

Section 1732 of Title 22 of the U.S. Code, also known as Act July 27, 1868, 15th Statute 224 provides;

Whenever it is made known to the President that any citizen of the United States has been unjustly deprived of his liberty by or under the authority of any foreign government, it shall be the duty of the President forthwith to demand that government, the reason of such imprisonment.

And if it appears wrongful and in violation of the right of American citizenship, the President shall forth with demand release of such citizen.

And if the release so demanded is unreasonably delayed or refused, the President shall use such means, not amounting to acts of war and not otherwise prohibited by law, as he may think necessary and proper to obtain or effectuate the release. And all the facts, proceedings relative thereto shall, as soon as practical, be communicated by the President to Congress.