

— In the Name of God, Most Merciful and Most Compassionate —

H.E. Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Khamenei  
The Supreme Leader  
Islamic Republic of Iran

June 30, 2010

Your Excellency,

Today marks 11 months since our children Shane Bauer, Sarah Shourd and Josh Fattal were arrested by Iranian forces. We are appealing directly to you, as the highest authority in the Islamic Republic of Iran, to intervene immediately in their case and bring the cruel injustice of their continued detention to an end.

Contrary to the laws of your nation, our children have been denied any semblance of due process. They have been refused access to their lawyer, Mr. Masoud Shafii; no charges have been brought against them in a public court of law; and they have been deprived of the regular consular access and telephone calls to our families to which they are entitled. Most cruelly of all, Sarah is being held in solitary confinement for 23 hours a day, with grave consequences for her state of mind.

When we were permitted to travel to your country briefly in May and visit our children, we learned for ourselves that the Iranian people are inspired by the values of justice, mercy and compassion. We do not believe that you, as the supreme representative of your great nation, can be fully aware of the irregular circumstances in which our children remain held since they so blatantly contradict those values.

We trust that you will require the judiciary to do what is right and release our children or move forward with a free and fair legal proceeding in which they can respond publicly to any allegations against them. We are confident that our children have done no wrong and know that there is no legitimate reason why they continue to languish in Evin Prison.

Your Excellency, our children are American citizens but they are also global citizens who believe in the right of nations to determine their own destiny and have advocated passionately for social and environmental justice. They are kind and caring young people who are not party to the differences that divide our countries, and should not be made to pay for those differences. To continue to hold our children surely does Iran no good in the eyes of the world.

With all our hearts, we urge you to act so that the world can see that Iran respects its own laws.

Sincerely,

The image shows three handwritten signatures in black ink. From left to right: a signature that appears to be 'Cindy Hickey', a signature that reads 'Nora Shourd', and a signature that reads 'Laura Fattal'.

Cindy Hickey, Nora Shourd & Laura Fattal