

**STATEMENT FROM THE FAMILIES OF SHANE BAUER, JOSH FATTAL
AND SARAH SHOURD FOR AUGUST 31, 2009**

“It is now precisely one month since our children, Shane Bauer, Josh Fattal and Sarah Shourd were last heard from. At 1.33 pm local time on July 31, Shane called a friend to say that he, Sarah and Josh had been detained by Iranian forces. According to news reports, they had accidentally crossed the unmarked border into Iran from Iraqi Kurdistan, where they were on a short hiking trip.

Iran has confirmed that it is holding our children. But it is heartbreaking for us to have had no other news about them. We do not understand why Iran has still not allowed consular officials to visit our children. We again appeal to the Iranian authorities to grant Shane, Josh and Sarah their right to consular access. Please allow us to speak to them, or at least know they are safe and well.

Shane, Josh and Sarah all studied at Berkeley. This wonderful campus helped form who they are – caring, concerned individuals who respect other cultures and religions and share a love of the world. It is those values that took them on a hiking trip to Kurdistan – not any desire to go to Iran.

If our children strayed across the Iranian border, it was because they did not know it was there. Nothing more. We continue to hope that Iranian authorities will recognize this for what it was – a regrettable mistake – and allow our children to come home.

In the past month, we have been overwhelmed by the support we have received for Shane, Josh and Sarah. Our thanks go out to the thousands of friends, supporters and well wishers who have contacted us and offered to help our efforts to bring them home.

We would particularly like to thank the University of California, Berkeley and the Alumni Association for their support today. We know that Chancellor Robert Birgeneau

has written to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton offering whatever help may be useful to bring this case to a successful conclusion. We are deeply grateful.

Finally, to the people of Iran, our families would like to extend peace and blessings to you in this holy month of Ramadan.

Thank you.”

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