

**STATEMENT FROM BABAK NAMAZI ON HIS BROTHER SIAMAK NAMAZI'S
2,500TH DAY OF WRONGFUL DETENTION IN IRAN**

August 16, 2022

Today marks my brother Siamak's 2,500th day in Iran's notorious Evin Prison. Each milestone that passes in this nightmare deepens a pain I did not believe could get any deeper, and this one feels particularly devastating for my family. I find it shocking that this ordeal has dragged on for 2,500 days. I appreciate the Biden administration's assurances that my brother's freedom is a top priority; however, this claim feels empty after nearly seven years of hearing it from three different U.S. administrations while my brother remains behind bars. Although Iran bears the blame for arbitrarily causing innocent people to suffer through its barbaric hostage diplomacy, the U.S. has an obligation to do everything it can to protect and support American hostages – a responsibility it has ultimately failed to uphold for both my brother and 85-year-old father, Baquer Namazi, who remains under an international travel ban.

With negotiations with Iran still mired in uncertainty, I am begging President Biden to engage directly on the issue of American hostages in Iran and to do whatever is necessary to secure their freedom immediately, regardless of the outcome of the nuclear talks. This opportunity must not be missed. My family is truly desperate. If negotiations conclude or collapse without bringing all the American hostages home, I am not sure that my ailing father, or even Siamak, will survive until the next opportunity to free them arises.