

## Iran Nuclear Agreement

*“If this agreement goes through, Iran gets a cash bonanza, a boost to its international standing, and a lighted path toward nuclear weapons. With sweeping sanctions relief, we have lessened our ability to challenge Iran’s conduct across the board. As Iran grows stronger, we will be weaker to respond...**Are temporary constraints on Iran’s nuclear program worth the price of permanent sanctions relief?**” – Chairman Royce*

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### **Why It Matters: Four Americans Still Imprisoned in Iran**

**Robert Levinson** is a retired FBI agent who disappeared in 2007 on Iran’s Kish Island. Iran denies knowing his whereabouts.

**Amir Hekmati** is a retired U.S. Marine, arrested while visiting his grandmother in August 2011.

**Jason Rezaian** is a *Washington Post* reporter who worked to better the understanding of the Iranian people.

**Saeed Abedini** is a Christian pastor whose crime was merely to gather people to study the Bible.



*It’s worth recalling what kind of system we’re dealing with. Jason was arrested without charges. He was imprisoned in Iran’s worst prison. He was placed in isolation for many months and denied medical care he needed. His case was assigned to a judge internationally notorious for human rights violations. He could not select the lawyer of his choosing. He was given only an hour and a half to meet with a lawyer approved by the court. No evidence has ever been produced by prosecutors or the court to support these absurd charges. The trial date was only disclosed to Jason’s lawyer last week. And now, unsurprisingly but unforgivingly, it turns out the trial will be closed. – **The Washington Post***

**Despite bipartisan calls from Congress, the Obama Administration refused to demand the release of these four Americans.** According to the Secretary Kerry, “we have not linked it [the status of these Americans] directly to the nuclear issue, because we believe that prejudices them.”

**Iran took the opposite approach, winning key non-nuclear concessions.** The agreement removes UN embargoes on Iran’s ballistic missile and conventional weapons programs. The deal also removes UN and EU sanctions on Qasem Soleimani and Iran’s Revolutionary Guards—charged with supporting terror around the globe.

### **Key Points**

- **Iran won unrelated concessions at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, removing the UN embargoes on arms and ballistic missiles. Yet the Obama Administration did not even demand the release of these four imprisoned Americans, viewing them as side issues.**
- **The Obama Administration made a deal with Iran and four Americans are left at the mercy of this brutal regime. So why believe the Administration will be any tougher on Iran in implementing this deal—policing current or suspect nuclear sites--or checking Iran’s ongoing regional aggression, as it claims?**

