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SARAH SHOURD RELEASES SONG COMPOSED IN EVIN PRISON TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO FREE SHANE BAUER AND JOSH FATTAL

Urges Supporters to Step Up Campaign for Shane and Josh's Release for the Holiday Season at the Start of Month 17 of Their Detention

Sarah Shourd today released a song she composed while in solitary confinement to support efforts to win the release of her fiancé Shane Bauer and their close friend Josh Fattal. "Piece of Time" was launched on the Free the Hikers YouTube channel to coincide with the start of Month 17 of Bauer and Fattal's unjust detention in Iran. Accompanied by a video about the case, the song is available at <http://www.youtube.com/user/FreetheHikers>.

"I wrote many songs in prison that helped me get through 410 days alone in a cell. When we were finally allowed to spend a short time together in the yard of Evin Prison each day, I would sing Shane and Josh my songs. I know they're singing them now to keep our connection strong during this painful separation," Shourd said.

Shourd, Bauer and Fattal, were detained on the unmarked border between Iraq and Iran on July 31, 2009, while they were on a hiking excursion in Kurdistan, an autonomous region of Iraq. Shourd, 32, was released on humanitarian grounds on September 14.

"The last time I saw Shane and Josh, on the day I was freed, they asked me to use my music to raise support for them and get them out of prison. Music has its own power, as do images. It's my hope that the song and video can bring people closer to our story in a new and powerful way," Shourd said.

Shourd appealed to the Iranian authorities to allow Bauer and Fattal to rejoin her and their families for the holiday season. She also urged supporters to redouble their efforts to secure their freedom.

"Shane and Josh are beautiful, selfless people who are completely innocent of any wrongdoing. They do not deserve to be in prison one second longer than I was. As peace activists, they have traveled, lived and worked in many countries in order to be a bridge between cultures and have stood in solidarity with oppressed people through humanitarian work around the world. That is why their freedom matters so much and why I appeal to Iran not to take one more piece of their time from them for no good reason," Shourd said.

For more information about Free the Hikers, to receive action alerts, join [the campaign Facebook page](#) and take action, please visit www.freethelikers.org.

Contact:

Samantha Topping
samantha@toppingmedia.com

Tel: +1.212.810.9753