

RELEASE IN FULL

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

May 1, 2011

Dear President Obama,

Today is the start of Month 22 of the unjust detention of our sons in Iran. On May 11, Shane and Josh will be put trial in one of Iran's revolutionary courts in front of a judge who has not hesitated to impose the death sentence on innocent people. Our frustration and our anxiety have become unbearable. Our families are devastated and disillusioned. Shane and Josh are American citizens but we do not believe that our government is devoting the same effort to bringing them home as it has put into helping other Americans in distress. We need your leadership and urgent action from your Administration.

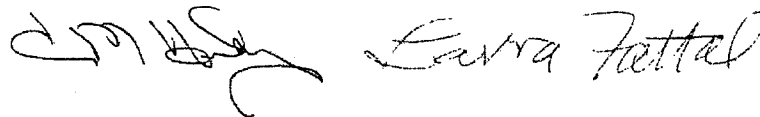
In a call with Secretary Clinton on April 20, we made it very clear how disappointed we are that the Administration has not taken more robust measures to end this tragic ordeal. Over the course of 21 months, we have asked our government to take the steps needed to secure Shane and Josh's freedom. As we told Secretary Clinton, with Shane and Josh about to stand trial, we expect you and your Administration to do what it takes to bring our sons back to us. Now more than ever, it is time for our government to act and not wait for others to act for it.

Mr. President, we have not had any contact with Shane and Josh for six months, their lawyer and Swiss consular officers have been denied access to them and we increasingly fear for their safety and welfare. One week from today, we will spend a second consecutive Mother's Day without our sons. The extraordinary pain we are all feeling in our families must have an end.

We have heard from your staff that you are personally committed to gaining Shane and Josh's freedom. We appreciate those reassurances but we want to see words become actions.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent humanitarian matter.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Cindy Hickey and Laura Fattal.

Cindy Hickey and Laura Fattal

cc: Secretary Hillary Clinton