**(WASHINGTON)** --- Congressman Allen West (FL-22) arrived today in Tel Aviv, Israel and released the following statement with regard to the Iranian court decision:

"I am outraged at the Iranian judicial process, which has led to the sentencing of Americans Shane Bauer and Josh Fattal to eight years in an Iranian jail on trumped-up charges of spying for the United States.

These two men have been held for two years already, and it is unconscionable that the Iranian judicial system could hand down such an egregious verdict.

Iran consistently demonstrates contempt for individual freedom and liberty, with aggressive and belligerent behavior that will continue if there is no threat of consequence from the outside world. Inaction is perceived as weakness against a theocratic regime determined to pursue its dangerous agenda in the region.

Our thoughts and prayers go out on this Sunday to the families of Shane Bauer and Josh Fattal."

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