Republic Street – End of Shahid
Keshvar Doust Street,
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Twitter: @khamenei_ir (English) or
@Khamenei_fa (Persian)
Email: info_leader@leader.ir
Salutation: Your Excellency

Head of the Judiciary
Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani
c/o Public Relations Office
Number 4, 2 Azizi Street intersection
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Hassan Rouhani
The Presidency
Pasteur Street, Pasteur Square
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Email: media@rouhani.ir
Twitter: @HassanRouhani (English) and
@Rouhani_ir (Persian)

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Jason Rezaian's wife, Yeganeh Salehi, was released on bail in October 2014. A photographer and her husband had been arrested with Jason Rezaian and Yeganeh Salehi but were released in August.

In the days leading up to their arrest, Jason Rezaian and Yeganeh Salehi told friends they were being followed. Assuming they were being followed by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, which oversees the work of journalists, they contacted the Ministry's office to ask why they were being followed. The Ministry denied all knowledge of this.

Amnesty International has documented for years how journalists and media workers in Iran are systematically targeted and arrested on account of their journalistic activities on vaguely worded charges. For further information see *Jailed for being a journalist*, <http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE13/044/2014/en>.

Iran's Islamic Penal Code, passed into law in May 2013, maintains these vaguely worded "crimes" such as "spreading lies", "spreading propaganda against the system", "creating unease in the public mind", "insulting Islamic sanctities" and "defamation of state officials". These ill-defined provisions are frequently used to curb the peaceful exercise of the right to freedom of expression. Such laws and practices violate Iran's obligations under Articles 18, 19, 21 and 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Iran is a state party, guaranteeing freedom of thought, expression, assembly and association respectively.

Other journalists imprisoned in Iran include Mohammad Sadiq Kabudvand, Serajeddin Mirdamadi, Sajedeh Arabsorkhi, brothers Khosro and Masoud Kordpour, Reza Entesari, Hamidreza Moradi, Mostafa Abdi, Kasra Nouri and Afshin Karampour.

Article 9 of the ICCPR provides that no one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention. Detention is considered arbitrary when a person is deprived of their liberty because they have exercised the rights and freedoms guaranteed in the ICCPR. Detention may also become arbitrary as a result of violation of the detainee's fair trial rights, including the rights to access legal counsel before trial, to be brought promptly before a judge, to challenge the lawfulness of detention and to have adequate time and facilities to prepare a defence. There is a presumption of release pending trial and detainees are entitled to compensation if they are held unlawfully.

Name: Jason Rezaian
Gender m/f: m

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