

'SLICK RICK' WALTERS FREED AFTER 17 MONTHS OF DETENTION

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Body

Rapper Ricky "**Slick Rick**" **Walters** was released from a Florida jail Friday, more than **17 months after** U.S. immigration officials moved to deport the British-born star. **Walters** said he was relieved to be **freed** and intended to head home to his wife and children in New York.

Walters' release was cleared a week ago by a federal judge, who ruled that the Board of Immigration Appeals should never have reversed its earlier decision that **Walters** could stay in the United States despite a criminal conviction for attempted murder.

The rapper, best known for his solo platinum album, "The Great Adventures of **Slick Rick**," was **detained** in June 2002 as he returned to Florida **after** a weeklong gig aboard a cruise ship. His detainment came amid the immigration crackdown **after** the Sept. 11 attacks.

As the **months** passed with 38-year-old **Walters** in jail south of Tampa, supporters including comedian Chris Rock, actor Will Smith, record mogul Russell Simmons and the Rev. Jesse Jackson spoke out about his case.

COLLABORATION OF NOTE: Ronald Isley singing "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head"? Burt Bacharach, who wrote the Oscar-winning song, couldn't imagine it at first, either. But now the rendition is on a new album on which Isley and Bacharach collaborated, called "Here I Am."

"When Ronny came up with the idea and said, 'I want to do this song,' I thought, 'Oh, please,' " the 74-year-old composer said. Eventually, "We just sat at the piano in my house. I played, Ronny sang. I had a tape running all the time."

The Isley Brothers' lead singer was wowed by working with Bacharach. "Listening to that record now, I still don't believe it. I'm like, 'We did that in one day?' " said Isley, 62.

QUEEN'S VIEWPOINT: Queen Noor of Jordan believes women are key to peace-building efforts in the Middle East. "Women are left to pick up the shattered pieces of society when a conflict is over," she told a crowd of about 2,000 people at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. "If peace is truly to take place in the Middle East, women must play a role."

EVERYBODY WILL KNOW HIS NAME: Ted Danson will put all those years of work behind the fake "Cheers" bar to use behind a real bar. Danson, who played Sam Malone in the hit comedy for 12 years, will be behind the bar and mingling with donors at the Museum of Northern Arizona in Tucson tonight. His father, Edward B. "Ned" Danson, became the director of the museum in 1959 when Ted was 12.

Notes

People in the News

Correction

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT (publ. 11/21/03, pg. 2A)

An item Nov. 8 in People about actor Ted Danson at the Museum of Northern Arizona gave an incorrect location for the museum. It is in Flagstaff.

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Graphic

Photos (5);

PHOTO: CHIP LITHERLAND -- SARASOTA (FLA.) HERALD-TRIBUNE

Ricky "**Slick Rick**" **Walters** talks with his wife **after** leaving the Department of Homeland Security jail in Bradenton, Fla.

PHOTO: Isley

PHOTO: Bacharach

PHOTO: Noor

PHOTO: Danson

Classification

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