

May 15, 2015

## **Senate Calls on Iran to Release Detained Americans**

On May 11, the Senate unanimously passed a resolution calling on Iranian officials to release three American citizens currently detained in Iran. Passed 90-0, the non-binding measure advises the Obama administration to utilize all available resources to locate and secure the return of American detainees including Pastor Saeed Abedini, Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian and former U.S. Marine Amir Hekmati. On the Senate floor, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) discussed how Abedini has been jailed for more than two years for the “supposed crime of building and operating an orphanage.” “Beaten, denied access to medical care, and locked away in solitary confinement—that’s apparently how the Iranian regime deals with those who dare to show love and compassion to others,” McConnell said. Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD), the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, urged the Iranian government “to do the right thing...and immediately release these citizens and send them home to their families and communities as soon as possible.”