



**FREE THE
HIKERS**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: www.freethehikers.org

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**STATEMENT FROM THE FAMILIES OF THE AMERICAN HIKERS
ON DAY 100 OF THEIR DETENTION IN IRAN**

The following statement will be read today by relatives and friends of Shane Bauer, Sarah Shourd and Josh Fattal at “Vigils of Hope” and other events in more than 20 locations across the United States and around the world.

“One hundred days ago today, Shane, Sarah and Josh were detained in Iran. 100 days of silence, 100 days of absence, 100 days too long. Their continued detention is unjustified and we call on the Iranian authorities to release them without delay.

As long as Shane, Sarah and Josh remain in detention, our efforts to win their freedom will continue. We ask everyone here, and everyone who has shown their support around the world, not to let up until they are back in our arms.

We know that Shane, Sarah and Josh feel your presence here today and that it brings light and love to the dark loneliness of their cells in Evin Prison.

Last week, Shane, Sarah and Josh sent private messages to their families through the Swiss diplomats who were able to visit them.

Shane asked his family to give you this message: ***“For the people who gathered at the vigils, I want them to know that we can feel it.”***

And this is what Sarah wanted everyone to hear: ***“I know you are fighting for me and it makes me proud. I am hanging in there with you.”***

One way you can support Shane, Sarah and Josh is to send them brief messages of solidarity. We are asking everyone to send messages on a postcard at this vigil. We know previous letters they have received have helped to ease their isolation and we will make sure your messages reach them.

Josh wrote his family: ***“Thanks for all the wonderful letters. I spend a lot of time reading [them].”***

Thank you again for everything you are doing to try to secure the release of Shane, Sarah and Josh. It comforts them in their time of need.”

For a complete listing of vigils taking place today, please visit www.freethehikers.org and click on “events”.