

STUDY CASE THREE

The applicant's name is Mr. Bulbudin Hashimi, a 48 year old male Tajik, citizen of Afghanistan, Sunni Muslim religion, no education, married, five children. The applicant and his family lived in Kabul.

The applicant was an owner of a silver jewellery. In 2009 Bulbudin sold his business and started to work as a self-employed truck driver transporting construction materials. In 2013 the applicant and his family had to leave Afghanistan due to threats received from Taliban. They went to Belarus through Moscow (they spent there one day) and applied for protection in Belarus in January 2013.

EXTRACT FROM THE INTERVIEW

Please tell me about your family. I am married, we have five children.

Please tell me about your job. I used to be an owner of a silver jewellery shop. When I started this business it was quite profitable. But then I had to sell it.

Why did you sell you jewellery business? Due to a lack of demand for silver jewellery it became less lucrative. I had a big family, so I had to earn enough money for it. As a result I had to close and sell my shop.

What was your next job? I started to work as a self-employed truck driver. I transported construction materials on the roads between Ghazni and Jaghori.

But you lived in Kabul. Why didn't you work as a driver in Kabul? It was difficult to find a good job in Kabul. But in this position I was paid more.

Did you have any problems related to your job? My problems started in 2012 when I had to carry construction materials between Kabul and Jaghori.

Why did you change the road? I was paid more carrying between Kabul and Jaghori as this road was more dangerous. My wife and I were going to have the fifth child, and we needed more money.

So what problems did you have? I was stopped by the Taliban, they searched my truck.

When did it happen? I think it was January 2011.

How many people stopped you? There were three persons. They were in military clothes and were armed with weapon.

What did they tell you? They told me that I worked for the government and threatened to kill him for this next time if I don't stop my activities.

Why did they decide so? They formed the view that because I was carrying plaster.

Did they beat you? No. They allowed me to go and advised to listen to their words.

Did you stop working as a driver on this road? No. There were problems with employment in that region, and I had to support my family. So I continued to transport building materials.

Did you have any other accidents? Everything was ok till November 2012. During this period of time I avoided being caught by asking other drivers the location of any Taliban checkpoints between Jaghori and Kabul. Nevertheless, in November 2011 I received a letter from the Taliban addressed to me.

How did you receive the letter? One of the drivers gave it to me. He was ordered by Talibs to do it.

What was the content of this letter? According to the letter, I was threatened to be killed because I worked as a driver for the government. My name was in this letter, so it could not be a mistake.

Do you have this letter with you? Yes (the applicant provides the interviewer with the letter).

What happened then? I returned home and asked my wife to start preparation for a long trip. From my side, I started to look for a smuggler. I had some money but I also had to ask for assistance from my friends. I didn't have enough time to deal with selling of my house. So I authorized one of my friends to sell the house. After we left Afghanistan he sold our house. So now I don't have any dept.

How long did your preparations take? About two weeks.

So you arrived in Belarus illegally, didn't you? Yes, we arrived illegally and immediately applied for protection.

Why didn't you apply for asylum in Russia? The smuggler advised to do it in Belarus.

What happened to your national passports? The smuggler took them.

Why do you think it will be dangerous to return to Afghanistan? Talibs will kill me. They think that I work for the government. My family also may suffer. Also it will be dangerous for me because of my ethnicity and religion. Thirdly, the security situation in Afghanistan is declining. If I return to Afghanistan I will be not able to work as a truck driver anymore. In this case it will be impossible for me to earn enough money for my big family.

Did you apply to police for protection? No, this is the way only to waste time. Our police is unable to protect anybody, especially from Talibs.

Would you like to add anything? I just ask to help to me and my family. I already told you about the reasons why it is dangerous for me to return to Afghanistan. Also our house is sold and we will not have any place where to live.