

Jason Rezaian

2023 Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medalist in Citizen Leadership

Jason Rezaian is an award-winning writer and journalist for *The Washington Post*. A first generation American of Iranian origin, Rezaian became The Post's Tehran bureau chief in 2012. In 2014, he was arrested on unsubstantiated charges of espionage.

Freed after 544 days of imprisonment, Rezaian has since used his platform to fight for the freedom and the liberty of others, championing the stories of other journalists imprisoned for doing their jobs and fellow Americans held hostage abroad solely because of their citizenship. His reporting continues to elevate the stories both of Iranians and those around the globe.



(<https://monticello-www.s3.amazonaws.com/files/resources/jason-rezaian-headshot.jpg>).

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*On the anniversary of Thomas Jefferson's birthday, April 13 (known locally as Founder's Day), the University of Virginia and the **Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello** (<https://www.monticello.org/>) join together to present the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medals to recognize achievements of those who embrace endeavors in which Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence and third U.S. president, excelled and held in high regard. These medals are the highest external honors bestowed by the University of Virginia, which grants no honorary degrees. For information on Founder's Day, the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medals and the 2023 recipients, [click here](https://www.monticello.org/foundersday) (<https://www.monticello.org/foundersday>).*

Past Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Citizen Leadership Recipients » (<https://www.monticello.org/thomas-jefferson-foundation/thomas-jefferson-foundation-medals/citizen-leadership-medal-recipients/>).

Founder's Day and Jefferson's Birthday Celebration featuring Jason Rezaian



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