

everyone, If you are receiving this letter it means I am still detained but my cell mates (starting from 11/2/2014) have been released, I have asked them to contact you + send you this letter. It is hard to know what to say please know that I am in a safe location, completely unharmed + healthy (put on weight a fact), I have been treated with utmost respect + kindness. I wanted to write you all a well thought out letter (but I didn't know if my cell mates would be leaving in the coming days or the coming months restricting my time but primarily) I could only just write the letter a paragraph at a time, just the thought of you all sends me into a fit of tears, If you could say I have "suffered" at all throughout this whole experience it is only a knowing how much suffering I have put you all through, I will never ask you to forgive me as I do not deserve your forgiveness. I remember mom always telling me that all is well + in the end the only one you really have is God. I have come to a place in this experience where in every sense of the word, I have surrendered myself to our creator. He literally there was no else... + by God + by your prayers I have felt tenderly cradled in freefall, I have been shown a darkness, light + have learned that even in prison, one can be free. I am grateful, I have come to see that there is good in every situation, sometimes we just have to look for it. I pray each and every day that if nothing else, you have felt a certain closeness + surrender to God as well + have formed a bond of love + support amongst one another. I miss you all as if it has been a decade of forced separation. I have had many a long have to think, to think of all the things I will do w/lex our first family camping trip, the first meeting @ the airport. I have had many hours to think how only a year's absence have I finally @ 25 years old come to realize your place in my life. The gift that is each one of you + the person I could + could not be if you were not a part of my life, my family, my support. I do NOT want the negotiations for my release to be your duty, if there is any other option take it, even if it takes your time. This should never have become your burden.

~~I have asked these women to support you, please seek their advice, if you have not done so already, [redacted] can contact [redacted] who may have a certain level of experience w/ these people. None of us could have known it would be this long but know I am also fighting from my side + the ways I am able + I have a lot of light left inside of me. I am not breaking down + I will not give in no matter how long it takes. I wrote a song some months ago that says, "The part of me that pains the most also gets me out of bed, without your hope there would be nothing left..." aka - The thought of your pain is the source of my own, simultaneously the hope of our reunion is the source of my strength. Please be patient, give your pain to God. I know you would want me to remain strong, that is exactly what I am doing. Do not fear for me, continue to pray as well I + by God's will we will be together soon.~~

All my everything, Layla