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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S.-IRAN CITIZEN BAQUER NAMAZI ON WAY TO MUSCAT, OMAN, AFTER 6.5 YEARS DETAINED BY IRAN

Washington – Baquer Namazi, 85-years-old, is on his way to Muscat, Oman, after more than 6.5 years of illegal detention in Iran. After a brief transit, he will travel on to Abu Dhabi and then undergo a carotid endarterectomy at the Cleveland Clinic to clear out a severe blockage to his left internal carotid artery (ICA), which puts him at very high risk for a stroke.

Namazi is the father of Siamak Namazi, 50-years-old, who remains detained in Iran, but is currently out of Evin Prison on a one-week renewable furlough.

On October 1, 2022, the Spokesman for UN Secretary-General António Guterres [announced](#) that “following his appeals to the President of Iran, our former colleague, Baquer Namazi, has been permitted to leave Iran for medical treatment abroad.” Just hours ago, the Government of Oman flew Baquer from Tehran to Muscat and will shortly fly him on to Abu Dhabi, where he is expected to undergo surgery. In response to today’s developments, Babak Namazi, Baquer’s son and Siamak’s brother remarked:



It is impossible to articulate and describe sufficiently how I am feeling. I am just so grateful that after so long, I will shortly be able to embrace my father again. In recent years, I thought this day would never happen. It is impossible to thank all those who helped make this happen. But I would like to start by thanking the Sultan and Sultanate of Oman for facilitating my father’s trip out of Iran as well as their ongoing support for my family, and the United Arab Emirates for generously hosting my father for his medical treatment in Abu Dhabi. In addition, I would like to thank UN Secretary-General Guterres who has worked for years to get my father out of Iran on a humanitarian basis. I also want to thank the Governments of Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Qatar, and, of course, the United States, which has worked on my family’s cases for years. I also owe a profound debt to my father’s former employer UNICEF and all its current and former employees that embraced us as a family, to global human rights groups, and to journalists, who have all helped me keep public attention on my family’s plight.

That said, while getting my father out of Iran is incredibly important, today is also bittersweet. My brother Siamak as well as Americans Emad Sharghi and Morad Tahbaz remain detained in Iran and our nightmare will not be over until our entire family the other Americans are reunited with their families. I urge the Governments of Iran and the United States to build on this humanitarian gesture by Iran to reach an agreement that will finally bring home all American

detainees in Iran, including my brother. I also request our supporters to join me in redoubling our efforts in getting Siamak and the other Americans home quickly.

Pro bono counsel to the Namazi family Jared Genser added:

Today is a good day for the Namazi family, but the work is far from over. We now need the United States and Iran to act expeditiously to reach an agreement that will finally bring all of the American hostages home.

Given Baquer Namazi will immediately go to the hospital upon his arrival in Abu Dhabi, neither he nor Babak Namazi will be available for media interviews.

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