

Free Tarik Ramadhan

Category:

[Organizations - Philanthropic Organizations](#)

Description:

Tarik is an Iraqi unfairly being held in Sulaimaniya in Iraq for over 3 years now. I would urge everybody to lobby their local MP, and take steps to ensure that this injustice is ended as soon as possible.

Please can you take the time to view the website, if you can help in any way contact Gary Trotter at the email address below.

Privacy Type:

Open: All content is public.

Admins

There are no admins left in this group!

Basic Info

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Contact Info

Email:

garytrotter@btconnect.com

Website:

<http://www.freetarik.org.uk>

Recent News

News:

Greetings Greetings Greetings to all of you.

I am not sure if I know all of you, but I am sure that I have a lot of brothers and sisters around the world especially in UK.

It is easy to fight gun by gun, bomb by bomb, and violence by violence, need no mind and no strategy, but the big brother Gary and his assistant Anthony lead a war out of the rules of the classic wars.

All of you fought by the peaceful against the violence and you won, the humanity won and brotherhood won.

All of you HEROS, all of you greats, all of you Gary but with deference names, and same kind and faithful heart.

Yours truly,

Tarik Ramadan

ALL WARS ARE CIVIL WARS, BECAUSE ALL MEN ARE BROTHERS

I have just spoken to Tarik at approx 8.45 am UK time.

>He is free.

>He was so excited I couldn't understand everything but he asked me to thank

>every one who has helped this day finally arrive .

>

>Thank you so much .

>

>Tarik & Gary.

>

>

>I'll send update later.

>

>Best wishes.
>Gary Trotter

Hi Mr. Gary

My father was very tired and sick. They tied nutritive in his arm. He was waiting for a doctor to see him as they called a doctor to check my father this morning. They would take him to the hospital, if needed.

He started eating after they told him that he is going to be released soon yesterday. Additions to that we strongly encouraged to eat very well these two days. His spirits came very up, we told him that he will be released in these two days and we need him come out very healthy, he said I will eat and drink every possible thing right now.

He note considered a prisoner any more; he was free inside the building. I will go to pick him up after tomorrow.

Why you don't try to come here tomorrow???? It will be GREAT. TO PICK MY FATHER TOGETHER!!!!

Sorry some times I can't answer the phone in public when I out home, its dangerous to speak English in the street.

Best wishes & regards,
Ziyad

MY DEAREST FRIEND & NEPHEW ZIYAD,

I RECEIVED A CALL FROM SARAH IN ANN CLWYD'S OFFICE.

PRESIDENT TALABANI HAS ORDERED THAT TARIK MUST BE SET FREE !

You must call Saif Adeen of the Asayesh right away to arrange to collect your father from prison and bring him home.

His telephone number is 07301176767.

Call me or e mail when you have spoken to him and let me know what is happening.

Also please send a short message to confirm you have received this e mail OK.

I am so happy I am crying.*

Gary

I have just spoken with Ziyad. He said he called Saif Adeen The Head of the Asaish Security Service in Sulaymaniyah.

Saif Adeen confirmed that President Talabani has ordered him to release Tarik.

"He said I can consider my father a free man.

I am meeting Saif Adeen in his office at 10am tomorrow morning.

I do not know if my father will be there, but I do not think this man will do any more hurt to my father.

He sounded like he is afraid from us now."

After Ziyad got my messages other family members came to their house when they heard the news.

After about 2 hours I hadn't heard anything and then I got an email from Ziyad. Older male relatives had told him not to call Saif Adeen because.....

" My uncle afraid to call Saif Adeen, as he says we haven't met him before and never spoke to him,
so he will not accept our call addition to that Said Adeen has bad relationship with my father."

I wanted you all to understand that Tarik's family live in such fear everyday that even when they are
told that they are free they are too afraid of these people to call them on the phone to claim it.

That these are the people you have been standing up to.

And what you have done. Peacefully.

I will not be able to relax until I get confirmation that Tarik has actually been released.
But I will send out an update as soon as I hear anything.

But I fully expect that tonight should be the last night he spends in prison.

I looks like we've won.

I'm so proud of every one of you.

"He sounded like he is afraid from us now."

Good.

Result !

Thanks.

Gary

"We are advertis'd by our loving friends." William Shakespeare

"It's the friends you can call up at four a.m. that matter." Marlene Dietrich

* Just a bit I ain't soft or nothing alright.

>Hi.

>

> A short film dedicated to Tarik Ramadan is now available to view on You
>Tube.

>

>Log on to <http://www.youtube.com/> and enter The Flight of Reason Ramadan in
>the search box.

>

>

>³The Flight of Reason² is a short film I made for the Conflict & Resolution

>Exhibition programme at the Earagail Arts Festival in Ireland in 2006.

>

>Last year I was invited as Director of Images Sans Frontieres Photo Agency

>(ISF) to put together an exhibition which focused on the different issues

>that are common in Civil Wars.

>

>³The Flight of Reason ³ an exhibition of photographic prints and this film

>was and is dedicated to my friend Tarik Ramadan and the many people who are

>campaigning for his release from illegal detention in Northern Iraq..

>

>All the photographs in the film& exhibition were taken by myself or fellow

>ISF photographers * to whom I would like to express my thanks & gratitude.

>

>I will not ask that you ³enjoy² this film, but I would ask that you watch

>it.

>

> Thank you.

>

>Gary Trotter.
>
>³The war photographer's most fervent wish is for unemployment."
>
>Robert Capa. The War Photographer who was killed at about 3.00 p.m. May
>25, 1954 when he stepped on a land mine while accompanying French troops in
>Vietnam
>
>
>
>Best wishes.
>Gary Trotter.
>Tel. (+44) 01628 542554 begin_of_the_skype_highlighting (+44) 01628 542554
end_of_the_skype_highlighting Office.
>(+44) 07836 644575 begin_of_the_skype_highlighting (+44) 07836 644575 end_of_the_skype_highlighting
Mobile.
>garytrotter@btconnect.com
>
><http://www.freetarik.org.uk/>
>
>* Except the pictures of the Armenian Genocide of 1914-1918.
Hi everyone.

Where to start ?

Top Priority is to get someone to visit Tarik in prison so we can get an "eyes on" confirmation that he is alive, what condition he is in, & try to persuade him to halt his hunger strike if he is still on it. Also we need to get a doctor/ medic to examine him, administer any treatment he might need. It's a hard enough to see a doc at short notice in the UK so I don't expect this to be easy. I have already contacted friends at Mines Advisory Group (MAG) who have a mine clearance operation based in Sulaymaniyah to see if they can either arrange for a doc or send a MAG medic to see Tarik.

If any of you know any NGO's, Aid Groups, Military, Business types or whatever that have a presence on the ground in Northern Iraq who might be able to offer similar help let me know. They don't have to be a "medical" organisation, but english speaking would help. Even if it is just an individual who can locate a local doc that would be useful... I'm open to any ideas that will solve this problem.

As I have already said the response to the MAYDAY I put out was great. Ann Clwyd is going to Cambodia on Sunday but I will get in contact with her office on Monday & see if there have been any developments and what actions they have taken.

The report about Tarik on EPUK can be viewed at <http://www.epuk.org/News-snippets/730/free-tarik-ramadan-campaign>
And they have also added Tarik to their missing in action section. <http://www.epuk.org/>
(This rotates between 3 guys who are missing if Tarik is not visible when you logon hit the refresh button once or twice if needed.)

Legal Representation in Iraq for Tarik.

This has been a big problem. Under Iraqi law Tarik is entitled to have non -Iraqi lawyers representing him as long as he also has an Iraqi lawyer as well. When I was in Sulaymaniyah last year I met with several lawyers but non were willing to represent Tarik, Ziyad has also been trying to find someone but with no success Putting it simply No Iraqi Kurd lawyer will take Tariks case because he is an Iraqi Turkoman, they fear they would be seen as traitors by their fellow Kurds, they would be vilified by the local media which is not exactly what you'd describe as a free press, and would very likely be subjected to "reprisals" and possibly murdered. They are also scared of being targeted by the Asaish (Asayesh)Kurdish Security service who are holding Tarik. "Community Policing" has a whole different meaning there. As far as I could establish all the lawers in Sulaymaniyah are Kurdish.

Non Kurdish Iraqi Lawyers so Ziyad informs me are also unwilling to represent Tarik because they are certain they will face reprisals and would very likely be murdered. They are even more scared of the Asayesh.

Though Iraqi law requires the state to supply Tarik with legal counsel if he cannot do so himself they have simply ignored that as they have done with whole chunks of the law and their own constitution.

We need to break this " Catch 22" situation.

I have already contacted some Human Rights groups who may be able to help but if anyone knows of an organisation or individual who would be able to help solve this let me know.

I think I'm right in saying that as long as the lawyer is an Iraqi national he/she doesn't necessarily have to live in Iraq to qualify. Kate Mulkerrins a lawyer based in Ireland has been great and has been handling the legal aspect of things for months but she has her hands more than full right now.

So if anyone knows an Iraqi lawyer who might help, in Iraq or elsewhere , or any suitable person prepared to give us assistance I'll be more than happy to hear from them.

Researchers.

Reading the messages that you sent to Ann yesterday it struck me that they were really eloquent and obviously written by well informed people with an in depth knowledge of the issues & situation. That scares the crap out of politicians

Don't get me wrong, I never doubted it, but I realised that between us we must have a considerable knowledge resource that could be used more, but I don't know what skills or resources everybody has or would be willing to offer.

For example it would be really useful if someone could research & put together a list of all NGO's on the ground in Iraq, or the various Human Rights Groups who would be useful, or which Organisations might be able to solve out Iraqi Lawyer problem & Advocacy support.

If anyone has that sort of knowledge or is prepared to spend time just researching stuff on the internet and compiling lists and contact details that would be a great help.

I've already done quite a lot on this but if anyone is prepared to take it on, great.

What we can do next. The Bad Guys...

Our argument has never been with the Kurdish people, only with the Kurdish Authorities and the individual That might seem obvious but ethnic tensions lie at the heart of the real reasons Tarik has been locked up for almost 3 years.

Over the weekend I will put together a "Who's Who " of the main authority figures responsible. Names addresses & contact details & Photos, with a bit of info on each so we can start contacting them directly to protest at Tarik's illegal detention.

Let's shake them up a bit, let them know that we know who they are and that they will be held accountable.

Demonstrations.

Planning is under way for some peaceful demonstrations to be held at several relevant locations in the UK. The first will be in London.

The National Union of Journalists London Branch are backing the Free Tarik Campaign and will be helping to organise this.

If anyone is prepared to help organise other demonstrations outside UK let me know.

Again great care will be taken to ensure that any demonstrations will be peaceful.

We have the moral high ground, and we have no wish to become like those we are fighting against.

Again I am not implying that any of you are jobs, just the opposite.

I want to encourage any of you who can to come along if possible.

The first demonstration is likely to be sometime in the 2nd week of November.

I'll let you know the details once they been arranged.

Highlighting Tarik in the media.

Home ground at last!

Apart from the fact that lots of us are the media.

The possibility of getting some TV stations/programmes to do an "in depth " programme about Tarik and the whole issue of Human Right abuse by the Kurdish authorities in Northern Iraq is already being discussed.

I think you'll agree that's more than enough for now.

This message just arrived from Ziyad to all of you.

Hi Mr. Gary

There isn't any news so far.
That is very exciting to see these people around us and supporting us, the thanks to you.
I would like to say THANK YOU VERY MUCH from our hearts to all of them.
I checking the website continually to see the visitors counter and the last updates, it is fantastic.
Please send me any more news as soon as possible.

Best wishes & thank you so much,
Ziyad

Thanks again for all your help.

Urgent Request to all of you who have offered support for Tarik.

I got a message last night from Tarik's son Ziyad (see below) that Tarik has been on hunger strike since the 8th October.

I have already contacted the ICRC & Iraqi Red Crescent Society to request their help.

Please could you send an e mail to Ann Clwyd MP the Special Envoy to the Prime Minister on Human Rights in Iraq. at clwyda@parliament.uk

Ann has already had discussions with a number of people from the Iraqi & Kurdish Regional Government about Tarik.

She is having another meeting soon with Shanaz Rashid UK representative of the PUK & sister of Iraqi President Jalal Talabani .

Ann & her staff have been helpful and seem to be genuinely concerned.

If you could send her a polite message to let her know you are aware of Tarik & his situation and encourage her to do all she can to help him, that would be a great help, even if it is just a few lines.

If she knows that a lot of people are keeping tabs on Tarik & how he is being treated the more likely she is to act urgently.

Thanks a lot.

I'll keep you updated

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/06/14/AR2005061401828.html>

The following is a letter that Gary Trotter recieved from Tarik's oldest son Ziyad. It does not paint a pretty picture and that is why we must act ASAP.

Hi Mr. Gary

I visited my father today, and I found him going on a hunger strike once again, since 08 Oct.

My uncle and I tried to make him to retreated of his decision, but he was constant on his decision.

They are trying to torture psychologically, nobody of them is explaining for him or for us, the situation that my father is in, and when he will see the light in dark tunnel?
Even when he is asking them, he gets no answers (just a smile "everything will be ok"). This way of the torture, has been taken by Saddam's regime in the past.

It is going to be 3 years of freezing, for the past 3 years they were moving just their mouth, some times for disturbing, and some times for claming down, but they didn't move their hands to give us an officially paper at all.

He says "I'm not gave up or scared; on the contrary I'm brave as you know me, therefore I'm striving beside you for the sake of my freeness, and if I die I want to be entombed in UK, and my casket covered with UK flag, far-off of this hell that every faithful and smart person that believes in democracy and in human freedom and rights in the life, is neglected person, contrary to the UK".

I want to contact ICRC & HRW, for quick intervene, maybe I could reach his friends (Patrick & Nicolas) at the ICRC, for supporting him with any urgent possible help, and try to convince him to start eating again.

As you know he has been going on hunger strike for several times before, and there was a good Asaish friend of my father that was taking a good care of him, also he made him stop his hunger strike during our absence before. But they moved him to somewhere else, which it is worrying to be my father without a friend affecting on him to stop his hunger strike.

My father sent to you his hottest regards & hug, and he says "you great man my brother Gary".

Best regards & wishes,

Ziyad

I am sorry to have to tell you that Tarik has not been released from prison.

Back in August Shanaz Rashid (aka Shaz Ibrahim Ahmed) the UK representative in the UK (and sister of Iraqi President & PUK Leader Jalal Talabani) told Ann Clwyd M.P. (Special Envoy to the Prime Minister on Human Rights in Iraq) that Tarik was likely to be released very soon. It has become apparent that this was a lie.

This has been a huge disappointment to Tarik & his family after their hopes were falsely raised so cruelly.

I have continued to liaise with Ann Clwyd & her staff. Ann is due to meet Shanaz Rashid again in the next week or so to discuss Tarik's case.

I have been trying to ascertain what is actually going on, and frankly the more I look into it the more sinister the situation becomes.

Human Right Watch released a report at the end of July called

Caught in the Whirlwind .Torture and Denial of Due Process by the Kurdistan Security Forces.

You can view it or download it at

<http://hrw.org/reports/2007/kurdistan0707/kurdistan0707webwcover.pdf>

Here are a few extracts from the report.

They tied my hands and hit me with cables, sticks, and threw punches at me. It was two people. I do not know their names. I lost consciousness and woke up in solitary. I was later given a paper and a pen by the officer and told to write my confession. The officer told me 'make it up if you need to,' so I did, and I put my fingerprint on it."
-Kurdish detainee during interview with Human Rights Watch, , May 6, 2006

Security forces known as Asayish operate in the Kurdistan region of Iraq, attached to the two dominant political parties in the region, and outside the control of the regional government's Ministry of Interior. The Asayish have held hundreds of detainees, particularly those arrested on suspicion of terrorism-related offenses, without due process, for up to five years in some cases. Detainees have reported that torture or other ill-treatment during the initial period of detention were routine and commonplace in facilities under Asayish authority.

Human Rights Watch found that in the vast majority of Asayish detainee cases the Kurdistan authorities did not charge detainees with offenses, allow them access to a lawyer, bring them before an investigative judge, provide a mechanism by which they could appeal their detentions, or bring them to trial within a reasonable time period.

Detainees reported a wide range of abuse, including beatings using implements such as cables, hosepipes, wooden sticks, and metal rods. Detainees also described how Asayish agents put them in stress positions for prolonged periods, and kept them blindfolded and handcuffed continuously for several days at a stretch.

This report has been a huge embarrassment for the Kurdish Regional Government and President Talabani .
I believe it's publication may have prompted the false statement that Tarik was going to be released.

The Kurdish region has been hailed by many as an example of success in attempting to bring democracy and the rule of law to Iraq.
It has become undeniable that this is a lie.
The conduct of the Kurdish Regional Government and the Asayesh Security service is depressingly reminiscent of that of Saddam Hussein's Ba'athist regime.
Or to put it simply " Meet the new boss, same as the old boss".

There is some good news. I recently spoke about Tarik at a meeting of the The National Union of Journalists in London and asked for their help.
The NUJ members voted unanimously to give Tarik and the campaign to free him their support.
With their backing I am in the process of organising some demonstrations in the near future.
I am looking into several possibilities to make Tarik's plight much higher profile, including a TV investigative documentary.

I am also making preparations for filing charges against members of the Kurdish Regional Government, the Asayesh and the Iraqi Federal Government in an international court of Human Rights.

The Free Tarik website is in the process of being updated so it is worth checking that.
<http://www.freetarik.org.uk/>

I am more determined than ever to continue to fight for justice for Tarik.

Once again I thank you for your support & I will keep you updated with any developments.

Best wishes.
Gary Trotter.

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