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**From:** Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 30, 2011 5:34 AM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: Iran may release detained U.S. hikers soon (Reuters)

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**From:** OpsNewsTicker  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 30, 2011 03:58 AM  
**To:** NEWS-CA; NEWS-Iran; NEWS-NEA; NEWS-Mahogany; PAFOGroup2@state.gov <PAFOGroup2@state.gov>  
**Cc:** SES-O  
**Subject:** Iran may release detained U.S. hikers soon (Reuters)

TEHRAN (Reuters) - Iran may release U.S. citizens detained on charges of espionage, their lawyer Masoud Shafiee told Reuters on Saturday, a day before a scheduled court session for the two coinciding with the second anniversary of their detention.

"Tomorrow it will be two years since my clients were jailed ... I believe their already two years in detention will serve as their sentence," Shafiee said. "I hope it will be their last court session."

Asked whether Shourd would appear at the session, Shafiee said the court had not demanded that she should attend. "It is one of the signs. In the previous warrants Shourd was asked to return to Iran for the trials ... but this time there is no such demand," he said.

"So far, no permission has been granted to my request for a private meeting with my clients," Shafiee said.

*NewsTickers alert senior Department officials to breaking news. This item appears as it did in its original publication and does not contain analysis or commentary by Department sources.*