**OAR Afghan Asylum interview Transcript**

Claims based primarily on gender, ethnicity, and anti-Taliban/pro-U.S. political opinion

04/18/2022 @ SF AO. Interview duration: 2 hours (note that interpreter was NOT used for second half of interview)

PART ONE: DOCUMENT REVIEW

1. How did you get your national ID/tazkera?
2. Did you receive it from any certain govt office?
3. Do you remember which one?
4. How did it get to the United States?
5. How did you get your most recent passport?
6. How many passports have you had in your life?
7. And where are they now?
8. How did you get your work IDs from your employer?
9. How did they get to the United States?
10. How did you get this documentation from the U.S. government addressed to you?
11. And what did you do for the U.S. government, to help them?
12. Did you review all the documents you submitted for accuracy?
13. True and correct?
14. Who helped you prepare the asylum application?
15. Why did you choose someone in Salt Lake City to help you prepare your asylum application if you’re living here in California?
16. Did someone review your application in your native language?
17. Did you review it in English?
18. Do you understand everything that it says?
19. Is it true and correct?
20. How did you write your declaration, your story?
21. What language did you write it down in?
22. After it was written down, did someone read it back to you in Dari?
23. Do you understand what your decl says?
24. True and correct?

PART TWO: REVIEW OF I-589

[Reviewed I-589, starting with “what is your full name”]

1. Current address?
2. Are you married?
3. Children?
4. DOB?
5. City and country of birth?
6. Race/ethnic or tribal group?
7. Religion?
8. Ever been to immigration court in front of a judge?
9. When did you last leave Afghanistan?
10. You entered the US with parole, right?
11. Where did you enter the U.S.?
12. Native language?
13. Fluent in English?
14. Speak any other languages fluently?
15. Which?
16. Where did you last live in Afghanistan?
17. Where did you live before you moved to [current city]?
18. What address?
19. And before you arrived in California, you were at Fort Pickett and then also a military base in Germany?
20. Where did you go to school in Afghanistan, starting with most recent one first?
21. Did you go to university anywhere?
22. Where do you go to primary school?
23. Have you been going to school since you’ve been in the U.S.?
24. Where is that located?
25. When did you start there, what month and year?
26. Are you currently working?
27. What month and year did you start there?
28. What do you do?
29. Parents’ names?
30. How many siblings?
31. Names and where they’re living now?
32. Any other changes to your application that you know of?
33. Counsel, any other changes?

PART THREE: PAST HARM & FUTURE HARM

1. Did you practice your religion in Afghanistan?
2. How did you practice your religion in Afghanistan?
3. Do you practice your religion now?
4. Would you practice your religion if you went back to Afghanistan?
5. And how would you do that?
6. From what month/year to what month/year did you work at [your last job in Afghanistan]
7. And how did you get your job?
8. Is this a private company, or a government company?
9. When was the last time you worked for them?
10. What exactly did you do in your job?
11. You said you have family members in [City], CA – do all of you live together?
12. What is the immigration status of your family members in the U.S.?
13. What is the immigration status of your sibling living in [Foreign Country]?
14. Have you visited him there?
15. Would he be able to get status for you there?
16. What is the immigration status of your sibling in Canada?
17. Have you visited her there?
18. Would she be able to get status for you there in Canada?
19. Have you applied for or offered permanent imm status or asylum in any country other than US or Afghanistan?
20. Other than the parole process, have you ever applied for a visa to the U.S.?
21. Did you give accurate and correct information to the officials to get your parole?
22. Have you traveled to any other countries other than the U.S.?
23. What countries did you go to?
24. What is the longest period of time that you spent in one of these countries?
25. What permission did you have to be in these countries?
26. Was that temporary permission or permanent permission?
27. Did you think about asking for asylum in any of these countries?
28. Why not?
29. Other than the U.S., have you lived in other countries?
30. Is this your first asylum application in the U.S.?
31. Do you have any family members in the U.S. who are USCs or LPRs?
32. Did any of them file paperwork to benefit you?
33. I read your story, but can you explain why you’re asking for asylum?
34. Were you harmed or threatened in Afghanistan in the past?
35. How many times?
36. When were you first harmed or threatened in Afghanistan?
37. What year?
38. When was the last time you were harmed or threatened in Afghanistan? Month/year.
39. Can you explain the harm or threats you suffered in Afghanistan?
40. Why were you at the embassy?
41. Who beat you at the embassy?
42. How do you know it was them [The Taliban]?
43. What about their clothes made you think that they were Taliban?
44. What kind of guns were they?
45. What did they say to you?
46. How may times did they strike you in this beating, or how long did this beating last?
47. Did you have any injuries or marks on your skin?
48. How long did it take to heal?
49. What did you think was going to happen to you when you were being beaten and threatened?
50. Why did you think that?
51. Why do you think this happened to YOU instead of someone else?
52. Was there anything these people had in common?
53. What didn’t they like about that? Why wouldn’t the Taliban want people to have their passport?
54. What city did this happen in?
55. And what happened the other times you were harmed or threatened?
56. Who was throwing gas and smoke and fighting the people so that they could not pass?
57. How do you know it was them [the Taliban]?
58. And what did they do to harm or threaten you personally?
59. When did this happen?
60. Did you suffer any injuries?
61. Where?
62. Which airport?
63. Who was in charge of the airport at that time?
64. Who was running the airport at that time?
65. And what was the other time you were harmed or threatened in Afghanistan?
66. When you went back to the airport, did anyone hurt you personally or threaten you?
67. And why is it that you think the Taliban does not like to talk with women?
68. Were you harmed or threatened in Afghanistan before the year 2021?
69. Did you ever try to report the harm and threats you suffered to the police or govt of Afghanistan?
70. What do you fear would happen to you if you were to return to Afghanistan?
71. Who would kill you [client responded, “the govt”]?
72. Who would kill you [client responded, “the Taliban and their govt”]?
73. And why would they do that?
74. What wouldn’t the Taliban like about those things?
75. Do you know anyone with connections to the U.S. that was harmed by the Taliban in Afghanistan?
76. Did you see or hear anything in the news about that?
77. Elaborate?
78. You worked as an [occupation here] for many years. Was that unusual for an Afghan woman to have a job like that?
79. How does the Taliban think that women should dress?
80. How did you dress for work?
81. What would the Taliban not like about this?
82. Other than your job outside the home and the way you dressed for work, were there other ways you’d be recognized as Westernized/liberal/modern in Afghanistan?
83. What did you typically wear or how did you typically dress in Afghanistan?
84. Did you have problems for that in the past?
85. Why do you think people don’t like women to dress that way in Afghanistan?
86. Why is that their preference?
87. And what religion is this a belief of?
88. And what is the religion of the Taliban?
89. What is the Taliban’s interpretation of Islam?
90. Do you agree with that?
91. Did you tell anyone about your disagreement?
92. How are you recognized as Tajik in Afghanistan [client responded, “it’s on my tazkera”]?
93. And where do you have to show these documents in Afghanistan?
94. Did anyone hurt or threaten you in Afghanistan for being tajik?
95. Do you know any other Tajik people who were harmed or threatned in Afghanistan?
96. Do you know any other women, modern like you, in danger in Afghanistan?
97. Do you know of anyone like you in particular who’s been harmed or threatened?
98. If you went back to Afghanistan, would you continue wanting to working outside the home, continue to dress in jeans and without a burqa?
99. How would that be?
100. How would it affect you to follow those strict Muslim dress codes?
101. How would it affect you mentally and psychologically of going back to Afghanistan?
102. Did you ever talk to a counselor or psychologist about what happened to you in Afghanistan?
103. Do you have nightmares and do you think about what happened to you in Afghanistan and if yes, how often?
104. How does it affect you when you see the news or hear things about Afghanistan?
105. And what are the nightmares or unwanted thoughts that you have about Afghanistan?
106. How does that affect you, after you have those dreams?
107. If you had to go back to Afghanistan, would you have other problems like finding work or a home?
108. Any male relatives left back in Afghanistan that could escort you places?
109. What was the worst thing that happened to you in Afghanistan?
110. Would it be safe to live in different part of Afghanistan?
111. If you have to go back to Afghanistan, where would you go and what would you do?
112. You said you have nothing to go back to – what do you mean?
113. What were you doing during the first Taliban regime?
114. Did you have any interactions with the Taliban during that time?
115. What were you doing during the time between finishing school and starting working at [your job]?
116. Were you ever made to do anything you disagreed with in your work?
117. Did anything bad ever happen to your coworkers?
118. Have you ever worked for the govt of Afghanistan?
119. Family members?
120. Ever contracted with the U.S. govt?
121. Did you and your family ever work in farming?
122. As Tajiks, are you and your family members involved in any pol parties or groups?
123. Do you or your family members have any connections to Jamaat-e-Islami?

PART FOUR: SECURITY QS

1. Ever been accused or convicted of a crime?
2. Member of govt or police?
3. Military member?
4. Military training?
5. Ever helped an armed group even if you didn’t want to?
6. Threatened to do terrorist activity?
7. Did terrorist activity?
8. Money or funds for terrorist activity?
9. Have you ever said in public that you approve of terrorist activity?
10. Ever been fingerprinted?
11. Ever been a member of a group accused of violent activities?
12. Ever helped a violent person or org even if forced?
13. Ever had to give money, bribe, tax, or protection money to armed group or militia?
14. Water, food, goods, or other services to armed group or militia, even if you didn’t want to?
15. [AO then asked client to write down with pen and paper the name of the area where she lived at in Kabul]
16. Have you ever lived in an area that was not controlled by the Afghan govt?
17. Ever have to give a militia money for goods or services like electricity or something like that?
18. Were you in Kabul when it was under Taliban control?
19. Other than what we talked about, did you have any encounters with the Taliban?
20. When you traveled in Afghanistan, did you ever pass through any checkpoints?
21. Who were they controlled by?
22. Why do you think they were govt officials?
23. Did you ever go through a checkpoint run by the Taliban or a militant group?
24. When you traveled to work, did you have to go through checkpoints?
25. Did you ever travel outside Kabul and go through checkpoints?
26. When and where were you going?
27. And who were in those checkpoints?
28. At any of these checkpoints in Afghanistan, did you have to give money or anything else to the people running these checkpoints?
29. Did you have to pass through any checkpoints controlled by nongovt forces?
30. How did you leave Afghanistan?
31. When you left the U.S., who controlled the airport?
32. Did you have to go through checkpoints to get into airport?
33. Have you ever interacted with known individuals of the following terrorist orgs: ISIS, ISIL, Daesh, Taliban, Haqqani
34. Given aid, support, or money to them?
35. You or family members involved with Mujahideen?
36. Any immediate family members still in Afghanistan?
37. When was last time you had contact with him?
38. Have you or your family members ever been affiliated with opposition groups or armed groups?
39. Asked to join?
40. You or family members ever had to pay money to Taliban for services?

WRAP-UP/FINAL QUESTIONS

1. What did you love about your job?
2. When we were talking about it before, you said Taliban doesn’t like the US and you fear them now that you have been to the US. Why doesn’t the Taliban like people affiliated with the US?
3. Do you know anyone in Afghanistan who was harmed or threatened for working with the US or having connections with the US?
4. What years were you seeing this in the news?
5. What kind of news did you see this in?
6. Why do you think the Taliban would associate you with the US now?
7. How would they know [you are/were here in the U.S.]?