

**AMERICAN CITIZEN BAQUER NAMAZI GRANTED FOUR DAY LEAVE FROM
IRAN'S NOTORIOUS EVIN PRISON**

Washington – In the last few hours, Baquer Namazi, 81-years-old, has been discharged from a hospital and granted a four-day leave by the Iranian Government until February 1, 2018. He cannot leave Iran and is prohibited from speaking to the media.

On January 15, 2018, Namazi was rushed to the hospital after a severe drop in his blood pressure, an irregular heart beat, serious depletion of energy, and his coloring turning white. It was the fourth time that Namazi had to be transferred to a hospital in the last year. 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.

Namazi's doctors have strongly advised against his return to Evin Prison saying that the prison conditions are "dangerous" for him and would rapidly exacerbate his ailing health. Babak Namazi, Baquer's son issued the following statement:

"While I am grateful the Iranian Government has granted a four day leave for my father, a return to prison would be life threatening for him. My father is in very poor health and has been hospitalized four times. I beg the Iranian authorities to show compassion and grant my father a permanent release so he can spend his remaining time with his family before we face an irreversible tragedy."

Jared Genser, international counsel to the Namazis added:

"We do not know why the Iranian Government has released Baquer Namazi for only four days. But what is clear is that returning him to Evin Prison would be a death sentence that would be carried out quickly. On humanitarian grounds his leave must be made permanent. And it is urgent that Siamak Namazi and the rest of the wrongfully imprisoned Americans also have their cases resolved."

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