



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Dear President Trump and Secretary Pompeo,

On behalf of the City of Seattle, we ask that you submit a request to the Islamic Republic of Iran and appropriate international bodies for the release of Xiyue Wang, a United States citizen who is imprisoned unjustly in Iran. We also ask that you meet with Mr. Wang's family, that you refer this case to the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell, and that the family engagement team collaborates with Mr. Wang's family to assure his safe return. In addition, we ask that you provide attention to the needs of Mr. Wang's mother Kexu Lan, his wife Hua Qu and his son. Finally, we request that you discuss the hostage problem in Iran with other countries and increase international pressure on Iran to respect and protect human rights.

We are concerned for the welfare of Mr. Wang, an alum of the University of Washington and longtime Seattle resident whose close family remains in our city. As a Ph.D student at Princeton University, Mr. Wang traveled to Tehran, Iran in August 2016 to conduct research, with all due authorizations and a visa. He was arrested and charged with espionage, and wrongfully convicted to ten years in prison. The White House has condemned Iran for the use of "hostage taking as a tool of state policy" in Xiyue Wang's case. (White House Statement <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/statement-american-citizens-unjustly-detained-iran/> published July 21, 2017).

The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has recognized that Iran has demonstrated an emerging pattern of arbitrarily imprisoning United States citizens in violation of international law. The City of Seattle was declared to be a Human Rights City on December 10, 2012, committing itself to honor the protections of international human rights law, currently violated in Mr. Wang's case.

Mr. Wang lacks all protection in Iran. He only holds citizenship in the United States and our nation does not maintain a consular presence in Iran. He has no friends or family to advocate for his case in Iran. The Swiss embassy in Iran, which acts as a proxy for the United States, has been able to visit him only on a few occasions over the past almost two years, and has not had the opportunity to perform an independent medical and mental health assessment. Disturbing reports indicate that his access to counsel and due process has been severely curtailed during his incarceration. He has been held in solitary confinement, in horrible detention conditions, has been denied vital medical and psychiatric treatment, and has been forced to record a false confession.

We are aware that your administration has already voiced its support for Mr. Wang's case. The White House has "call[ed] for the immediate and unconditional release of all unjustly detained and missing United States citizens in Iran, including ... Xiyue Wang." (White House Statement <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/statement-press-secretary-iran-returning-baquer-namazi-prison/> published February 7, 2018) The White House recently reiterated this

sentiment in a memorandum concerning withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan Of Action (JCPOA), condemning Iran's practice of "arbitrarily detain[ing] foreigners, including United States citizens, on spurious charges without due process of law." We share your concern but are worried that the withdrawal could delay Mr. Wang's release even more. Because of that, we request that you establish diplomatic dialogue with Iran, other countries, and with international organizations immediately to solve the hostage taking issue.

Finally, we also wanted to highlight a recent bill that passed the House of Representatives, HR 4744 or the Iran Human Rights and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act. The bill states that "the Iranian regime has detained on fabricated claims a significant number of United States citizens, including [...] Xiyue Wang." This further demonstrates the seriousness with which our federal lawmakers take Mr. Wang's case.

We ask that you increase your efforts to bring home US citizen hostages in Iran, that you provide additional support to Mr. Wang's family, that you demand that Iran demonstrate that Mr. Wang's rights and welfare are being protected, and that you work for his immediate release.

Sincerely,

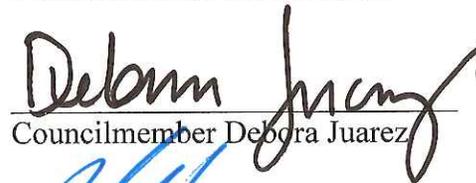

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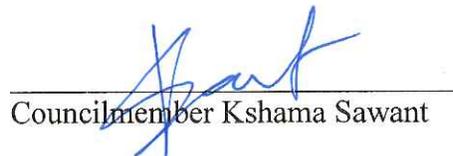

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