

National
Religious
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Christian
Communicators
Impacting
the World



January 30, 2013

The Honorable John Kerry
218 Russell Bldg.
Second Floor
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Secretary Kerry,

As president of the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB), I write to respectfully request your intervention on behalf of Pastor Saeed Abedini, an American citizen who has been imprisoned and persecuted in Iran for his Christian faith.

NRB is an ardent advocate of religious liberty for all people domestically and abroad. We have followed with great concern the situation of Pastor Saeed. Arrested in September, he has been forced to suffer in one of Iran's most notorious prisons, being subject to severe interrogations, periods of solitary confinement, and physical assault. Pastor Saeed now faces eight more years of such terrors after being unjustly sentenced by Judge Pir-Abassi, known infamously as a "hanging judge" in international law circles. We find it unconscionable that the Iranian government would violate its own law and international covenants by treating any individual, never mind an American citizen, with such enmity and abuse because of his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

NRB respectfully asks that the U.S. State Department work for the immediate release of Pastor Saeed Abedini and his safe passage back home to the United States. We are grateful for your commitment to the promotion of the free exercise of religion for members of all faiths in Iran and elsewhere globally.

Thank you for time and your leadership of the U.S. Department of State.

Sincerely,

Frank Wright, Ph.D.
President & CEO