

H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad  
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
Tehran, Iran

September 17, 2009

Dear Mr. President,

We write to you as the mothers of Shane Bauer, Sarah Shourd and Josh Fattal, the three American hikers detained in Iran since July 31, 2009.

We wish the Islamic Republic of Iran and its people peace and blessings as the holy month of Ramadan comes to a close. We understand that Ramadan is a time of spiritual reflection, compassion and forgiveness in the Muslim faith. Soon, you and fellow Iranians will gather in the loving company of family and friends to celebrate the joy of Eid al-Fitr. Our deepest desire is that soon we too will be able to gather as families, reunited in joy with our children.

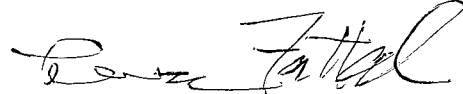
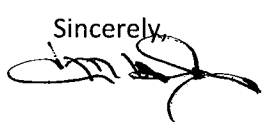
Mr. President, we implore you to bring Shane, Sarah and Josh with you when you visit our country next week to address the General Assembly of the United Nations. Nothing would delight us more than to embrace our children and to express to you, in person, our profound gratitude for the kindness of the Iranian people.

We have read that our children were detained on suspicion of illegally entering Iran. We are certain that if they crossed the border, it can only have been by accident. They had no reason to go to Iran. They are enthusiastic hikers who were on a brief vacation in Iraqi Kurdistan which they had told us about with great anticipation. Please accept our regrets for any inconvenience or misunderstanding this unfortunate incident may have caused.

We raised Shane, Sarah and Josh to embrace different cultures, religions and civilizations. They are respectful, caring young people and we miss them as only a fellow parent like you can appreciate.

For seven weeks now, we have been unable to speak to our children. As you set out on your journey, please fill the emptiness their absence leaves in our hearts. We wish you safe travels and hope you will find time in your busy schedule to receive us in New York.

Sincerely,



Cindy Hickey, Nora Shourd and Laura Fattal

[www.freethehikers.org](http://www.freethehikers.org)