

To: Honorable President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

Mr. President, this letter is to formally plead that you do everything in your power to achieve maximum leniency for Shane Bauer, Sarah Shourd, and Josh Fattal from the Judiciary System.

We greatly appreciate your generous comment at the United Nations General Assembly in September that you would “ask...that the judiciary [in Iran expedite] the process and...look at the case with maximum leniency.”

The City Council of Berkeley, California, is deeply concerned for the welfare of these three US citizens recently detained in Iran. Bauer, Shourd, and Fattal were all taken into the custody of Iranian authorities on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

As the first city in the United States to oppose military intervention and/or use of force in Iran in 2007, as well as oppose the bombings of Afghanistan, Pakistan, *and* Iraq (as was proposed and/or carried out during the Bush administration), we have a long record of respect for Islamic nations and their rights. However, we do not agree with the decision to further detain these three young Americans.

We respectfully ask that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and/or the Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran, release U.S. citizens Shane Bauer, Sarah Shourd, and Josh Fattal from detention as soon as possible.

It has been reported that the trio had no intention of entering Iran. As such, we can only hope that the trio not be detained any longer for the alleged mistake of crossing over the Iran-Iraq border. These citizens have reportedly been detained without being allowed contact with their families or loved ones, and have been allegedly detained for illegal entry into Iran.

The Bauer, Shourd, and Fattal families are extremely devastated over the detainment of their loved ones. Because the detainees families are unable to contact or visit with Bauer, Shourd, or Fattal, unnecessary inferences and assumptions arise that can easily be thwarted by allowing direct communication and/or releasing the trio. We also urge the Iranian government and/or judiciary to allow the trio to communicate with their families.

The City of Berkeley hopes to communicate that these detainees should be released by the Iranian leadership with all due speed, out of compassion for the families of the detainees, and in the spirit of goodwill.

Thank you,

The Members of the City Council of Berkeley, California