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**FAMILIES OF SHANE BAUER AND JOSH FATTAL CALL ON IRAN TO END THEIR MISTREATMENT
AND SET THEM FREE**

The families of Shane Bauer and Josh Fattal made the following statement today ahead of their scheduled trial hearing in the Tehran Revolutionary Court on May 11:

“For more than 21 months, Shane and Josh have been locked up, isolated from their families and the world and denied any semblance of due process. The charges they face are as cynical, unjust and unreasonable as the length of their incarceration and it is time for Iranian judicial authorities to stop playing games with their lives.

“Shane and Josh should not be standing trial on Wednesday but we trust they will be given the chance to reaffirm their innocence, as they did at a previous hearing on February 6, and that the Iranian judiciary will recognize at long last that the only outcome is their immediate release.

“We have no doubt that Shane and Josh will bear the emotional scars of their ordeal for a long time to come. Everyone in our families has suffered the pain and torment of the cruel prolongation of this nightmare for Shane and Josh by forces in Iran who have used them as pawns simply because of their nationality.

“Throughout this terrible time, we have been promised again and again by the Iranian government that the case will be dealt with swiftly and compassionately. That has not happened and we call on the authorities to take this opportunity to end the mistreatment of two young men who have done no wrong to Iran and mean more to us than anything.

“On Wednesday, Shane and Josh will have only each other, God and their lawyer Masoud Shafii, who has worked courageously and tirelessly to defend them in keeping with the laws of Iran despite every obstacle placed in his path. But the world will be watching and praying that the court will act in the spirit of justice and humanity that Shane and Josh so clearly deserve.”

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