

Chinese-American student freed from prisoner swap after three years in Iranian prison

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Highlight: Smiling in Switzerland, Xiyue Wang is finally free after more than three years locked up in this prison in Tehran. In 2016, the Princeton graduate student was conducting research in Iran when he was arrested and sentenced to ten years behind bars.

Body

REENA NINAN: A Chinese-American grad student imprisoned in Iran for more than three years is free tonight. In a rare diplomatic breakthrough, the U.S. and Iran exchanged prisoners in Switzerland. President Trump boasted about the swap tweeting, "Taken during the Obama administration, returned during the Trump administration." Here's Roxana Saberi.

(Begin VT)

ROXANA SABERI: Smiling in Switzerland, Xiyue Wang is finally free after more than three years locked up in this prison in Tehran. In 2016, the Princeton graduate student was conducting research in Iran when he was arrested and sentenced to ten years behind bars.

XIYUE WANG (TW): The more knowledge the United States possess--

ROXANA SABERI: His captors filmed him in captivity and accused him of spying for the U.S., a charge his wife denied in August when she sat down with CBS News' Margaret Brennan.

HUA QU: My husband is innocent man.

ROXANA SABERI: Today, she said in a statement, our family is complete once again. Also in Switzerland today, the U.S. freed an Iranian scientist, Masoud Soleimani, arrested in Chicago last year. The stem cell expert was accused of violating U.S. sanctions on Iran, an allegation he denied.

WOMAN: Very emotional moments for his family right now.

ROXANA SABERI: President Trump described the release of the two men as a hostage swap and hinted it might lead to more cooperation.

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PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: Actually, I think it was a great thing for Iran. I think it was great to show that we can do something.

ROXANA SABERI: The Trump administration is also insisting that Iran release other Americans, including Siamak and Baquer Namazi, Michael White and Robert Levinson. Now their families are hoping for a happy ending, too.

Roxana Saberi, CBS News, London.

(End VT)

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