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[Subject Index](#)+ BOOKMARK    ...[Home](#)[Issues & Press](#)[Travel & Business](#)[Countries](#)[Youth & Education](#)[Careers](#)[About State](#)

You are in: [Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs](#) > [Bureau of Public Affairs](#) > [Bureau of Public Affairs: Press Relations Office](#)  
> [Press Releases \(Other\)](#) > [2007](#) > [June](#)

**Press Statement****Sean McCormack**

Washington, DC

June 7, 2007

## Americans Detained in Iran

The United States is dismayed by the Iranian government's decision to harass, and in some cases imprison, a number of American citizens on groundless charges. These academics, scholars and journalists, many of them in Iran to visit relatives, pose no threat to the Iranian government. Indeed, many of them have served for years as bridges between our two cultures, working to enhance understanding between our countries.

We urge the Iranian authorities to release immediately the Americans in their custody, as well as return the passports of others being kept in Iran against their will.

We additionally call on Tehran to cooperate in the case of American citizen Robert Levinson, who has been missing in Iran since March 8.

The U.S. Government is committed to making every effort to reunite these citizens with their families.

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 [BACK TO TOP](#)



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