

INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR THE RELEASE OF THE AMERICAN HIKERS HELD IN IRAN

December 2, 2009 –Nearly 80 prominent individuals and organizations from a dozen countries today published an international appeal to President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran for the immediate release of Shane Bauer, Sarah Shourd and Josh Fattal, the three American hikers who are now in their fifth month in detention. A copy of the appeal and the names and affiliations of the signatories follows.

H.E. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
President, Islamic Republic of Iran
The Presidency
Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Dear Mr. President

We, the undersigned, call on the Islamic Republic of Iran to release Shane Bauer, Sarah Shourd and Josh Fattal from their protracted detention in Evin Prison without further delay.

The three hikers have been held for four months without charge and without contact with their families, despite your own undertaking more than two months ago to ask the Iranian judiciary to expedite the case and show “maximum leniency.”

To continue to detain them without due process raises grave concerns that Iran is holding these three young Americans for political purposes and calls into question Iran’s stated commitment to the rule of law.

You have said that Shane, Sarah and Josh entered your country illegally from Iraqi Kurdistan, where they were hiking in an area where the border is poorly marked. We therefore urge Iran to show compassion and release them.

Shane, Sarah and Josh have demonstrated a great commitment to constructing a harmonious world. This commitment is evident from Shane’s work as a journalist in the Middle East, Sarah’s active support for the rights of women and the underprivileged and Josh’s dedication to a sustainable environment, all of which is documented.

We appeal to you to intervene with the judicial authorities so that they may return to their families immediately and resume their lives.

Signed:

Michael Albert – Co-Editor and Co-Founder, Z Magazine /USA; **Terry Anderson** - University of Kentucky School of Journalism and Telecommunications /USA; **Liv Arnesen** – Educator, Explorer and Lecturer /Norway; **Guillermo Arriaga** – Writer and Director /Mexico; **Hanan Ashrawi** – Founder, MIFTAH, The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue & Democracy /Palestine; **Homi K. Bhabha** – Anne F. Rothenberg Professor of the Humanities, Department of English, Harvard University

/India; **Monika Bauerlein** – Executive Editor, Mother Jones /USA; **Ed Begley, Jr.** – Actor and Activist /USA; **Medea Benjamin** – Co-Founder, CODEPINK: Women for Peace; Founding Director, Global Exchange /USA; **Robert J. Birgeneau** – Chancellor, University of California, Berkeley /USA; **Brent Blackwelder** – President Emeritus, Friends of the Earth /USA; **Sir Richard Branson** – Founder, Virgin Unite /UK; **Fernando Henrique Cardoso** – President of Brazil (1995-2003) /Brazil; **Jacqueline Michot Ceballos** – Founder and President, Veteran Feminists of America /USA; **Zaki Chehab** – Author and Journalist, Editor-in-Chief Arabstoday.net /Palestine; **Noam Chomsky** – Institute Professor and Professor of Linguistics (Emeritus), Department of Linguistics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology / USA; **Sandy Close** – Executive Director, New America Media /USA; **Alexander Cockburn*** and **Jeffrey St. Clair*** – Co-editors, CounterPunch /USA; **Steven Cohen** - Executive Director, The Earth Institute, Columbia University /USA; **Sheila Coronel** – Director, Stabile Center for Investigative Journalism, Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism /USA; **Sir Peter Crane** – Dean, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies /USA; **Dennis Cunningham** – Attorney /USA; **Ariel Dorfman** – Novelist, Playwright, Essayist and Journalist /Chile; **Mark Durkan, MP** – Leader, Social Democratic and Labour Party /Northern Ireland; **Jesse Dylan** – Founder, FreeForm /USA; **Dave Eggers** – Writer, Editor and Publisher /USA; **Mia Farrow** – /USA; **Ela Gandhi** – Member of the South African Parliament (1994-2004), Founder, Gandhi Development Trust /South Africa; **Michael Hardt** – Professor of Literature and Italian, Duke University, co-author of *Empire* /USA; **Denis Hayes** – Founding Coordinator, Earth Day /USA; **Katrina vanden Heuvel** – Editor and Publisher, The Nation /USA; **Rev. Jesse Jackson** – Founder and President, Rainbow/PUSH Coalition /USA; **Jean-Francois Julliard** – Secretary General, Reporters Sans Frontières /France; **Esther Kaplan*** – Editor, The Investigative Fund at The Nation Institute /USA; **Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.** – /USA; **Jim Yong Kim** – President, Dartmouth College⁺ /USA; **Rosemary Kirincic** – Director of Programs, Aprovecho /USA; **Arthur Kleinman** - Esther and Sidney Rabb Professor of Anthropology, Harvard University⁺ /USA; **Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot** – Emily Hargroves Fisher Professor of Education, Harvard University /USA; **Ken Light** – Director of Photography and Adjunct Professor, Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism /USA; **Jack Lund** – President and CEO, YMCA of Greater New York /USA; **Mairead Maguire** – Co-Founder, the Peace People, Winner, 1976 Nobel Peace Prize /Northern Ireland; **Jerry Mander** – Founder and Distinguished Fellow, International Forum on Globalization /USA; **Fernando Meirelles** – Filmmaker /Brazil; **Carolyn Merchant** – Professor of Environmental History, Philosophy and Ethics, University of California, Berkeley /USA; **Valentin Y. Mudimbe** – Professor, Literature Program, Duke University /USA; **Victor Navasky** – Delacorte Professor of Journalism, Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism /USA; **Vic Neufeld** –Professor Emeritus, Department of Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics, McMaster University /Canada; **Christiane Northrup, MD** – Author and Doctor, women’s health /USA; **Christian Parenti** – Author and Journalist /USA; **Raj Patel*** – Writer, Activist and Academic /UK; **Matt Peterson** – President and CEO, Global Green USA /USA; **Kate Pflaumer** – Former US Attorney, Western District, Washington State /USA; **Erich Pica** – President, Friends of the Earth USA /USA; **Rodney Pinder** – Director, International News Safety Institute /UK; **Carl Pope** – Executive Director, The Sierra Club /USA; **Robert Post** – Dean, Yale Law School /USA; **Kimberly Rafuse** – Policy Researcher, Environmental Security and Climate Change /Canada; **Maggie Renzi** – Film Producer /USA; **Robert Rosenthal** – Executive Director, Center for Investigative Reporting /USA; **Karen J. See** – President, Coalition of Labor Union Women /USA; **Pedro Moreira Salles** – Chairman of the Board, Itau Unibanco /Brazil; **Walter Salles** – Filmmaker /Brazil; **Eyad Sarraj** – Founder and Director, Gaza Community Mental Health Programme /Palestine; **John Sayles** – Film Director and Screenwriter /USA; **Valli Seshan*** – Chairperson, Basic

Needs India Trust /India; **Bruce Shapiro** – Executive Director, Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma /USA; **Joel Simon** – Executive Director, Committee to Protect Journalists /USA; **Jody Sokolower** and **Bill Bigelow** – Editors, Rethinking Schools Magazine /USA; **Will Steger** – Polar Explorer and Founder, the Will Steger Foundation /USA; **Paul Steiger** – Editor-in-Chief, ProPublica /USA; **Gloria Steinem** – Co-Founder, Ms. Magazine and Women’s Media Center /USA; **Vivian Stromberg** – Executive Director, MADRE /USA; **Shinpei Takeda** – Co-Founder and Creative Director, The AjA Project /Japan; **Joan Tiffany** – President, International Honors Program /USA; **Samuel K. Wasser** – Endowed Chair in Conservation Biology, University of Washington /USA; **Howard Zinn** - Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Boston University / USA.

* Signatures received following delivery of the appeal

† Affiliation noted for identification purposes only