

The Washington Post

August 02, 2017

The Trump administration needs to take the next step for Iran's hostages

Regarding the July 27 editorial "The hostages in Iran":

By: Representative Nina Lowey

The Trump administration must intensify and maintain pressure on Iran until every American hostage is released. Last week, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a bipartisan resolution I introduced with Reps. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.), Theodore E. Deutch (D-Fla.) and Ted Poe (R-Tex.) that urges President Trump to take meaningful action to secure the release of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents held hostage by Iran. Two of these prisoners, Siamak and Baquer Namazi, were constituents of mine when they last lived in the United States.

The strong bipartisan support for this resolution speaks to the gravity of the situation in Iran and the urgency it demands. An hour before the resolution passed, I once again met with Babak Namazi, the brother of Siamak and son of Baquer. At that very moment, Babak's brother and father were in Tehran's Evin prison, a true hell on Earth.

We will never know the pain Babak and his family feel, nor will we know the agony of Siamak and Baquer. But we took a small step on July 26 to act. Now the Trump administration must do everything in its power to take the next step.

The writer, a Democrat, represents New York's 17th District in the U.S. House.