

FREE THE HIKERS VIGIL

FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF AMERICAN HIKERS DETAINED IN IRAN TO HOLD VIGILS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES ON WEDNESDAY

Events in 14 Locations Will Mark Two Months in Detention for Shane Bauer, Sarah Shourd and Josh Fattal

FreetheHikers, the support group of the families and friends of the American hikers Shane Bauer, Sarah Shourd and Josh Fattal, announced today that supporters will hold candlelight vigils and other events across the United States on Wednesday to mark two months since the three young friends were detained in Iran.

Organized events will take place at 14 locations on September 30, including in Los Angeles, Berkeley, Laguna Beach, and Santa Barbara, CA; Cottage Grove, OR; Minneapolis, MN; Wyncote, PA; New York, NY; Baltimore, MD; and Boston, Worcester and Williamstown, MA. Details including times, venues and how to contact event organizers are available at www.freethehikers.org

Family members and friends will speak at the various events, which are being held in support of the speedy return of the hikers, who were detained on July 31, 2009. "Obviously, we don't know if Shane, Sarah and Josh are aware of the efforts so many people are making to bring them home. But we do believe that they will feel the love and support they receive from so many places across America tomorrow," said Cindy Hickey, the mother of Shane Bauer and a spokesperson for the families.

"President Ahmadinejad of Iran has promised to ask the Iranian judiciary to expedite this case and seek maximum leniency. We're very encouraged by that and it would just be fantastic if we could turn tomorrow's vigils into a giant celebration of our children's release," Hickey said.

Bauer, 27, Shourd, 31, and Fattal, 27, were detained during a brief hiking trip to the mountains of Iraq Kurdistan when news reports say they accidentally strayed across the unmarked border with Iran. Accused of illegal entry, they have had no contact with their families and have not been granted their right to consular access.



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