

**STATEMENT FROM JARED GENSER, INTERNATIONAL COUNSEL TO SIAMAK AND BAQUER
NAMAZI, AMERICAN HOSTAGES IN IRAN**

October 26, 2021

At 7:30 am Tehran time today (Tuesday, October 26th), American-Iranian dual national Baquer Namazi underwent a carotid endarterectomy in Iran to clear the life-threatening blockage in one of the main arteries to his brain, which was discovered late last month. The surgery lasted several hours, with the surgeon relaying that it was an especially difficult procedure due to Baquer's age – he is almost 85 – and the severity of the blockage, which was even worse than the 95-97% blockage that neurologists had estimated to be present. The surgery appears to have been a success and Baquer is awake, although he remains groggy. As of now, his doctors intend to keep him in the hospital's intensive care unit (ICU) for two more days and then transfer him to a general recovery ward for several more days before releasing him. Although the Namazi family is grateful that the surgery went well, dire concerns remain about the quality of aftercare available in Iran, the significant risk of Covid-19 exposure in the hospital, and the need for a stress-free environment for recovery, all of which threaten Baquer's survival and long-term well-being.

As detailed in an [urgent appeal](#) my team submitted to the United Nations earlier this month, Iran's decision to continue to restrict Baquer's international travel and force him to undergo surgery in Iran despite serious risks to his life is a grave violation of his rights. I strongly condemn Iran's choice to ignore its international obligations to enable Baquer to travel abroad to receive care. It is critical to recall that Baquer's prior sentence was commuted by the Iranian Revolutionary Court to time served and there has been no legal basis to block his exit from Iran since that happened in February 2020. I call for Iranian authorities to allow Baquer to leave the country immediately so that he can access the conditions and care most conducive to a successful recovery and reunite with his family, including his grandchildren, from whom he has been separated from for nearly six years.