

By Kristin Butler

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The intimidating environment created by the baptism footage's release caused concerns on how best to approach a campaign for Said's release. Christian organizations and advocates debated on the best course of action. "The fear was that publicity could lead to harm against Christian believers and Christian work in Afghanistan," said Aidan Clay, International Christian Concern's Regional Manager for the Middle East. As a result, a quieter approach of behind-the-scenes diplomacy ensued.

"There were many factors involved," said Paul Marshall of the Hudson Institute, "The US Embassy in Kabul, as well as the **US Commission for International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)** did diligent work on the case. There were good NGOs on the ground who could work with the family."