



Free Nazanin and Kamal Campaign / May 2017

Amnesty International UK Action: Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and Kamal Foroughi

Information on the cases of British-Iranian nationals Nazanin and Kamal imprisoned in Iran

Nazanin

It's just over a year since British-Iranian charity worker **Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe** was arrested at a Tehran airport as she was about to board a flight home to the UK with her young daughter, after visiting family in Iran. She has been imprisoned ever since.

Prison is taking its toll on Nazanin. She suffers from severe arm, neck and back pain and needs urgent specialised medical care in hospital. She has very limited movement in her arms, and there is a risk that her right arm and hand will be permanently damaged if she doesn't get the medical care she needs.

Nazanin was arrested on vague charges, held in solitary confinement for months, and, following an unfair trial, was sentenced to five years in prison for "membership of an illegal group" in connection to her work at the BBC's Media Action and Thompson Reuters Foundation (TRF), a charity organization promoting socio-economic progress, independent journalism and the rule of law. Amnesty International therefore consider Nazanin a prisoner of conscience, held solely for peacefully exercising her right to freedom of expression and association: she must be immediately and unconditionally released.

Kamal

77-year-old British-Iranian grandfather **Kamal Foroughi** was arrested on 5 May 2011 by men in plain clothes who apparently did not show an arrest warrant or explain the reasons for his arrest. He was held in solitary confinement for 18 months and he was only allowed to meet his lawyer once before the start of his trial. In 2013, following an unfair trial, he was convicted of 'espionage' and given a 7-year sentence. Kamal has not seen his daughter, son and two granddaughters in six long years, and has not had any visitors in prison for over 2,000 days, apart from his lawyer.

Kamal has developed cataracts in both eyes and could go blind in prison if he's not given the specialised medical care he needs. He was told by a doctor that he needs surgery on his eyes – back in September last year. The Iranian authorities have still not granted him this surgery.

Iran's own early release laws - Article 58 of the Islamic Penal Code allows for the conditional release of prisoners after serving one third of their sentence – meaning he could have been released every day since January 2014. And yet Kamal remains in prison, separated from his family and in need of medical attention, with no one understanding what is going on.

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GROUP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Action for Nazanin and Kamal

While Nazanin and Kamal remain in prison, they continue to miss out on the moments with their families that many of us could take for granted. Nazanin is missing out on her daughter Gabriella growing up and time with her husband, Kamal is missing out on time with his children and grandchildren. The moments we share with our families are precious and beyond value, and the injustice of Nazanin and Kamal's ongoing imprisonment robs them and their families of those memories.

We need your help to show how important these simple memories shared with family truly are, and to demand the release of Nazanin and Kamal so they can be reunited with their loved ones.

The action:

Step 1: Make your tulips

This is a simple but creative action that you can do at home, in your group or at any of the events you are arranging over the summer.

- 1) Write a fond or cherished memory of a time spent with family or loved ones on a square piece of coloured paper
- 2) Fold your memory into an origami tulip
- 3) Send it to us (we will share these with the Nazanin and Kamal's families and use them in public actions with politicians to call for Nazanin and Kamal's release).

What you need:

- 1) A memory!
- 2) Some coloured paper, scissors, ruler and a pen/pencil
- 3) Our how to make a tulip guide that will be on this page

Step 2: Get your MP involved

We would like you to involve your new/re-elected local MP in the action to get them engaged on the cases. You could:

- set up a meeting with your MP where you make the tulips
- invite your MP to an event where you make the tulips
- send them a letter with an example of an origami tulip and ask him/her to support the cases by also making one and sending it back to you

You will find draft letters to send to your MP on our resources page www.amnesty.org.uk/parliament2017 from Friday 9th June.

Remember, Nazanin and Kamal are both British citizens and we hope this action will result in more MPs raising the cases in Parliament, thus continuing to pressure the UK government to do everything it can to secure their release.

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Step 3: Collect the origami tulips and send them to us

We want to collect them all and use them as a powerful way to demonstrate to the UK Government all the memories that Nazanin and Kamal are missing out on and to push them to call on the Iranian authorities for their immediate release. We will also share the tulips with Nazanin and Kamal's families in the UK, to show them how much support they have during their ongoing separation. Please send them to us at:

FAO: Kieran Aldred
Amnesty International UK
The Human Rights Action Centre
17-25 New Inn Yard
London
EC2A 3EA

Step 4: Local press

If you have time, please write to your local newspapers to highlight the cases and the action you have taken. If your MP is involved and you have pictures, be sure to share that!

You will find a draft press release here www.amnesty.org.uk/parliament2017 from Friday 9th June. Additionally, if you want more information on the cases, their case sheets will also be available on the page.

Deadline: End of September

Questions and MP Feedback

If you have any questions about this action, or feedback from MPs about the cases of Nazanin and Kamal, please email mypolitician@amnesty.org.uk.