

AMERICAN HOSTAGE BAQUER NAMAZI URGENTLY RUSHED AGAIN TO HOSPITAL WITH DANGEROUS IRREGULAR HEARTBEAT; SECOND INCIDENT SINCE RETURN TO EVIN PRISON

Washington - On Tuesday February 6, 2018, Baquer Namazi, 81-years-old, was abruptly returned to Evin Prison against the advice of his doctors and Iran's own medical examiner, who recommended an initial three month leave on medical parole.

Late last night, his heart rate had inexplicably doubled from its usual 60 to 120 beats per minute. He also had a severe depletion of energy and fluctuations of his blood pressure. He was immediately sent to the hospital from Evin Prison for the fifth time since his original arrest in 2016 and second time in past two weeks.

Baquer Namazi is currently in the cardiac unit, where he was after being hospitalized on January 14th, and doctors are trying to ascertain what is going on. His physician reiterated today again that the prison conditions are the major reason for his deteriorating health.

Previously, on Wednesday February 7th, in an incident that was not reported publicly, Namazi suffered a severe drop in blood pressure and depletion of energy that made it impossible for him to walk. He was taken by stretcher to Evin Prison's infirmary, where he was given IV fluids and medication.

"I don't know what needs to happen for the Iranian authorities to allow my father to stay out of prison and heed the advice of their own medical examiner panel," said Namazi's son Babak Namazi. "I beg the authorities to let him stay at home on parole on humanitarian grounds. It is obvious that if they do not, he could die at any time," he added.

The family's lawyer, Jared Genser, added "The Iranian authorities are directly responsible if anything happens to Baquer Namazi. He must be immediately released on medical parole. And Iran must act expeditiously to engage with the United States to find a resolution to all these wrongly imprisoned American cases, including Baquer's son Siamak Namazi, who also remains imprisoned."

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