

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

22-247

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

January 9, 2018

To recognize and honor Jason Rezaian on the second anniversary of his release from Evin Prison in Iran.

WHEREAS, Jason Rezaian was born in Marin County, California, the eldest son of Taghi and Mary Rezaian;

WHEREAS, Jason Rezaian graduated from Eugene Lang College at The New School in New York;

WHEREAS, Jason Rezaian served as a correspondent for several different periodicals, including the San Francisco Chronicle and the Monocle;

WHEREAS, Jason Rezaian was named the Tehran bureau chief for The Washington Post in 2012;

WHEREAS, on July 22, 2014, Jason Rezaian's Tehran home was raided by Iranian officials, and he and his wife, Yeganeh Salehi, were taken into custody;

WHEREAS, while Yeganeh Salehi was released on October 6, 2014, Jason Rezaian remained in custody in Evin Prison, a detention center known for housing political prisoners and intellectuals;

WHEREAS, on December 7, 2014, the U.S. State Department announced that Jason Rezaian had been charged by an Iranian court with unspecified offenses, and denied bail, access to an attorney, and consular services requested by Secretary of State John Kerry;

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2015, after 7 months of detainment, Jason Rezaian was granted a court-appointed attorney;

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2015, The Washington Post reported that Iranian authorities were charging Rezaian with espionage and 3 other serious crimes, including "collaborating with hostile governments" and "propaganda against the establishment;"

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

WHEREAS, on May 11, 2015, the United States Senate passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 16, stating the policy of the United States regarding the release of United States citizens in Iran, and indicating that: (1) the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran should immediately release Saeed Abedini, Amir Hekmati, and Jason Rezaian, and cooperate with the U.S. government to locate and return Robert Levinson; and (2) the U.S. government should undertake every effort using every diplomatic tool at its disposal to secure their release;

WHEREAS, Jason Rezaian's trial, which was closed to the public, began on May 26, 2015 at Branch 15 of the Tehran Revolutionary Court, and on October 12, 2015, The Washington Post reported that Mr. Rezaian had been convicted;

WEHREAS, on November 22, a spokesman for the Iranian judiciary said Jason Rezaian had been "sentenced to prison," but did not provide further details; and

WHEREAS, on January 17, 2016, it was announced that Mr. Rezaian had been released from Iran along with 3 other United States citizens who had been held by the Iranian government.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Jason Rezaian Recognition Resolution of 2018".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors Jason Rezaian for his perseverance while being unjustly held in Evin Prison for over 540 days.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.