

I urgently call on the Islamic Republic of Iran to release Shane Bauer, Josh Fattal and Sarah Shourd on humanitarian grounds. Nine months after these three young people were detained, there is a pressing need for Iran finally to release them into the care of their loving and anguished families.

Since I last spoke on behalf of Shane, Josh and Sarah in February, their emotional state has deteriorated significantly. They are suffering from desperation and hopelessness and have considered the extreme step of a hunger strike. This would have grave consequences for their health, in particular for Shane and Sarah, who are both sick.

A nation of Iran's stature should not act in a cruel and inhumane manner, or punish innocent individuals for the disagreements that exist with the United States. Shane, Josh and Sarah have done no wrong. Iran should act in accordance with the universal principles of justice, compassion and humanity and set them free.