



Press Statement

Sean McCormack, Spokesman

Washington, DC

August 15, 2007

Travel Ban on Syrian Activist Riad Seif

We call on the [Syrian](#) Government to allow former Member of Parliament and prisoner of conscience Riad Seif to travel outside the country to receive urgent medical treatment. The Syrian Government prohibits hundreds of its own citizens, such as Mr. Seif, from leaving the country to see family members, pursue educational opportunities, seek desperately needed medical care, or other legitimate purposes. These citizens are denied freedom of movement simply because they have peacefully exercised the freedom to question the political system under which they live. We urge the Syrian Government to ensure that its domestic laws and practices are in keeping with its international human rights obligations, and to immediately and unconditionally lift the travel ban on Riad Seif and all other Syrians who are prevented from leaving their own country because they dare to call for political reform.

2007/695

Released on August 15, 2007

 [BACK TO TOP](#)

Published by the U.S. Department of State Website at <http://www.state.gov> maintained by the Bureau of Public Affairs.