

**ACTING PATRIOTIC COLLECTION
SEPTEMBER 11 DIGITAL ARCHIVE**

**INTERVIEW WITH MOHAMMED NAMAN
CONDUCTED BY JAMES RIDGEWAY
APRIL 06, 2002**

Q. Tell me your name and where you're from.

A. Actually, my name is Mohammed Naman and basically I'm from Pakistan and right now living in the Bronx over here. The thing was, like, I came here...this is my second time I'm coming for the registration and I'm finding that same problem over here. It was like, you know the last time I came, I came, like, ten o'clock in the morning and I had to wait until two o'clock in the, you know, in the noon, and then they told me that the door has been closed so you have to go back and come again. And today I came here and they told me the same thing again. Yeah, the last time I stayed. Well, I'm a student over here. I have to, you know, worry about my college and I'm missing my classes for this thing.

Q. Where are you a student?

A. I'm a student at Queensborough Community College.

Q. How old are you?

A. Well, right now I'm eighteen and...

Q. What are you studying?

A. I'm studying the computers over there and the computer information system and I had to miss a lot of classes for this thing. Well, my...yeah, my exams are going on and I'm missing my exams just for, you know, this stuff. And when we came over here they're telling us that go home and come back again. You know? It's really ridiculous for us.

Q2. How much school have you missed?

A. Well, I have one...one more year to go because I'm going to graduate...I think it's going to be in June, 2004.

Q. Are you angry...(inaudible)...

A. Well, I'm not angry I'm just worrying about, you know, the status and stuff like that because, you know, my college, they told me that right now I'm out of status and I have to go to registration and then come back and apply for the, you know, the student visa again,--stuff like that. It really is not afraid. You know?

Q. Why do you...why are they...why do they want you to register in the first place?

A. I don't know why they want us to register... (inaudible)...have their own rules. Well, I...I consulted a couple of lawyers and they told me that there is no law that they could call you for the, you know, the registration thing. They're only doing it for, you know, the security purposes and you have to go. If you don't go they're going to catch you because the colleges, they have to submit the list of the people who are here...you know, the international students. And when they're going to find out that you didn't register you might be in a big problem.

Q. So...but you'll be going ...(inaudible)...

Q. Yeah.

Q2. Why do you think the government is doing that?

A. Well, I can't answer this question because I don't really know why they're doing this. Well, as I told you there, I consulted the, you know, the lawyer and he told me that it's for the security purposes.

Q2. Do you think...do you think that's true? Do you think this will make America more secure?

A. I don't think because, you know...well, we came here, like, legally. WE didn't came here illegally. We got the visa. They have all the information. We came here legally.

Q. And you're Pakistani.

A. Yeah, almost, you know, everybody because they got the visa to come over here. And they have all the information, the INS, they have information about them how did they came because they got all our ID's and stuff like that. We are in the college. They have all the information from the college. So if they still want us to register it's ridiculous. You know. Well, if it's about the security purposes they could ask us questions. But they shouldn't call us like that. And if they knew that they have to call they should arrange for the, you know, the registration thing. They shouldn't bother the people like this, standing on the streets because it's too cold, I think, outside. And I don't know what they're going to do inside because I'm...I'm...

Q. Are you scared?

A. Well, yeah, in one way because....

Q. Why? In one way why?

A. It's like, you know, I have one more year to go and if they fine out, like, if they didn't register me in a proper way they told me--you know-go back to home it's going to be a big problem for me because I paid a lot of money for my studies. And then I'm going to go back home it's all of my

studies and everything is going to be wasted. So I don't really want that. I want to finish my study and then go back home and do my job.

Q2. Do you have friends who were detained or...

A. Yeah. A lot of my friends, they came for registration and a couple of them, they were satisfied with their...and I think most of them, they were, like, you know, they were asking them different kind of questions, like...a couple of my friends they told me that they were asking the questions like how did you come over here? What was your flight number? What was your boarding pass number? You know? If someone came here, like, three years ago I don't think he's going to remember the...what was his boarding pass number.

Q2. So what would...what would happen?

A. Well, they told them to go...they're going to send them to the judge and they're going to decide whatever they're going to do with them.

Q2. Just because they can't remember their... (inaudible)...

A. Yeah. Yeah. If they don't answer one of the questions they're, like, all right, you have to go to the judge.

Q2. Do you know any other questions they've asked or...

A. Well, so far I know only this. And the other thing they were telling me that they want, like, three person's addresses in your country. They're going to ask you, you know, the rel--about your relatives over here. I think...

Q. Do you think...I think that the reason why the U.S. government is doing this is because they think that this is going to prevent what happened in September 11th. Do you think this is a good way to prevent that from happening again?

A. Well, it's good to do that but it shouldn't be like this. It should be for the people who came here, you know, in other ways like crossing the border and stuff like that. They should really stop them because they don't know anything about them: how did they come. If they know everything about the people who came here legally over here they shouldn't really call them for the registration and stuff like that. Well, that's all I could say about that. I have no answer for this question because I'm really I'm just studying and I don't, you know, I don't go out a lot. I don't ask people a lot... (inaudible)...what's going on. I just go home, study and do my stuff. But that's I could say.

Q. Can you say...can you give me...I need to get you to say that I have permission to interview you. Can you...can you say that I gave...that you said I can interview you?

A. Yeah. Well, you interview me, there's nothing wrong with that. You could do that. You should...I think you should ask to every single person because you should know the feeling of the people how do they feel about this thing. You know? It's really bad for the people just

standing...standing on the streets waiting for the line and then they tell them that the line is closed. Go back home. Come back again. I think a lot of people, they were coming here third or fourth time because I saw a couple of faces I was, like, feeling familiar with them because I saw them before over here.

Q. Does it make you feel like you're being discriminated against, like you...well, you know?

A. Yeah. It could be the discrimination because...Well, the problem is, you know, they're calling only the Muslims to come over here. Well, if they call only the Muslims to come over here, there were a lot of Christians came from Pakistan. I know a lot of my friends, they are Christian, they came from Pakistan. They don't have to come over here for the registration thing because it's only for Muslims. So I think it could be the discrimination of Islam, you know, discrimination for our religion. Because if they think that only the Muslims are terrorists it's totally wrong. They shouldn't...they shouldn't say that because they don't know every single person. IF one person is bad it doesn't mean that every single person is bad and that's what I would say about his. It's a really bad thing.

Q. Give me your phone number...(inaudible)...

A. Write down my phone number. It's XXX-XXX

Q. XXX...

A. XXXX.

Q. Thanks a lot.

A. No problem.