

Dear Tom,

It is so wonderful to hear from you and my apologies for the delayed response.

My father's medical furlough is up for renewal (expired last week) as for some reason it was only a 2 month leave this time. The government's medical board convened last Wednesday to opine on the leave and we have not yet hear back anything. Given that my father's health continues to decline (he was very recently diagnosed with epilepsy) i can't imagine any other result except a renewal but we are always fearful and stressed out.

I do take comfort that my dad is out least not in prison but as you surmised he is far from being free. We all continue to worry about the continued unjust detention of my brother Siamak and that of my dad. I also continue my advocacy with the USG and the Hill and as you saw I was just in DC in mid November. It is unbelievable to all of us that we are still where we are three years in....

There was a small gathering of my relatives for my dad's birthday. It was a relief for me not to have to wish my dad a happy birthday through a Facebook message but actually talk to him. Yet he is getting older and i haven't seen him or my brother for three years now. But we continue and will not stop until this horrific nightmare ends.

I have passed on your wishes to my dad who no matter how he feels, anytime he hears from his UNICEF colleagues a huge smile comes on his face...

Thank you Tom and the rest of the beloved UNICEF colleagues who have remained by our side from day one and i know will continue to do so until this horror ends.

I wish you and your family a happy and healthy 2019 and also wish that this will be the year that my family will be reunited together out of Iran.

Warmly,

Babak