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**FAMILIES OF SHANE BAUER AND JOSH FATTAL APPEAL TO IRAN TO FREE THEM FOR
THANKSGIVING**

Families Are "Sick with Worry"

The families of Shane Bauer and Josh Fattal released the following statement today:

"This week will be our second Thanksgiving without Shane and Josh and, more than at any other time of the year, we are heartbroken by the thought of their absence once again from this important family occasion. The Thanksgiving holiday is a time for families to be together, and we appeal to Iran to allow Shane and Josh to join us so that our families can be whole again. Being together as a family is not an American value or an Iranian value. It is a human value. Since Shane and Josh were detained more than 16 months ago, many of us have suffered problems with our health. We have had to give up jobs and drop out of school. We have been sick with worry for Shane and Josh, tormented by uncertainty about their wellbeing and distressed that we are not permitted to speak with them.

"It makes no sense to continue to detain Shane and Josh. Our families are not politicians and we have no power to change our government's policies. Leaders of the international community, from U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and governments across the globe have appealed for Shane and Josh's release. Supporters around the world have held vigils to call for their freedom. Once again, we urgently ask Iran to do what is just and humane and release Shane and Josh. Please, Iran, show them the same humanitarian compassion that you extended to Sarah. Please answer our prayers at this time of Thanksgiving."