

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 29, 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500-0005

Dear Mr. President:

Today, I am writing to request you do all in your power to bring Majd Kamalmaz safely home from Syria. Mr. Kamalmaz is an American being unjustly held by the government of Syrian dictator, Bashar al-Assad.

As I understand, the Kamalmaz family wrote you in October 2018. From their letter you have been made aware that Mr. Kamalmaz was detained by Syrian police in February 2017 while visiting the country for the funeral of his father-in-law and to see other relatives. Mr. Kamalmaz has been held in Syria for nearly two years, but his family has not heard from him directly or received one update on his status since he was arrested. The Assad government has an alarming history of unjustly detaining Americans, including Austin Tice, a freelance journalist arrested in 2012, and Layla Shweikani, a pro-Democracy worker who was executed in December 2016, ten months after her arrest and following a sham trial that lasted minutes. And these three individuals are just those that we publicly know about. Your leadership to ensure the safe return of Mr. Kamalmaz is needed now more than ever.

Since coming into office, you have had exceptional success of gaining the release of Americans being held as prisoners by foreign governments. This includes gaining the release of Americans being detained in North Korea, where, like Syria, the United States does not have official diplomatic relations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please let me know if there is anything the Congress can do to assist your efforts. I look forward to working with you in ensuring Mr. Kamalmaz's swift and safe return home.

Sincerely,



French Hill
Member of Congress