



President Joseph R. Biden Jr.  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
U.S. Department of State  
Office of the Secretary  
Room 7226  
Harry S. Truman Building  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Subject: Urgent Request for Hostage Designation of Tigran Gambaryan under the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act

Dear President Biden and Secretary Blinken,

As duly elected and appointed attorneys general for our respective states, we represent a diverse constituency and urgently add our voices to those of many Americans who have expressed grave concern for the health and well-being of a U.S. Citizen and long-time law enforcement leader, Tigran Gambaryan, who is being held unlawfully by the Nigerian government under potentially life-threatening circumstances. This is not a partisan political issue, but rather one of pure humanitarian concern and fundamental patriotic duty. The universality of support for bringing home an innocent American who is very sick and possibly dying is evidenced by the calls from both Democrat and Republican members of Congress for a more aggressive and exigent approach to negotiating his release.

In our role as attorneys general, many of us have jurisdiction over criminal justice matters and are law enforcement leaders for our own communities. We honor countless others in the law enforcement community who have sacrificed their lives, health and time with their families to bring to justice some of the world's most dangerous criminals. Tigran Gambaryan is one of these heroes in our world. Tragically, this distinguished former federal agent who has committed his life to defending our nation from international crime and terror now finds himself in a

prison inhabited by extremists, terrorists and brutal criminals who are hostile to the United States. It is miraculous that he has managed to survive the past months enduring such conditions.

Gambaryan's contributions to U.S. national security and global law enforcement cannot be overstated, and his current situation demands immediate action by the federal government. His only mistake was trusting Nigerian officials who invited him to address concerns about his employer—an international company over which he has no command or control. Tigran's unlawful detention in Nigeria not only reflects a grave injustice but also poses a direct threat to his life, placing him in imminent danger from other inmates and his own debilitated health. Members of Congress, his lawyers and humanitarian agencies all have reported that malaria and other diseases and injuries have ravaged him nearly to the point of no return.

### A Distinguished Federal Career

Tigran Gambaryan has spent his career on the front lines of international law enforcement, working with U.S. federal agencies to dismantle some of the most dangerous criminal organizations in the world. His work was instrumental in the takedown of "Welcome to Video," the largest child pornography ring ever discovered, and the dismantling of dark web marketplaces like AlphaBay and Silk Road. These actions significantly disrupted networks responsible for drug trafficking, human exploitation, weapons trading, and terrorism financing—criminal activities that directly threatened U.S. national security.

As a Special Agent with the IRS, Gambaryan worked alongside his colleagues to protect vulnerable communities and uphold America's core values. His dedication to enforcing the law earned him the respect and admiration of law enforcement agencies worldwide.

### Gambaryan's Compliance Efforts at Binance

Before Gambaryan agreed to join global cryptocurrency exchange, Binance, the company was under intense scrutiny across the globe for its lack of regulatory oversight and alleged involvement in illicit financial transactions. Gambaryan, bringing his extensive experience in federal and international investigations, focused on helping to make Binance a more responsible partner for U.S. law enforcement and US Intelligence.

His efforts helped bring Binance's practices more in line with U.S. legal standards and international security priorities.

## An Unjust Detention

Earlier this year, Gambaryan traveled to Nigeria at the invitation of local officials to discuss strategies to better police the crypto markets. Upon his arrival, instead of receiving the professional respect his service to our country warrants and was promised by the National Security Advisor, he was arrested without cause, his passport confiscated, and he was detained without formal charges. For two weeks, he was denied his most basic human rights—no access to the U.S. Embassy, legal counsel, or even basic medical and nutritional requirements. For months, Gambaryan has been held in Kuje Prison, a facility notorious for housing violent extremists from Boko Haram and ISIS. His detention represents not only a violation of Nigerian law but also sets a dangerous precedent for the treatment of U.S. citizens abroad.

It has become evident that Nigerian authorities are using Gambaryan's detention as leverage in their dispute with his employer. This blatant misuse of power is nothing less than extortion, and it must be met with the full weight of the U.S. Government's influence, particularly given America's financial and political support of the current political regime in Nigeria.

## An Immediate Threat to His Life

Gambaryan's life is in immediate danger. His health has severely deteriorated during his imprisonment—he has been denied treatment for multiple bouts of malaria and pneumonia, and his untreated herniated disc has left him immobile. The refusal of Nigerian authorities to allow independent medical evaluations or access to proper treatment mirrors the conditions that led to the tragic death of Otto Warmbier, a U.S. student who was detained in North Korea. We cannot allow history to repeat itself. Gambaryan's life hangs in the balance, and swift action is needed before it is too late.

## The Call for Hostage Designation

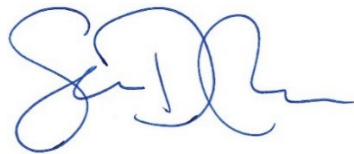
Given the egregious nature of Gambaryan's detention, we strongly urge the U.S. State Department to designate him as a hostage under the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act. This designation will unlock critical resources and apply additional diplomatic pressure to ensure his immediate release. The Levinson Act was designed specifically for cases like this, where U.S. citizens are unlawfully detained for political or financial leverage. Tigran Gambaryan's situation fits this profile, and the time to act is now—before this unlawful detention becomes a tragedy.

A Duty to Protect

To send a message that the United States will not tolerate the unlawful detention of its citizens is not only a matter of principle but a duty we owe to Gambaryan, his family, and the countless men and women who dedicate their lives to protecting this nation. The United States cannot falter in its responsibility to its citizens, especially those like Gambaryan, who have sacrificed so much to defend it. If the U.S. government fails to utilize every tool at its disposal to defend one of its most dedicated law enforcement officers, what hope is left for the countless families of other wrongfully detained Americans around the world?

To fail in this obligation to the American people would tragically frustrate the most fundamental question first posed by President John Quincy Adams, "What good do we do?"

With conviction and concern,



Sean D. Reyes  
Utah Attorney General



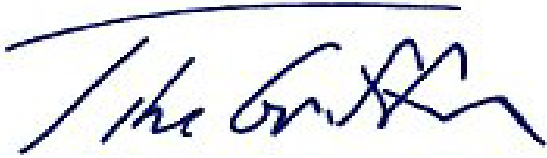
John Formella  
New Hampshire  
Attorney General



William Tong  
Connecticut Attorney General



Aaron M. Frey  
Maine Attorney General



Tim Griffin  
Arkansas Attorney General



Kris Kobach  
Kansas Attorney General



Liz Murrill  
Louisiana Attorney General



Keith Ellison  
Minnesota Attorney General



Lynn Fitch  
Mississippi Attorney General



Letitia James  
New York Attorney General



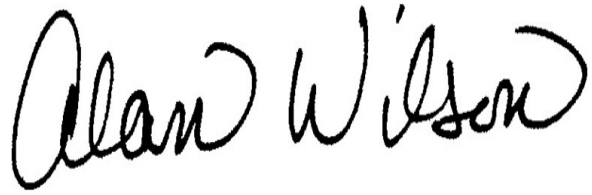
Drew H. Wrigley  
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Gentner Drummond  
Oklahoma Attorney General



Ellen F. Rosenblum  
Oregon Attorney General



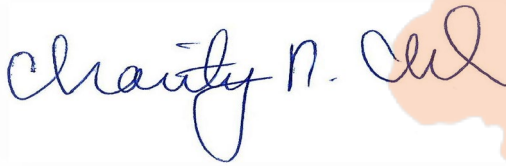
Alan Wilson  
South Carolina Attorney General



Jonathan Skrametti  
Tennessee Attorney General



Gordon C. Rhea  
U.S. Virgin Islands Attorney General (Nominee)



Charity Clark  
Vermont Attorney General



Jason S. Miyares  
Virginia Attorney General

