



Media update from www.freethehikers.org – September 24, 2011

Shane Bauer and Josh Fattal, the two Americans freed by Iran on September 21 after more than two years in detention, made the following statements at Muscat International Airport today before leaving for the United States. The two men, both 29, spent three days in Oman with relatives following their release. Accompanying them home are: Shane's mother and father, Cindy Hickey and Al Bauer; Josh's mother and father, Laura and Jacob Fattal, and his brother Alex Fattal; and Shane's fiancée Sarah Shourd, 33, who was arrested with them while they were hiking on vacation in northern Iraq on July 31, 2009, and was released in September 2010.

AIRPORT REMARKS BY SHANE BAUER: Getting off the plane that brought us here three days ago was the most incredible experience of our lives. We will never forget the excitement of seeing our loved ones waiting for us at the foot of the plane. The joy of embracing them all after so long will stay with us forever. We will always be grateful to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said of Oman for his work to secure our release. And we thank his envoy Dr. Salem Al Ismaily from the bottom of our hearts for his selfless efforts to make our freedom a reality. Thank you

AIRPORT REMARKS BY JOSH FATTAL: Just hours after we left prison, we were able to swim in the calm waters of the Gulf. We stayed up all night with our loved ones and watched the most beautiful sunrise we have ever seen. These experiences will be with us for the rest of our lives. We would like to thank Oman for welcoming us and for hosting our families. We also thank the American Ambassador Richard Schmierer and his wife Sandy for their hospitality. We hope some day to return to this wonderful country but for now we are eager to go home at last. Thank you.