

Journalist Dorothy Parvaz held in Iran; please keep story in the news, social media

Last Friday, I had the privilege of attending a retirement party for Bob Giles, curator of the Nieman Foundation at Harvard for 11 years. A good time was had by all—except for Dorothy Parvner of the class of 2009—who was unable to attend because she's being held against her will somewhere in Iran. The Boston Globe reports that the 39-year-old Al Jazeera reporter, who traveled to Syria two weeks ago to cover prodemocracy protests, was detained there, then deported to Iran and has not been heard from since.

Today, Bob sent the following request; I'm happy to oblige:



Dorothy Parvaz

Dear Members of the Nieman Community,

I'm writing once again to ask your assistance in publicizing the plight of Dorothy Parvaz, our Nieman colleague from the class of 2009. As mentioned in earlier messages, Dorothy was detained at the Damascus airport on April 29 while on assignment for Al Jazeera, and then deported to Iran on May 1. The Iranian government has not acknowledged that she is in the country.

As part of the global efforts now underway to win her freedom, I request that if you can, you publish an article about Dorothy or mention her on air; [post this photo of her](#) on your websites and Facebook pages; and reach out to other journalists and ask that they do the same. Many believe that keeping her story in the news will keep Dorothy safe and put pressure on Iran to release her.

The Nieman Foundation and many of our fellows are appealing for Dorothy's release, sharing information and seeking diplomatic access to Iranian officials who might know about her detention or who can intercede on her behalf.

A related story that appeared in The Boston Globe may be of interest: "[Colleagues recall missing journalist as relentless on job](#)"

Thank you for your continued support,
Bob Giles
Curator