

**Statement by the wife and children of Kassim Tajideen  
on the occasion of his return to Lebanon**

8 July 2020

The family of Kassim Tajideen welcomes his return to Beirut after a painful absence of over three years in prison in the United States.

His return was carried out following a humanitarian petition filed by his lawyers before the Federal Court in Washington, based on US law that permitted the compassionate release of older persons at risk of complications from Coronavirus, who served a significant percentage of their sentence, and who did not pose a threat to society.

We thank our distinguished team of lawyers for their professional work, in particular attorneys from Zuckerman Spaeder, and Presidential Professor Paul Cassell of the University of Utah, who presented arguments that resulted in the Court's order on May 27, 2020 to release Kassim Tajideen after a quarantine period of 14 days. We also thank the law office of Professor Chibli Mallat for their professional dedication and legal advice to our husband and father.

Since Kassim Tajideen is not an American citizen, his return to Beirut was complicated by his legal status and the current travel conditions. This delayed his return until a plane was provided to transport him and other Lebanese citizens from the United States to Lebanon. He arrived in Beirut this morning.

The family also thanks the US and Lebanese authorities for facilitating this return, and in Lebanon in particular the Director General of General Security, General Abbas Ibrahim.

We kindly ask the press to respect our privacy as a family, to refrain from indulging in speculation and conspiracy theories, and to depend professionally, first and foremost, on the abundant documents available through his long judicial trials, and on statements and explanations to be provided by Kassim Tajideen and the people whom he trusts to speak for him.