

## STUDY CASE TWO

The applicant's name is Mozamel Safi Abdullah, he is a Shia Hazara man born on 1967 in village Khasuna, Jaghori district, Ghazni Province, Afghanistan. He has received 6 years of education and he can speak, read and write Hazaragi. The applicant is married and has 2 children.

The applicant lived illegally in Tehran, Iran, from 2005 to 2008. Then he returned to Ghazni City and set up a shop selling fruit, vegetables and flowers. He ran his shop from 2008 to 2013, and fled after receiving two threatening letters. In March 2013 the applicant left Afghanistan and with assistance of a smuggler he went to Belarus through Russia (he spent a week in Moscow). Mozamel applied for protection in Belarus in May 2013.

Mozamel's wife and children stayed in Ghazni. They are living with the applicant's mother, the children and the applicant's sister. They live in the applicant's house. The applicant's brother Wahid is supporting them.

### EXTRACT FROM THE INTERVIEW

#### **Please tell me about your business in Afghanistan.**

I sold fruit, vegetables and flowers. They were obtained from Kandahar. I also got flowers from the main city of Ghazni. It costed about 1,000,000 Afghani to start the business. Every year I made 5,000, enough to support my family and pay the rent. Nobody worked with me in the shop. So, the business was profitable but it was risky to live in that region. (During the interview the applicant provides the documents showing he owned a shop).

#### **Could you please tell me about the village you lived in?**

There are 2-2.5 thousand people. (The applicant drew a map of Khasuna and the roads through there. He provided details of landmarks and distances). Only Hazaras live there.

#### **Why did you leave your home country?**

I received a letter on 3 November 2011 from the Emirate Islami of Afghanistan requesting payment of 6000 Afghani to purchase a motorcycle for the Taliban to use in the area. (the applicant provided the interviewer with the original of the letter).

#### **How did you receive the letter?**

I was given it by a Pashtun man. I have never met him before.

*The information about the first letter: The message was addressed to the applicant. It was from the Taliban. The place was Ghazni. The applicant's name was referred to, as well as his father's. The date is 1389. The letter referred to the applicant being a shop owner. The letter said that their commander needed motorbikes, and they needed 5000 Afghani, to be given to the bearer of the letter, and God bless the*

*applicant. The top of the letter refers to the Taliban. It also referred to the name of the Taliban base. The letter was delivered two days after it was dated.*

**How did you react to the letter?**

I ignored the letter and did not make the requested payment. I believe that the letter was delivered to me because I am Hazara Shia.

**Did you have any other problems in Afghanistan?**

On 18 September 2012 I received a second letter by the same people advising me that they requested payment from me on 3 November 2011 and I did not comply with their requests. Furthermore, the letter stated that because I did not pay the initial 5,000 Afghani they had added payment of 10,000. I was told that I needed to give the money to a Talib called Nezram. (the applicant provided the interviewer with the original of the letter).

*The information about the second letter: It was from the same Islamic organization, and it stated the area in which they were, in the Province of Ghazni. It referred to the applicant by name, and his father's name. It was dated 1390. It referred to 1389. It said he was asked for the money in the year before and that he did not provide the money. It stated that this time he had to pay double, 10,000 Afghani, to the named person. If the people do not provide the money, they would be considered as non-Muslim, and God would punish them and they should be killed.*

**Were you scared?**

When I received this letter stating that they were going to kill me for payment I was petrified for my life because I did not have the money to pay. When the Taliban states that they will kill you, they will make sure that they follow through with it. Hence, the reason why I decided to flee the country.

**Did you have any other problems after the second letter?**

Within the ten days of preparing to leave the country, I went to my shop to prepare to sell the shop when I was approached by the Taliban. He questioned me to say where the money is and why are you packing up your goods. I told him that in order to make payment to the Taliban I needed to sell my goods. He believed me and he went on his way. Within the ten days I was constantly surveillance by the Taliban my every movement. I had to flee the country to save my life.

**So you left the country in 10 days after the second letter, am I right?**

No. I spent about 4 – 5 months in Kabul. I was waiting for my trip to Belarus there. The smuggler had to prepare everything.

**Why didn't you want to continue living in Kabul?**

Taliban is everywhere in Afghanistan and I do not have security for my life. And I had nothing in Kabul – no place, no home. I just rented a flat for a short period of time.

**Did you receive any phone calls or letters after the second letter?**

No, I left and did not give them a chance.

**Did any other shops around you receive letters like you did?**

The shop next me was a Pashtun shop, and they did not receive any demands. I am sure that I received the demand as I am Hazara and Shia.

**Did you hear from the Taliban or anyone during the time between the letters?**

No. I thought I was safe, they had gone and they had forgotten about it. The second letter was different in that they threatened to kill me, and then I was very scared.

**Why were you so scared after the second letter?**

Because with the Taliban it is very obvious, once they threaten that you will be killed, they really do it, they do not wait.

**But maybe you received faked letters?**

The letters were not faked. No one likes to leave his sons and wife. I am extremely worried.

**Why did the Taliban use such respectful language in the letters?**

I agree that the first letter was respectful, but the second letter was not.

**Did you apply to police?**

No.

**Why?**

There was no sense in application to police. They wouldn't help. Talibs are too powerful now.

**What do you fear might happen if you go back to my home country and/or my country of former habitual residence?**

I will be killed by the Taliban because I am Hazara Shia and for not making payment as they requested.

**Who do you think will harm or mistreat you if you go back?**

The Taliban and Pashtuns will harm me.

**Why do you believe they will harm or mistreat you if you go back?**

If I return to Afghanistan they will consider me a spy coming from a western country and they will kill me. The other reasons I have already mentioned to you.

**Why do you believe the authorities in your home country will not protect you if you go back?**

The authorities are unable to protect themselves from the Taliban therefore they are unable to protect Hazara's and Shia's The government is governed by the Taliban and that is why they will not be able to protect me.

**Why do you think you will suffer significant harm?**

I am a Hazara and a Shia. I will be targeted by the Taliban because they are already looking for me for not making payment.

**Was anybody in your family killed by the Taliban?**

No.

**Were you aware of anyone being killed by the Taliban in your village?**

Yes, one person was killed. He was a Hazara Shia who was driving his car on the way to Kandahar and at Herat they captured him and killed him.

**Why didn't you apply for protection in Russia?**

I didn't know about such an opportunity and I didn't know about Russia anything. I was told that Belarus is a safe country and I wanted to apply here.

**Would you like to add anything?**

Recently the Taliban had come into my area in Afghanistan and asked about me and why I was not in his shop. The people there said they didn't know. The Taliban went in the evening to see Wahid. They beat him, saying he has to hand the applicant over to them. They told Wahid to find me and to bring me to them. Wahid said he didn't know about me. So Wahid was beaten and escaped and now he is missing. I don't know whether Wahid is with the Taliban, or where he is.

**How did you learn about it?**

I heard this information from my wife, we spoke by phone yesterday. She is concerned that there is no one to look after the family. They continue living in the same house in Ghazni. I am really worried about my wife and children.

**Did anybody threaten to your wife?**

Not yet.