



From www.freethelikers.org

August 10, 2010

URGENT APPEAL TO THE LEADERS OF IRAN ON THE EVE OF RAMADAN

The mothers of Shane Bauer, Sarah Shourd and Josh Fattal, the three American hikers held without trial for more than one year in Iran, today issued the following Open Message to the leaders of Iran:

“On behalf of our families, we extend best wishes to all the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran and to Muslims everywhere on the occasion of the start of the holy month of Ramadan. We understand that Ramadan is a time of spiritual reflection, a time for family and friends to come together, and a time to remember those who are less fortunate than us.

“Our thoughts at this sacred time for Muslims extend in particular to all those who, like Shane, Sarah and Josh, are held as prisoners away from their families in foreign lands without due process and for no just cause. Our hope is that leaders of all nations will recognize this injustice and not allow their political differences to deny individual human beings their right to liberty and just treatment because of their citizenship.

“Shane, Sarah and Josh are spending their second Ramadan in detention. Today is also Sarah’s birthday – her second in solitary confinement. Sarah has a serious medical condition and we are gravely concerned for her physical and emotional welfare, for which Iran’s leaders are responsible. We urgently call on the Iranian authorities to end her isolation and provide her with adequate care.

“In 2008, Sarah was privileged to share Iftar, the evening meal when Muslims break their fast during Ramadan, with a family of Shia refugees from Iraq in Aden, Yemen. Sarah wrote:

“Ramadan is a time to get serious about your faith. It’s not only a time to abstain from food and drink but also to purify one’s thoughts, exercise restraint and practice good deeds ... Everyone is encouraged to read the entire Koran and to be benevolent towards those less fortunate.”

“We again call on the Iranian authorities to show the compassion and benevolence our children deserve and release Shane, Sarah and Josh without further delay. They have done nothing wrong and bear no ill intent towards the Islamic Republic of Iran or its people. They have been denied their liberty for much too long. We remind the leaders of Iran of their repeated promises to deal with their case expeditiously and leniently. With wounded hearts, we ask that they reflect upon what Shane, Sarah, Josh and our families have endured and live up to their promises.”

Cindy Hickey, Nora Shourd and Laura Fattal