

# Wife of Imprisoned Pastor Abedini: US Has 'Abandoned' Him

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By Bill Hoffmann

*A note from Pastor Kevin Lea follows this article.*

The wife of an Iranian-American pastor jailed in Iran is devastated that Democrats have abandoned a resolution demanding more sanctions against Iran as well as the release of her husband.

"The government has abandoned my husband and me and the kids," Naghmen Abedini told "The Steve Malzberg Show" on Newsmax TV. "I had hoped ... our government would put this in the center stage and would not marginalize it."

Pastor Saeed Abedini has been imprisoned in Iran since the summer of 2012 on charges of endangering national security through his Christian evangelical activities — charges he denies. His supporters say he was in Iran working to build an orphanage with permission of the Iranian government.

On Thursday, House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer withdrew his support for the resolution at the last minute at the request of the Obama administration. Hoyer was pushing a non-binding House resolution calling on the Islamic nation to allow no-notice inspections of suspect nuclear sites, access to top scientists and the freeing of U.S. citizens "held unjustly."

But the White House put the kibosh on it, citing Secretary of State John Kerry's attempts to hammer out a deal to end Iran's nuclear research program.

"I'm very disappointed. This issue should cross political barriers and I would expect my government, including the Democrats, which also represent my government, they would not abandon their citizens at the time, at a crucial time, and it's heartbreaking," Abedini said. "I know there [are] other issues that I'm not an expert to speak on, but it's heartbreaking that it's becoming a political issue."

Abedini said Iran, by its own admission, has never officially stated her husband broke any law.

"So Iran's actually holding him illegally for 444 days and silence from our government is actually approval ... Silence, knowing that an American citizen's being held simply because of his Christian faith, he has not broken any of the Iranian law, is just not acceptable," she said. "It's something we should be very passionate about because we would expect our government to protect our fundamental rights ... We're sending a very dangerous message. I don't understand, I honestly do not understand."

Saeed Abedini was granted U.S. citizenship in 2010 and had been living with his wife in Boise, Idaho, before the trip to Iran during which he was seized. Last month, he was moved from Evin Prison to the more dangerous...

*To read this article in its entirety, go to:*

<http://www.newsmax.com/NewsmaxTv/saeed-abedini-iran-government-abandoned/2013/12/12/id/541540>

***Note from Pastor Kevin Lea:*** *It should not surprise us that Obama, with his obvious Islamic affections (most likely coming from his Islamic upbringing) would not be at all interested in seeing a former Muslim, now Christian, released from the Iranian jail. Allowing a Muslim apostate to be freed is a violation of the Koran:*

*Sura 4:137-138 Surely (as for) those who believe then disbelieve, again believe and again disbelieve, then increase in disbelief, Allah will not forgive them nor guide them in the (right) path. Announce to the hypocrites that they shall have a painful chastisement: **[the worst prison in Iran seems to fit the bill]***

*Sura 4:167-169 Surely (as for) those who disbelieve and hinder (men) from Allah's way, they indeed have strayed off into a remote. Surely (as for) those who disbelieve and act unjustly Allah will not forgive them nor guide them to a path. Except the path of hell, to abide in it forever and this is easy to Allah.*

*There are consequences for allowing a Muslim sympathizing man to usurp the role of POTUS.*

*But we can rejoice that the Lord Jesus can get Saeed released without any assistance from our government, should God's will choose to do so (Acts 12).*

*In the meantime, let's pray for Saeed, that God will give him the strength to be a witness of the love of God to a people who serve the god of death and hatred.*

*And let's pray for his family who are being let down by this fallen government, that they can take comfort that Jesus will never leave or forsake them (Hebrews 13:5).*

*Even if Saeed should pay the ultimate price and die in an Islamic prison, we can rejoice that we will see him again in heaven where all the suffering and tears are wiped away.*