



From [www.freethelikers.org](http://www.freethelikers.org)

November 29, 2010

**SHANE BAUER AND JOSH FATTAL CALL HOME OVER THANKSGIVING WEEKEND  
FOR ONLY SECOND TIME IN 16 MONTHS**

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

“Early on November 27, our families received telephone calls from Shane and Josh for the second time since they were detained on the Iranian border 16 months ago during a hiking excursion in Iraqi Kurdistan. Each call lasted about five minutes. Shane’s fiancée Sarah Shourd, who was released from Evin Prison on September 14, was staying with Josh’s family when the call came and was able to speak with Josh.

“We were relieved to speak to Shane and Josh, particularly during the Thanksgiving Holiday. We hope that their calls home bode well for their release on humanitarian grounds during this holiday season.

“At the same time, Shane and Josh told us that have become increasingly cut off since Sarah was freed. In the more than 10 weeks since Sarah’s release, Shane and Josh have received only two letters each from our families, while we continue to write to them every day. They are able to spend significantly less time outside their cell in the prison yard each day and have not received the books we send them. We are deeply concerned about their increased isolation and trust that these restrictions will be reversed.

“Shane and Josh told us that they still have no information about any proceedings against them or why their case is taking so long to resolve. In recent weeks, the United States and Iran have both taken positive steps to improve the atmosphere for a more fruitful dialogue. The head of Iran’s High Council for Human Rights, Mohammad Javad Larijani, has also said publicly that he hopes Shane and Josh’s case can be resolved before going to trial.

“We welcome these developments and again appeal to Iran to release Shane and Josh at long last. As more holidays approach, we pray that another important family gathering will not take place without Shane and Josh. They deserve their freedom as much as Sarah and we know they will be just as appreciative as she has been.”

###