

## Iran announces release of German prisoner exchange

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### Body

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Iran announced Tuesday that it released a German sentenced to three years in prison, in exchange for the release of an Iranian arrested in Germany and accused by the United States of having violated U.S. sanctions.

"Sunday (...) the Iranian citizen left Germany and arrived in Iran and on Monday (...) we released the German," said Gholamhossein Esmaili, a spokesman for the judicial authority, at a press conference.

According to the official, the German whose name he has not transcended, was arrested "for some time" for "taking photos and videos" in unauthorised areas and serving a three-year sentence.

The German was exchanged for Iranian Ahmad Khalili, who, according to the Foreign Ministry, was being held in Germany under the "pretext of violating the illegal and cruel sanctions of the United States."

Khalili returned to Iran along with Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, who last week participated in a security conference in Munich, the chancellor's spokesman Abbas Mousavi explained in a statement.

In December, Iran announced its readiness to exchange prisoners with the United States after it secured the return of scientist Massoud Soleimani in exchange for Xiyue Wang, a Chinese-American, detained in the Islamic Republic.  
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