



FROM: www.freethehikers.org

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SUPPORTERS OF AMERICAN HIKERS DETAINED IN IRAN TO HOLD 100-DAY VIGILS AROUND THE WORLD ON NOVEMBER 8

Shane Bauer, Sarah Shourd and Josh Fattal Send Messages of Thanks to Supporters from Evin Prison

Supporters of the American hikers Shane Bauer, Sarah Shourd and Josh Fattal will hold “Vigils of Hope” across the United States and around the world on November 8 to mark their 100th day in detention in Iran.

Relatives, friends and supporters will gather on Sunday at more than 20 locations from southern California to northern Vermont and in Canada, China, Colombia, India, Mexico, South Africa, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Vietnam in the latest effort to press for the hikers’ release. Details including times, venues and how to contact event organizers are available at www.freethehikers.org by clicking on ‘events’.

Bauer, Shourd and Fattal have all sent private messages to their families from Evin Prison in Tehran, in which they express gratitude to everyone working to secure their release. A message from each hiker will be read at the vigils on Sunday.

“Swiss diplomats who were able to visit Shane, Sarah and Josh last week told us that they knew similar vigils took place at the end of September. They’ve also received letters, which is a great comfort for them,” said Alex Fattal, the brother of Josh Fattal and a spokesman for the families.

“It’s really important to let Shane, Sarah and Josh know that so many people around the world care about them and want them released as soon as possible. We know from the messages we received back through the Swiss that this support is a wonderful source of light during a dark time,” Alex Fattal said.

Bauer, 27, Shourd, 31, and Fattal, 27, were detained on July 31, 2009 on suspicion of illegal entry after news reports say they strayed across the unmarked border with Iran during a brief hiking trip to Iraqi Kurdistan. Since then, they have received only two consular visits from Swiss diplomats, who represent US interests in Iran, and have had no direct contact with their families.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran said in late September that he would ask his country’s judiciary to expedite the case and show maximum leniency towards the hikers, who have not been charged.

“We’ve received reassurances from the Iranians that this case is being dealt with quickly and compassionately, but the hikers are languishing in Evin Prison. It’s now 100 days. We call on the Iranian authorities to take actions that match their words and release our loved ones,” Alex Fattal said.