

AMERICAN HOSTAGE BAQUER NAMAZI RUSHED TO HOSPITAL FROM IRAN'S EVIN PRISON FOR FOURTH TIME IN LAST YEAR

Washington – On Monday, Baquer Namazi, 81-years-old, was rushed to the hospital after a severe drop in his blood pressure, an irregular heartbeat, serious depletion of energy, and his coloring turning white. Namazi was initially sent to a hospital that did not have a cardiac care unit and where his cardiologist did not have practicing privileges. He was transferred back to Evin Prison on Monday night despite no diagnosis having been made and was only sent to an appropriate hospital late in the evening on Tuesday. Today he is resting comfortably and numerous tests are being run, but so far his cardiologist does not yet know what caused this situation to occur.

This is the fourth time in the last year that Namazi has had to be transferred outside of Evin Prison. In September 2017, after a five-day delay from when his physician urged his immediate hospitalization, Namazi underwent emergency heart surgery to install a pacemaker, without which he would have died.

Babak Namazi, Baquer's son commented:

"My father's health is deteriorating rapidly and that he and my family are running out of time. The conditions under which he has been held are exacerbating his frail health and he will not survive much longer. Over his detention since February 2016, has undergone relentless interrogations and has been held in terrible conditions, including having spent extended periods in solitary confinement. Like my brother Siamak Namazi, they have both been unjustly convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison each by an Iranian court. For my father, it is becoming more clear by the day that this will be a death sentence for him.

I beg the Iranian authorities to show mercy on humanitarian grounds and to at least release my father so he can be cared for his family in the few short years he has left. Nothing will be gained by his death in Iran's custody and too much has been lost already.

When my father and brother were convicted and Donald Trump was still a candidate for President, he tweeted out 'Well, Iran has done it again. Taken two of our people . . . This doesn't happen if I'm President.' It is approaching a full year now that this promise has been unfulfilled and my family desperately needs the President to redouble his efforts to bring Siamak and my Dad home."

Jared Genser, Founder of Freedom Now and international counsel to the Namazis added:

"Time is fast running out for Baquer Namazi. Not only do we need President Trump to personally engage on these cases, but we also need UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to again press Iranian President Hassan Rouhani that Baquer Namazi should be immediately released on humanitarian grounds."

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*Perseus Strategies represents the Namazis on a pro bono basis through the NGO Freedom Now.