

# Statement from National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice on the Release of Peter Theo Curtis

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August 24, 2014

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

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For two years, we have kept Peter Theo Curtis, a U.S. citizen held hostage in Syria, in our thoughts and prayers. Today, we join his family and loved ones in welcoming his freedom. Theo is now safe outside of Syria, and we expect he will be reunited with his family shortly.

Just as we celebrate Theo's freedom, we hold in our thoughts and prayers the Americans who remain in captivity in Syria. Notwithstanding today's welcome news, the events of the past week shocked the conscience of the world. As President Obama said, we have and will continue to use all of the tools at our disposal to see that the remaining American hostages are freed.

Today, the American people share in the joy and relief that Theo's family feels, and we look forward to his safe return home. We will continue to work tirelessly on behalf of all Americans who are held overseas so that they can be reunited with their families as well.

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