

Press Release
April 9, 2007
LaPorte, Indiana

Third Anniversary of Jeffrey Ake's Abduction by Iraqi Terrorists

Jeffrey Ake of LaPorte, Indiana was abducted by terrorists while working on a private reconstruction project in Iraq on April 11th 2005. Mr. Ake has been held longer than any other U.S. citizen in Iraq. At this time there is no information about his whereabouts or status. After three years his wife and four children still remain hopeful that he will return home soon. Liliana Ake, Mr. Ake's wife said, "We continue to pray for Jeff's safe return, as well as the safe return of all other hostages. I once again ask anyone who may have information about Jeff to please contact the local authorities."

The Friends of Jeff, a group of Mr. Ake's friends from Downers Grove North High School, have come together to provide support for Liliana Ake and the children. A website, www.jeffake.com has been established to provide information and an avenue for people to donate funds to help the family through this difficult time. Due to Mr. Ake's prolonged absence, the company, which had been the family's sole source of income and benefits, was not able to continue. "When people hear about Jeff and Lilly's story, they always ask if there is anything they can do to help. We have established the Jeff Ake Family Trust to provide financial support for Lilly and the children, so people can help the family through this tragic situation," remarked David Dlesk, one of the Friends of Jeff. "It has been wonderful to see the generous response of so many people. We encourage everyone to reach out and help someone who may be having difficulties as a result of the turmoil in Iraq, whether it is the family of a hostage, a member of the military or the people of Iraq. No matter what your political position may be on the war, we all need to take responsibility to help improve the situations of those who are suffering from the effects of terrorism." Liliana Ake said "We appreciate all the loving support we have received during the past three years from many family and friends and many people we have never met."

In April of 2005, Mr. Ake was in Iraq installing a bottled water line that his company, Equipment Express, had manufactured. He was abducted directly from the plant where he was working. On a video released shortly after his abduction, Mr. Ake was shown being held by armed gunmen. His abductors contacted the family shortly after he was taken, but there have been no further communications.

For further information go to www.jeffake.com, send an e-mail to familytrust@jeffake.com or call Mr. David Dlesk at 978-621-9870.