A\$AP Rocky's congressman urges US State Department to do more to get rapper released from Swedish jail Rapper, 30, has been detained since July 2 along with two other men

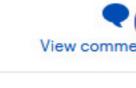
- He is being held pending investigation of a street brawl in Stockholm on June 30
- It's been claimed Rocky has been 'subject to inhuman conditions' in jail
- Swedish prosecutors must decide by Friday whether he will face charges

By RACHEL MCGRATH and LAUREN FRUEN FOR DAILYMAIL.COM PUBLISHED: 22:18 EDT, 17 July 2019 | UPDATED: 22:40 EDT, 17 July 2019









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on Wednesday. Rep. Adriano Espaillat, a Democrat who represents New York's 13th Congressional District, held a press conference on Capitol Hill to call on the US State Department

The fight to get ASAP Rocky released from a Swedish jail moved to Washington D.C.

and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to do more to secure the rapper's freedom as well as that of two others detained with him, Bladimir Corniel and David Rispers. The three men have been held since July 2 in connection with an investigation into a street fight that took place in Stockholm on June 30.



Espaillat's district includes ASAP Rocky's home neighborhood of Harlem and speaking to ABC News, he said he had visited the mother of the rapper - real name Rakim Mayers - on Sunday.

He expressed concern that the three Americans are being held in solitary confinement ahead of another scheduled court hearing on Friday.

'We are calling on Secretary Pompeo to do more,' Espaillat said at the press conference.

'It is unconscionable that young men that are doing well, they are on the right track in life, they're very successful, they're icons in the hip-hop community, are treated

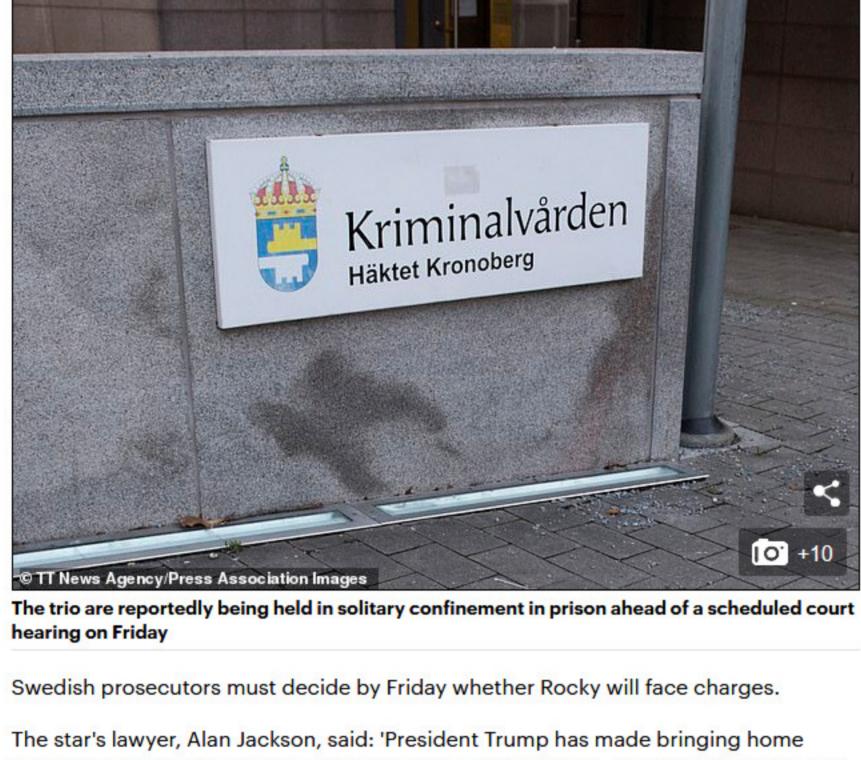
under these inhuman conditions.'

He also stated that he's been told that Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs Carl Risch is traveling to Sweden and will attend Friday's hearing. Joining Espaillat at the media event was Nikita Rispers, the mother of David Rispers,

and Congressional Black Caucus members Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, who chairs the House Democratic Caucus, Rep. André Carson (D-IN) and Congressional Hispanic

Caucus chairman Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX).



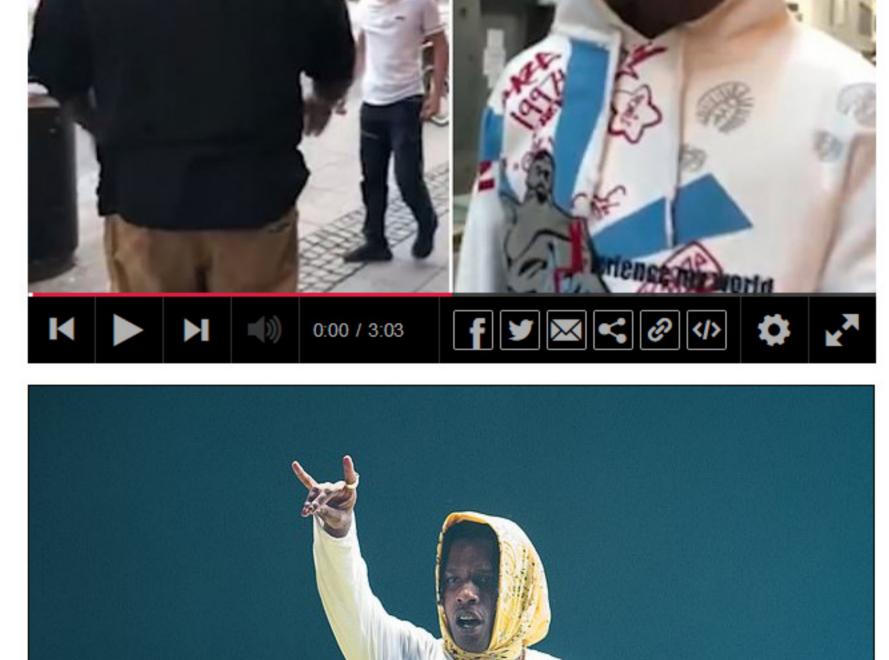


unjustly held Americans a top priority for his administration. The State Department's interest in the case gives us great hope for Rocky's situation.

'Secretary Pompeo and Ambassador O'Brien have been relentless in their diplomatic efforts on behalf of American citizens being held all over the world. Rocky's millions

of fans worldwide are putting their trust in the State Department to get Rocky home.' Rapper A\$AP Rocky's entourage gets into fight in Sweden

Watch the full video





Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is understood to have been briefed on the issue

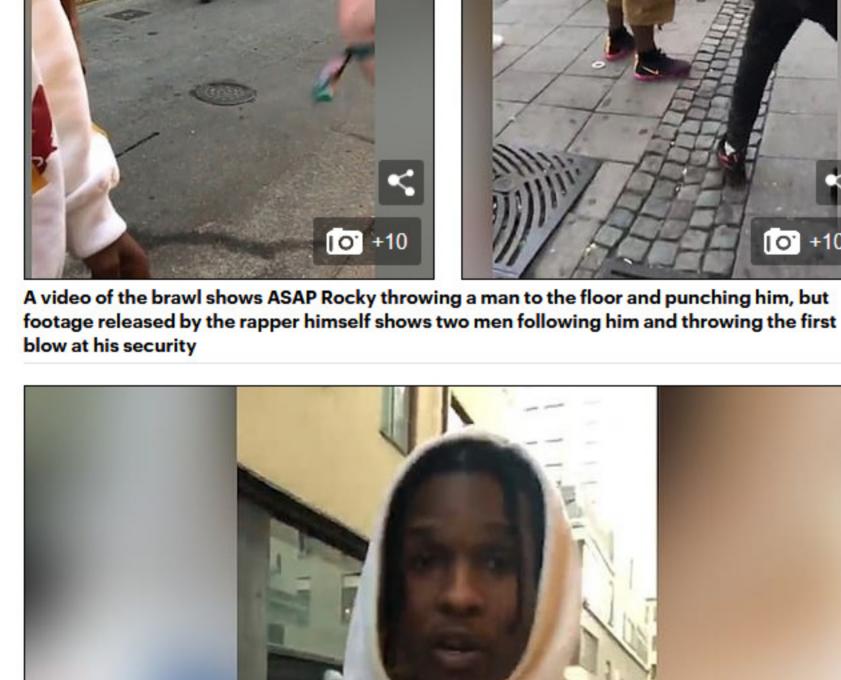
It comes after sources close to the star said he was forced to sleep on a yoga mat without blankets and was housed in a cell next to a man with mental health issues who bangs his head against the wall and throws faeces 'every which way'. Rocky, 30, survived on an apple a day during the first five days of his incarceration because food in the facility is inedible and the water is unclean, TMZ reported. It is understood he is now in a facility where the conditions are 'markedly better'. Officials from the US consulate, who should have been allowed to see Meyers

immediately after his arrest, were barred from seeing him for two days, sources with

The US consulate believes this is because guards did not want them to see

A meeting was eventually granted, but within earshot of Swedish guards.

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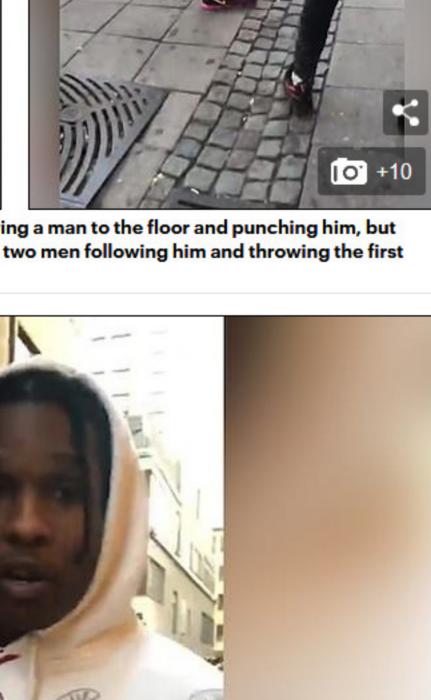


first, sparking the fight.

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direct knowledge of Rocky's situation said.

conditions inside the facility, the sources said.



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decide by Friday whether or not to file charges in the case Rocky was detained in Stockholm last week shortly after a gig in the city over video which shows him involved in a street brawl with two men on June 30.

The rapper turns to the camera to say 'we don't want problems'. Prosecutors in Sweden must

He claims that the men kept following him, provoked him and swung at his security

In his first court appearance a judge ordered him to be held for up to two weeks while police investigate. Another court order would then be needed if the police need more time to carry out

their investigation. Lawyers for the entertainer appealed the decision to the appeals court which upheld it, and then to the Supreme Court, which refused to hear the case.

country if released. The rapper, who is in the midst of a European tour, has already been forced to cancel shows in Norway, Poland, Ireland and Britain because of the arrest.

In their initial ruling, the judge said that Mayers is a flight risk and will likely leave the

Fans, as well as fellow musicians, have publicly urged Swedish authorities to release

Festival in London, a festival where ASAP Rocky was scheduled to perform. Others have taken to social media under hashtags like #FreeRocky or #FreeFlacko, which is another of ASAP Rocky's nicknames.

Rapper Travis Scott shouted 'Free Rocky' during his performance at the Wireless

State Dept. urges Sweden to treat arrested rapper ASAP Rocky fairly - POLITICO ASAP Rocky's congressman joins forces with congressional leaders to call for the rapper's release - ABC News

A\$AP Rocky Being Held in Inhumane Conditions in Swedish Jail

