



Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe

Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe (born 26 December 1978) is an Iranian-British dual citizen who was detained in Iran from 03 April 2016 to 16 March 2022. In early September 2016, she was sentenced to five years in prison after being found guilty of 'plotting to topple the Iranian government'. She was temporarily released on 17 March 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic in Iran, while being monitored.

The prosecutor general of Tehran stated in October 2017 that **Zaghari-Ratcliffe** was being held for running 'a BBC Persian online journalism course which was aimed at recruiting and training people to spread propaganda against Iran'. **Zaghari-Ratcliffe** has always denied the spying charges against her, and her husband maintains that his wife 'was imprisoned as leverage for a debt owed by the UK over its failure to deliver tanks to Iran in 1979.'

On 07 March 2021, her original sentence ended, but she was scheduled to face a second set of charges on 14 March. On 26 April, she was found guilty of propaganda activities against the government and sentenced to one year in prison. On 16 October 2021, her appeal was rejected by the Iranian court. **Zaghari-Ratcliffe** was released on 16 March 2022 and returned to the United Kingdom the next day.

Recently, **Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe** has spoken publicly for the first time since she returned to the UK after being detained in Iran for six years.

Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe praised her "amazing, wonderful husband" for his "tireless campaigning for me" but Richard Ratcliffe used the press conference to reiterate that he was "retiring" from this.

She also thanked her young daughter Gabriella, who has been "very, very patient with Mummy".

Mr Ratcliffe said the family planned to "disappear off and heal a bit" after the news conference.



Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe called for an end to the detention of other dual nationals still held in Iran, saying without their release "the meaning of freedom is never going to be complete".

She said she understands how the family of Morad Tahbaz are feeling right now: "He was left behind, so I fully understand what he's going through at the moment because it is disappointing. He should have been on the same flight as us," she added.

British-born Mr Tahbaz – was released ‘on furlough’ from prison that same day, but was soon returned. There is currently no news of his release. The British-American is among a group of Wildlife conservationists in Iran who were accused of espionage after using cameras to track endangered species.



Although she declined to answer the majority of political questions, **Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe** said: "I don't think anybody's life should be linked to a global kind of agreement, whatever that is, whether it's nuclear, whether it's environment or whatever. Every human being has got the right to be free."

Referencing the historic £400m debt, she continued: "And what really upset me all this year is my life was linked to something which has got nothing to do with me."