

**ACTING PATRIOTIC COLLECTION
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**INTERVIEW WITH SHAFFIC GERVEZ
CONDUCTED BY JAMES RIDGEWAY
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Q. Okay. So why don't...you...we...we start with you... Let's go to (inaudible) Okay. We'll take care of it later. Okay. So...so can we start by your just telling us your name and where you live?

S.G. Okay. My name is Shaffic Gervez. I live in Connecticut and I am brother-in-law of Cassir Rafik who is detained in Connecticut.

Q. So how long have you lived in Connecticut?

S.G. I've been there, like, since 1995. Like, there was a small gap in between. I came here to live in New York City for about one year.

Q. And...and can you tell us what you do to...to...?

S.G. Yes. Basically, I am, like, a computer consultant but nowadays I'm working with one of the transportation company in Connecticut as a programmer and, like, a little bit of management jobs and stuff.

Q. And where do you...where were you born and where did you grow up?

S.G. I grew up in Pakistani in a small village, then moved to the big city, had all of the qualifications...had a small business in the big city there also. And...

Q. What made you decide to come to the United States?

S.G. Like, I came here only because of my brother-in-law who had good business that time and he was the one who, you know, supported me to come here and work with him and to grow up his businesses and stuff.

Q. So what kind of a visa do you have?

S.G. Yeah. When I came here I had a...a business visa. And later on because of the...his support and everything...and nowadays I have the green card. Yeah.

Q. Yeah. You're married. Right?

S.G. Yes.

Q. And tell us about your family. When did you get married and have a...children?

S.G. Yeah. I got married in 1994 and I have one little son who is about four-and-a-half years old now. And my wife is also...she is also school graduated and she had, like, teacher's training courses from our country but ...And since she's here she never had the chance to work for any organizations or something like that. I was the only one who was working.

Q. So what kind of visa did she have?

S.G. She...she came...she had the same, like, I had the business visa and she was an add on to my visa also. We came together.

Q. So you...you live in Hartford?

S.G. I live... Yes, about in Hartford, near Hartford.

Q. It's a...So tell us now...Does...You live near your brother or with your brother or...

S.G. Before, like, when I came here, that time, or nowadays?

Q. Yeah, just, well, whatever. You know?

S.G. Yeah. Actually, when we came here we lived together in, like, East Hartford area and he had a few businesses in East Hartford and in, like neighboring towns. He had a couple of convenience stores and gas stations that time. And later on he just decided to move to New York City and we moved together here. We sold all the businesses there and bought a couple of businesses here in New York. And later on that was not a good experience, actually, because...because of a few business decision. Like, those businesses, which he started here, did event in losses and stuff. And later on it turned out to be, like, he joined one of ...a marketing company here in Manhattan and I moved back to Connecticut and I started one job there because...because of those businesses we lost all of our money and everything.

Q. So what does...what does he do now, your brother?

S.G. Like, before he got arrested he was working here in Manhattan for a couple of dot. com companies as marketing director. And that was his last job and he quit it just a few days before his arrest because he was decide he was going to Pakistan to visit the family because his sister died last year also and he did not...he was unable to go there at that time. And he wanted to go back to Pakistan just to spend a little time with the family and then come back here.

Q. Now, when he had this trouble was he actually living with you or in New York?

S.G. Like, he was living here in New York, but the day he was arrested he was visiting us because of ... especially because of my son. He is...he is very close to him and he was the one who was calling him almost every day and that come to our house, I miss you, like always kids do.

Q. Now, he's not married. Does he have children, do you know?

S.G. Actually, he got married about two times but he got divorced.

Q. So he's not married now?

S.G. No.

Q. Does he marry Pakistani women or American women or...?

S.G. He had one American, like, before and then he got married to one of the Pakistani.

Q. Okay. So now let's...On this particular day, like, that he was arrested let's just start out and you tell us as best you can in very great detail exactly what happened, I mean, from the time you woke up to...

S.G. Okay. I understand. Actually, just before, like, even a couple of days before his arrest, like, a few police officers came to our house and knocked at the door. And when my wife opened up the door she was alone at home at that time; it was almost around ten, eleven o'clock in the morning time and they just walked in the house and started looking the things around. And they started asking the questions, like, not for her brother or anything like that, just, like, a few questions about, like, there is some car broken in the neighborhood. Did you see anybody running behind a building or something, like, they just made up that story and just to get into the house. That's all. And later on they started asking her the questions about her brother that who comes to your house. Somebody told that somebody comes to your house and stays with you overnight, and something...he told that...that is, my brother, and he comes here all the time. You know? That...and they asked her that...tell your brother to call us whenever he comes here next time. She said okay.

As soon as they left she calls me and tells me what happened: police came to the house and they we're looking--you know--for something and that's what story gave to her. Then right away I called in the Police Department and they told me that was just a broken...in...in the neighborhood and we just came in to investigate that. And somebody told us that somebody comes to your house and lives there and, yes, we...that's why we just came to your house. And I asked them if they want to talk to me again or they want to talk to him, just tell me. They said: No, no. Everything is fine. It was just a mix up in the investigation. Don't worry about that. He don't have to call us or anything like that.

Okay. One day after, like, at night he came to visit us again and at night I told him what happened; the police came and all that, and he asked us if he has to call the Police Department. I said no, no. They said everything is fine. Don't worry about it. Next morning, like, I left to go to work and he was sitting in the living room just watching the TV and having tea or something, and I saw a couple of police parked...police car parked in, like, just near our apartment building and I thought they may be just sitting there just for the same kind of investigation they came other day. And I saw them and I just left like usual thing.

And then later on, like, I don't re--...you know, remember the exact time, my wife calls me...no, I called her to find out that is everything is alright and did my brother-in-law left for New York or no? Then she started crying and she told me that police is in the house and they are running around and they are checking almost every room. They checked under the bed, they...they're checking, like, and they're shuffling through the paperwork and they are checking everything. I don't know what's going on in here. And I asked her where is Cassir and she said that he left, like, just fifteen minutes before they came to the house. And then it made me a little bit, like, worried about that...what happened and why they came to our house. Then I left from the office right away but I was on the cell phone with my wife, like, a couple of times during the time also. Even, one time, one officer picked up the phone and I asked him the question that what's going on? Why are you guys are in my house, and they told me that because your brother ... brother-in-law is involved in some kind of activities and we were trying to do that investigation. And I asked him where is he, and they said they already arrested him.

Okay. Finally I got home and I saw one, like, yellow tape wrapped around my house entrances, like garage door, main door and back door also and I was surprised. They were not letting anybody to go in and did not ...were not letting anybody to go out. And I asked when what's going on there and they said--you know, like, we are investigating about your brother. I said: I know you guys may be investigating about him but this is my house. Why you guys are searching my house? He was just visiting my house. And then I just walked in the house and checked her first that if she's fine, my son is fine. Then I came back out and I asked the officer who was running all kind of...all this operation and I asked him that: Do you guys have any kind of search warrant to search the house? And as soon as I asked that question then he just looked at me like this, like he is very shocked that why did I ask him that question. And then he said: No, no, no. I am waiting for somebody. As soon as some...somebody reaches here they have the warrant with them. I said: Okay. I think you asked everybody to come out from my house because you guys do not have any authority to get into my house yet and nobody else allowed you to get in the house. And please, when you will have the warrant-search warrant you guys are most welcome to come to my house. Then they said okay, let's...let's see what happens. Then they took another fifteen, twenty minutes.

And then in the meanwhile I saw my brother-in-law. He was sitting in one...I don't remember the car. Like, that was just a regular car. There was no sign...police sign or anything like that, and he was sitting in that car and a couple of officers in...just in...without the uniform. They were standing next to him. When I saw him sitting in that car and I thought let me go and talk to him that what happened, if they can...I can find out why may he get...got arrested. But those officers made me to leave. They said: you cannot come close to this car. You cannot talk to him. Finally, like, after another twen--fifteen, twenty minutes I tried to get help from one of attorney and I called him and...and he was not in the office and I left him a message. And later on he called me and I told him all that. That was just a separate situation there. But after, like, fifteen, twenty minutes I started going and questioning again that where are the warrants, right? And they said: He's not here yet, but he's on the way. I said no. I will not let you guys do any more. Then finally, when they saw that...that I was, like, getting more upset and all that then they just got...got in their cars and left. They were about, like, local police, state police and those simple cars. There were about seven or eight cars and you can imagine that at least two officers in each car and how many people were there at my house and doing all this stuff.

Now, when he...they took him into the police station, later on in the evening I called the State Police Department and tried to find out the why he is there and those people did not cooperate with me at all. They said they will bring him to the court and they will let us know later on and all that. I did...Until that time I did not know the exact situation, what was going on, why they arrested him and all that but a little bit...a little bit I heard that...from one officer saying something about larceny but I did not...I did not even know the term larceny at that moment that what is larceny but I did not. That's why I thought they may be talking about their own terms or something.

After, like, two or three days investigation I guess, and they brought him to the court- local court- and they gave him one public defender from there. And that public defender calls me later on and told me that his charge was larceny and he is being held on, like, one million bond. Plus they have, like, some kind of additional investigation going on with respect to 9-11. Those re the only words that lady told me. And then I did not know what to do. I didn't know, like, how to find an attorney because we'd never been into this situation ever. And finally I tried to take some help.

I tried to contact a few organizations and stuff and I found out that we should get one attorney's help first and that attorney can find out everything, whatever is going on with him. And I end up hiring one attorney and he had a very good reputation in that area and I hired him. Then he took another two weeks about to find...find out the exact situation and everything. Then we found out that he was charged with grand larceny because of his...the partnership in which they bought the gas station in Long Island, like, in '96sometime. And then in addition to that, they were thinking, like, because in the last job he had that was, like, in lower Manhattan area and they were thinking, like, to felt because he quitted that job just be--a little before 9-11 because he was planning to go to Pakistan but they try...they tried to relate that job quitting with respect to, like, another activity or something. And that was, like, total situation here.

Q. So where was the job in Manhattan?

S.G. Manhattan job? Okay. That was...You need the company name?

Q. No. Just tell me where the location (inaudible)...

S.G. Yeah. Location we can. It is Hanover...Hanover Square in lower Manhattan area somewhere.

Q. Hanover Square?

S.G. Hanover Square.

Q. Hanover Square. Well, is that near the World Trade Center?

S.G. I don't know. It's...it's near Wall Street area somewhere. I don't know, like, the exact...where that exactly is.

Q. So, now, did ...did any police actually come to talk to you?

S.G. Like, after two or three weeks, like, that day even I...I was...I had joined one of the courses in the local adult education program there and I had the test that day even and, like, around ten or eleven o'clock, one of the officers from State Police called me that the need my testament, you know, r that case and I told them that I am not available today because that day...I took off the day only to prepare for my test which I have to go to school in the evening. But they said: We...OH no. You have to come to the police station today and, like, they were, like, a little bit rude and something. And I got scare and I just ran to the police station, local State Police headquarters and that's where, like... And I was there, like, for more than two, three hours I guess and they...they were asking me all kinds of questions and his involvements with...with, like, terror activities or with...against the Indians and, like, that kind of stuff. They were asking me that kind of questions and all that.

Q. Well, can you try to remember exactly what questions they asked you?

S.G. Yeah. Like, they asked me if I...I know somebody, like, who (inaudible) guess may be helping financially to send the funds to India...India or Cashmere and a couple of other related questions also but I don't exactly remember now.

Q. And what other kinds of questions?

S.G. Like, his relationship with any of the people from New Jersey and...because he lived in New Jersey also for, like, one year...for a year or more, I guess.

Q. Where did he live in New Jersey?

S.G. I...I don't know the exact town name of something but I know, like, I guess they call it West New York or something, just the very first exit after you go through the Holland Tunnel, in that area.

Q. Did...did they ask you anything at all about the World Trade Center?

S.G. Not exactly. Not exactly.

Q. What do you mean?

S.G. Like, the only thing...like, they did not ask me the exact question, like, if I know Cassir doing something about that. But the only questions they had was, like, if Cassir knew those people, you know, who were from New Jersey, right? Because, like, one thing, like, if Cassir knew somebody there in New Jersey and, like, why did he quit his Wall Street job just before 9-11. Those were the main questions they insisted on.

Q. So what did you tell them?

S.G. For Wall Street job I just told them that the only reason was because his sister was died-in May last year?

(Female voice) May, yeah, in May.

S.G. In May, right?...Okay, May, last year, his sister was died and right after that what happened is because he could go that time because he had some kind of project going on in his...in his company, but right away I sent my wife and my son. And that was our planning that, like, when these two come back, then he was supposed to go to Pakistan. And he applied for the leave with his company and they told him: okay. You can go. That's not a problem and all that. Later on...but later on he had, like, some kind of arguments with his boss on, like, policymaking...market policy making or something like that and then after that he quitted tat job. He said: that's all right. When I come back I can find another one.

Q. So when you told the police that what did they say?

S.G. They did not. They just went to eh next question. That's all. Then they started the questions about the as station, how they bought it, and all that.

Q. Did they ask you anything about Pakistan?

S.G. Like, what exactly?

Q. Like, I mean, they might have asked you where you lived or, like, if you attended one of these religious schools or...

S.G. No, nothing.

Q. I mean, did they act like they knew anything about Pakistan or about the situation?

S.G. They...yeah. That...that you can feel anyway. Like, they...they knew a lot of stuff, especially whatever is going on between India, India and Cashmere and all that, yeah. Most of...

Q. So they were ... they were interested in that rather than Afghan--Afghanistan?

S.G. No, nothing about that.

Q. So were they...they just wanted Cashmere?

S.G. Yeah, because the reason, excuse me, the reason, like, they were thinking, like, Cassir' involvement in Cashmere was because his partner did think that that guy is Indian and Cassir just took his money and just sent it to any organization or something and he did not buy the gas station. That was...that's what they were thinking at that time, and whereas that guy is not Indian. He is West Indian...African West Indian and he lives in Trinidad. He is from Trinidad. You see? And they just took out the word Indian from that and there are Indian...Americans also. But I don't know, like, where did that just India word come from.

Q. You mean the police thought that this...your brother's...it's your brother-in-law, right?

S.G. Yeah. Um-hum.

Q. That his partner came from Cashmere in India?

S.G. No, no, no. Like, they...they were...like, what I feel is they were suspecting that because Cassir took the money from Indian guy...

Q. Yeah?

S.G. ...Right...and just to support some organization in Cashmere. That's all they were thinking, like, take their money...

Q. Oh, I see.

S.G. And put it on their shoulders 'cause...

Q. Where, in fact, this other...this other guy was from Trinidad...

S.G. Trinidad, and they...they had good partnership and they were, like, doing...Like, even Cassir was paying him monthly profit share if they had a profit, and still...But I don't know...

Q. They had a fight. So what's happened since then?

S.G. Okay. Since that...what happened is almost...the attorney I hired, the first attorney, what he was doing was every time he was just going to the court and getting another date. He was not filing any other motions. He did not file any other motion other than, like, filing a motion that he will be representing him. And Cassir asked him a few times that you should file some kind of motion that...to reduce my bond or to do something with them came or something like that, and every time he was telling him that he is not ready yet or he's not ready yet and all this kind of stuff. And later on, like, just, like, a few days before Cassir fired that attorney what happened is Cassir and him went to a couple of...into a couple of arguments because he was questioning him about the same stuff State Police was questioning.

Q. Like what?

S.G. Like, the same, like if he has...he's re...he's related to any terrorist organizations or this sort of stuff. Even that attorney...I'm sorry. Can you pause that for a second?...Are we ready now? Okay.

Okay. Now, I was talking about attorney's things. Like he was...like, attorney was, like, questioning him all the time and saying so many words, like, you may be a spy. You may be just spying. You may be doing this or you may be involved in those kind of organizations but you may be just, to save yourself you are just involved activist in your community and all that because Cassir was very active in, you know, our Pakistani community also. Like, after 9-11 they had a couple of peace rallies in New York also and I...I brought a small movie clipping for that also, just to support that. And maybe...

(Female voice speaks intelligible sentence)

S.G. Yeah. They...they had...they arranged so many and stuff there. But what attorney was saying that: I know you must be knowing somebody who are involved in this stuff and you are not telling us and this kind of stuff. Finally, when Cassir felt like this attorney, rather than supporting him, -he is just on his payroll- he is just investigating for somebody else. Then he called me and that we should fire him and then he fired that attorney.

Q. Now, did you ever have any, you know, reason to think that the attorney was working for somebody else?

S.G. Yeah, because he...because Cassir was the...because I was just calling attorneys when I, like, needed to find out that. What happened on this date or something. Cassir was the one who was keeping him in the court when he...they were bringing him there. And a couple of times that attorney went to the jail also to see him. And each time he was seeing him he was just trying to investigate the stuff.

Q. So now, again tell me what happened with the...Go through it again, the meetings that you're brother-in-law was involved in...in New York...in New York you...you started to say (inaudible)

S.G. Yes. Like, after 9-11 they had, like, arranged, like, so many fund--raising dinners to support the victims' families and they...they arranged, like, all kinds of events in Brooklyn, New York also and even the Brooklyn Mayor was there too. Then in the last days before he got arrested he even invited one of the superstars from Pakistan named (inaudible) for a fund-raising dinner also, but he could not finish that. And then because he was the active part in that kind of organizing the stuffs and...Excuse me. Can you pause it? How are you, brother? Okay.

Q. So these were fund-raising things for the victims of (inaudible)

S.G. Victims'...Yeah, victims' families, yeah.

Q. And so what did they...the police think? They thought that...or the lawyer, what did they...

S.G. The lawyer, when Cassir tried to convince him on those basis and lawyer said that a spy can do anything and then those things made him a little bit, like...and Cassir made him more nervous that rather than supporting Cassir, right? That that guy was just investigating against him. Then he had to do that.

Q. Now, how did you find this attorney?

S.G. The first attorney? Like, I called, like, local Bar Associations and a couple of other friends and a couple of organizations, you know, who, like, Shofaar True and they referred me to the...

Q. They recommended him.

S.G. Yeah.

Q. Does he do a lot of immigration work?

S.G. No.

Q. So how much did he charge you?

S.G. I guess...I don't remember exactly. It was like, first retainer..basic retainer was about...he asked me for five thousand dollar retainer. No, four...four thousand five hundred on just (inaudible)

Q. That's the total or that's...

S.G. No. That was the basic retainer to start the case.

Q. Four thousand five hundred.

S.G. Yeah.

Q. Did you pay him anything else?

S.G. No. I just...from those four thousand five hundred dollars I paid him about twenty-five hundred dollars in the beginning, like, some on the first meeting and some (inaudible) of the money on the second meeting and so that he can start the process and all that. And the rest of the money was supposed to be paid, like, after ten weeks or something like that.

Q. Okay. So when you got rid of this attorney then what happened? Did you get another attorney?

S.G. Yes.

Q. So tell us about that.

G. Yeah. Other attorney, he is, like, he is also criminal and litigation attorney. Basically he handles the both cases. And we found him from Hartford and this attorney was referred to us by one of his own clients who was detained with Cassir also, like, another case or something like that. And this attorney's working hard on that case. Let's see what he does?

Q. So how...how much did you have to pay him?

S.G. This attorney is, like, we might have to pay him between ten to fifteen, I guess, thousand, but the first payment with the help of ICNA we've made about five thousand dollars to him already.

Q. So this charge, this grand larceny charge, this is a charge in the what? City court or State court or what?

S.G. That's the State.

Q. State court.

S.G. Yeah.

Q. And so when they charged him with this and set bail, he went before a magistrate?

S.G. Yeah.

Q. And did anybody go ever and say they'd like the bail reduced?

S.G. Yes. We did file in the bail reduction, like, in February and what happened is when we went to the court everything was fine. Even on Grand Larceny, like, bond should not be more than ten thousand dollars, whereas we applied...when...when we asked the judge we gave him all kinds of proofs and everything, and Prosecutor who did not admit that any kind of involvement with 9-11 before, but at that time, like, when we filed the bond reduction at that time he mentioned that FBI's still investigating him for, like, 9-11 stuff and ...

Q. Who mentioned that?

S.G. Prosecutor...State Prosecutor.

Q. So he mentioned the terrorist, 9-11 thing in the bail hearing.

S.G. Yeah, bail hearing.

Q. And what did he actually say?

S.G. He just said that, like, if he would reduce his bond, like, he may be a flight risk because we still have, like, a...a federal investigation pending against him in regards to his involvement with terrorist activities.

Q. Did he give any proof of that?

S.G. No.

Q. Did the judge ask for any proof?

S.G. No.

Q. Have you ever talked to an FBI agent?

S.G. Yes. Just after that thing, like, we started contacting the people who can contact to FBI. We contacted a couple of organizations and they called the FBI and we found out that there was no

investigation pending against him. And the FBI officer who was investigating that case, they told them that, like, there is no investigation. His file was closed within a week after he was arrested and we did not find anything.

Q. So they did investigate him for a week?

S.G. Yeah. They did investigate him and they, like, a couple of people went to see him in the jail also after his arrest.

Q. The FBI did?

S.G. Yeah, the FBI.

Q. Does any other federal agents talk to him?

S.G. No.

Q. Did you ever talk to any other federal agents?

S.G. No.

Q. So did you talk to anybody beside the State Police except the FBI guy on one occasion?

S.G. Yeah. That's all.

Q. That's all?

S.G. That's all?

Q. There's never been anybody else that...the District Attorney from Hartford or...

S.G. Nobody called us, nobody.

Q. So this was the State attorney General who brought this case?

S.G. Yeah. It's the State Prosecutor they call it.

Q. So, okay. So how long has your...your brother-in-law been in jail?

S.G. He is in jail since October tenth, fif--...sixteenth...sixteenth...October sixteenth.

Q. So now, have you ever seen him in jail?

S.G. Yes. Like, after, like, I guess four or five weeks, like, I sent my form to enroll myself in visitors list and hers. What they did is they put her name in the list but hey they didn't... they did not put my name on the list. And...

Q. Why?

S.G. I don't know anything about that. And I sent that form, like, two or three times, I guess, and they were not putting my name on the list. And then later on, like, when I spoke with Counsellor a few times and I insisted her to do that and finally they end up doing it but they took a long, long time, I guess more than even three months, I guess.

(Female voice) Two months.

S.G. Two...two months? Yeah.

Q. So you go...when you...when you visit him what...what do you do? Do you sit in a room with him or what?

S.G. No. That is, like, some kind of cabin stuff they have. You go there and pick up the phone and talk with them.

Q. Well, can you see them?

S.G. Yeah.

Q. But he's on the other side of a wall?

S.G. Other...other side of the, like, glass.

Q. So how many times have both of you seen him?

S.G. A few times. Like, his visiting schedule is, like, twice a week but we were able to see him, like, about once a month or twice a month or something like that.

Q. So when you say twice a week, is it like a particular time?

S.G. Yeah, a particular time and days.

Q. Do you know when the times are?

S.G. Like...

(Female voice)...(inaudible) in the afternoon.

S.G. Yeah. Most of the times are...timings are, like...I don't remember exactly now. I did not bring the schedule. But the time I went to see him and they were...they were, like, Saturday between seven and nine or eight to ten.

Q. So how...how else do you communicate with him?

S.G. He makes collect calls.

Q. So how many calls does he make a week?

S.G. Like, since last few months because he was, like, a little bit up--like, disturbed there all the time and he was making, like, two or three calls a day at least.

Q. And how much do these calls cost?

S.G. Averaging between three and four dollars now, whereas, before the used to cost us up to even dollars per call.

Q. So there's been a reduction in cost?

S.G. In...yeah, because he...he is transferred from one jail which was too far from our house, and from there...there was a toll call also. And toll call plus the collect call charges. They were accumulating up to seven...six, seven dollars. And now, because he's close to our house, like, this one is about twenty minutes' drive. Twenty, twenty-five minutes drive.

Q. What kind of a jail is it?

S.G. This is, like, a very restrictive jail, like, where you even, like, big, big criminals there.

Q. And is he isolated? Does he live in a ward or what?

S.G. Like, he was living in a ward kind of thing. They have, like, small cabins but still...and they have, like, a common room or something. But since last one week he is in, like, in...in some isolated cabin or something. He's...

Q. And why is that?

S.G. Yeah. The reason for that is, like, since lat few weeks he was complaining that a few of the wardens or the people from jail, they are harassing him in different ways, like threatening him and...for his safety and his life and all this kind of stuff. And last I spoke with him was eighth May in 2002. And then he told me that he would call me next day and...because it was the anniversary of their sister and he was calling...going to call us and then we were going to call Pakistan also to talk with the family on that day also. And...but he could not call us and we started worrying about him. And he did not call us, like, Thursday and Friday. Then finally on Saturday I went to the jail and there they took the information from me and everything, and later on when he entered that information in the computer he found out that he is in the different section where nobody can see him and he cannot even call us out also. And I asked him why is he there, right? And he said it's a inside matter. We cannot release that information. And then I insisted that guy a couple of times, whoever was on he reception, and...but he got a little bit rude and then finally I thought I should leave because he was going to be more upset otherwise if I was staying there.

And later on I called my attorney the same Saturday night, last Saturday night, and I asked hi if he can find out some details and he said he will call there right away to find out if he can find something. Otherwise he will call there Monday. And...and since Saturday he tried to call and jail officials and they were just transferring him to the voicemail of Cassir's counselor and nobody ever got back to him on that. But later on my sources, like, a couple of Cassir's friends from the jail, but it is, like, I will not say that it should...the information should be released to anybody, but somebody just wrote me a small letter telling me the situation ...what happened...exactly happened to him that day.

That day when he woke up and he went to the main lobby or something, one of his started harassing him again and he...he was, like, a little bit scared and then he wrote a small complaint for the correction officer, whoever was the head officer here, saying that he's very scared and please do something. And when that officer read that letter he just trans-- removed him from his actual cell and moved him to the other cell which is like, where they keep the people who do something wrong...really wrong in the jail and they just put them in the side cabin or something where they cannot even see somebody. They are not provided the proper food, they are not pro--provided, like, daily necessities of the life also. And since that he's there and he did not call us. And still we...we are trying...Our attorney tried to contact him even on Friday also and he could not reach anybody again.

Q. Have you talked to people like the ACLU or any of these people?

S.G. No, not yet.

Q. It just seems incredible that the guy is in jail for grand larceny on one million dollar bond. Have you (inaudible)...

S.G. And we spoke with...in the beginning, right in the beginning, we tried to contact with ACLU but they said when they tried to contact the officials in there what they did is they said: he's in only for grand larceny. He's not suspected for anything else. And then they...they were giving, like, those, like, State Prosecutor was giving, like, different kind of stories to different people. Like if...like one (inaudible) calls they tell him that he's not involved in any kind of suspect terrorist activities or something. If another organization calls they tell them that he's being investigated for that and it was amazing. Even the other day somebody called and tried to find out and they told them also he same thing, that he's not being investigated for anything else other than larceny. But...and the main problem is when these people going the court and if our attorney files some kind of motion against. to dismiss his bond...bond or his detention and all that then they bring up those stories again in front of the judge.

Q. But did...What ... what...exactly what stories did hey exactly tell the judge?

S.G. Just...Like the last story, like I told you, that that...

Q. They thought that he was sending money? Tell me again. What...what did they...what...what did they say to the judge?

S. G. Like, last time No, not last year. On bond reduction hearing, like I told you they, like, everything was also going smooth. Like, judge looked like whatever our attorney and Prosecutor were de--debating on, you know, everything was going smooth and it looked like the judge will definitely reduce his bond that day. But all of a sudden, like, when everything was fine and it looked like everything is almost smooth and everything and all of a sudden the Prosecutor turned around and he brought up that story that he's still being investigated by FBI for terrorism activities and relationships with, like, Indians, Cashmerees and all that. And then automatically when judge heard that and judge said okay. For the stuff is going on I guess this bond is, you know, all--alright to keep it the same way.

Q. You mentioned before that there was an article in the Hartford paper and that that had some effect on things.

S.G. Yes.

Q. Could you tell us that story?

S.G. Yes. What happened is, like, as soon as Cassir fired his attorney and we faxed...we mailed him the letter and I...we certified...sent him the certified mail to fire him, right after that, just a couple of days after that, this article came in the Hartford Grunt telling...saying about his terrorist activities and his involvements and all kind of these stories.

Q. So it was an anti--a hostile article?

S.G. Um-hum. And this article was...came out almost after three months after his arrest.

Q. Right. But it was a nasty article. Huh?

S.G. Yes it was.

Q. So it really suggested that he was a terrorist?

S.G. Yes. In that article they tried....

Q. And what happened as a result of that?

S.G. In result of that, like, what happened is people started calling us also to find out what...what is exactly going on. And in jail, like, people really tried to give him a hard time also on that. And a couple of times even he had a few arguments and finally...and a few of the people tried to beat him also. And one day three or four inmates attacked on his and they beaten him very bad and only because...And they were saying that we know you area terrorist and we will get you, and all this kind of stuff and because...and right before that attack I heard that they distributed the copies of that article in the jail also.

Q. Now, has anybody ever threatened you or your wife?

S.G. No.

Q. You don't get telephone calls or anything like that?

S.G. Not...not threatening calls.

Q. So how has all this sort of affected you? I mean...I mean, what do you think about all this?

S.G. Like, we think that we had ... like, he had nothing to do with those kind of stuff but just people made up those things. And only because of that reason he is, like, being detained since last seven months. And he was the only one supporter of the family and even his family is in really bad shape in...like, financially and health wise. And his old parents, they are really very sick nowadays only because of this, like, lies, we can say. And I guess they are taking too long to take out and, like, the facts and figures and...about him and because of that this is really affecting of our life also because when he is there in, like, in detention and all that and I...I'm just running around to get the help for him and it's really ..It is, like, very ...and it puts you, like, he is detained there and we...we are in trouble outside there. So...

Q. Has this hurt your business at all?

S.G. Yes, of course. Like, the company I'm working with is, like, there is a small transportation company and I've used to work there, like, on very good salary and everything. Since...after he got arrested I cannot give that much time to the company. Automatically this affected my income and my credibility in the company also because I have to go around find the stuff and all that. That's why even a couple of times...and the reason only because I had, like, attorney appointment or I had to go somewhere and...but I had office work pending also. And a couple of times even I got into arguments with my bosses also and I almost got fired. These things really affecting. And second thing, this is like...this added up additional expenses into my household also. Like, now I am the only one supporting two, three families. Like, Cassir's family my own family and my family here. And it's really hard to keep up with the expenses also while...and you...you cannot work properly in your company and make proper money and all that.

Q. Okay. Was there anything else you wanted to say, like, you'd like to say or...

Q2. I wanted to suggest to (inaudible) You were talking about the...the first meeting and maybe it might be worth asking where the guards were (inaudible)

S.G. You want to pause for a minute and just...

(Female voice) Even last month (inaudible) flu and (inaudible) also they don't give him any medical aid. Again he requesting when he needed bandaid he bought all from (inaudible) medicine. And after he's feeling better he gave him medicine. Now he is sick too. Where they put him in is a very dirty cell so where they put him they don't give him proper food and he's sick also there. And they said they're giving me food I cannot eat that food. I starved (inaudible) and...so

we're so worried about him. We are thinking he's not sick because a lot of times they're threatening, they're abusing ...

Q. Can you tell us a little bit...Now, the first time he was...Adam was saying he was beaten, the guards were just there? They just stood there?

S.G. Yes. Like, the last...the first time he was beaten, that was, like, after the one...after almost one month of Hardford article came out, and...and what they did is that time, like, just the couple of days before that Daniel Pearl was kidnapped in Pakistan. And just after that what they did is, like, the correction officers and all that, they started distributing the copies of that article and to the inmates and other correction officers and all that. And they read that article and they started abusing him again and harassing and all that. And the day he got beaten was, like, he was just walking through the hallway or something and three or four inmates attacked on him and they, like, kicked him bad and, like, he...he was injured in that. And they kept beating him until he was almost unconscious. Whereas, the correction officers were just standing next to him and just staring at them and just that he's getting beaten. Nobody tried to ever help him.

And after, like, that beating, like, when he was almost unconscious these people, whatever happened in between I don't know the exact things, and what happened is right after that they brought him to the medical room and...and they made his...a couple of pictures and...and they changed his clothes. They did not give him any medication or anything like that and they brought him back ...brought him back to his cell. And he asked the correction officers that he wanted to report that incident to the State Police or somebody just to be documented and if he could get some help from that. And what they did is rather than calling the police they started explaining him the consequences- what can happen to him in the jail if he complains about that incident.

But he kept insisting that and after, like, six, seven hours finally they called the police. Police came and rather than taking his report first they started explaining him the consequences that something can happen to him if he reports this incident or something. But he still wanted to file the report and finally they did that. And after filing the report what they did is, under high security, they transferred him to the more restrictive jail and that's where he is nowadays. And like, he was in pain and he had quite a few bruises but nobody gave him any kind of medical aid in between that time. And we tried to contact the people from outside and I...I went there myself- I'm sorry- I went there myself to find out if he is fine. He's doing okay. They did not let me see him that day and they said that we will be able to see him after a week or something...and...and I asked him if they gave him any kind of medical treatment since he is there but they told me that they always treat any injured person who comes to the jail whereas when I spoke with Cassir he told me that they never gave him any kind of medical treatment. And that's what happened to him in that beatings.

Q. And didn't you say there's a second one?

Q2. Yeah, when he was chained, the clothes were taken off and.....

S.G. Yeah. That day actually, brother, he was not guard beaten actually.

Q2. Right.

S.G. Yeah. that was ...

(Female voice)...(inaudible) from at least four days?

S.G. Okay. Uh-huh. Is that still play? Okay. What happened is after the bond hearing I was talking about before, after that....

Q2. Try and get this recorded too.

S.G. Okay. After...after his bond hearing, when he went back to he jail and what happened is when people come out...come back from outside they...what they do is they go through...they go through the screening again. And because of that screening what officer asked him to take off his clothes, right? And he took off his clothes and the officer just stood on his clothes and he said why are you here for? And he...he told him that he's there for grand larceny. And he said: No. I know why are you here for and why...yeah...One thing I forgot to mention before and which was mentioned in this incident also, what happened is he said he asked him that why did you have that movie permit in your car when you were arrested. And he said: that is...that was...that Cassir don't want to talk about that movie permit yet. He said: Why...I know why you don't want to talk about that because you have some kind of involvement with that kind of organizations or something. And he did really abused him that day while he was standing naked there and all the other inmates and correction officers were just staring at him. That what's going on with him.

About this movie permit, I want to mention that because Cassir was working with one of the media companies here in Manhattan who provides, like, documentary films to, like different TV stations, especially the Asian TV's like Z-ZTV, PTV and...and some other televisions, even local televisions also. And because he was working with that company also, like, on the side. And that day he had one movie permit in his car to film somewhere in the Manhattan area. And they were just bringing up that one also that there is something...some kind...there is some kind of involvement with that 9-11 incident of that...

Q. Did they ever say what it was?

(Second female voice) ...(inaudible) just change the tapes?

Q. Yeah.

Q. Go ahead and tell...

S.G. (inaudible) Okay. we were talking about that a film permit...

Q. Yeah.

A. Filming permit and that was only because he was working with other company as, like, who provides the services to different TV stations and different what you call--advertising companies and that's why he has that permit in the car. That...that was the only purpose. And even we have

the letter from that company and even that com--company's owner can explain any time we want to ask him the questions about that mo-movie permit. And...

A2. (inaudible)

A. Yeah, okay. Now, in this letter, because this letter isn't written in our En-language and I...because here he mentions that guards beat him in the jail. Yeah.

Q. When?

A. Like, on 9th when they put him in the...on 9th May when they put him in a separate cell, yeah, that day...that day those people beat him bad.

Q2. (unintelligible question)

S.G. Yeah, because...only because of that, because he gave the written report to the head of his correctional facility saying that these guards are harassing him. And after that, when they...those guards found out that he reported that to the head officers, then they started beating him. Even they took off his clothes and they...and they asked him to put on a red jump suit and then they put him that particular cell there.

Q. So he writes you every once in a while?

A. Yes. Like this letter, this is the first letter because we were worrying about him and he knows that 'cause he was calling us almost every day even if he, like, he do not have anything to say or anything like that because she starts worrying about him, and because he is the only brother of, like, four or five sisters. And then he was calling almost no matter what happens, he was calling us almost every day. Um-hum, yeah. And according to this letter...actually, this one is written in our language; that's why I'm taking a little bit of time. According to this letter is, like, he's under the high light all the time, day and night, nowadays and he cannot even sleep. Every other fifteen or twenty minutes any guard will come and just start making a noise that why...why are you sleeping? And he is not provided the proper food. He cannot take shower. He do not have any access to any kind of, like, daily necessities anybody...it is anybody's right anyway, no...no matter where are you. Even in, like, jail they are not supposed to treat him like that but he is being treated like that.

Q. So you're worried about him?

A. Yeah, of course. Like, any...anybody. Like, even if nobody even has the relation with him, if we tell them what is going...what is happening with him in the jail, automatically those people will start worrying about him also because that is a place where people should be a little bit safe, right? No matter how criminal you are. First thing, he is not criminal and he is not convicted for anything at all since his stay here in the United States. And...but still why these people are treating him like that?

Q. He's...he's got a green card?

A. Actually, he was in the process of preparing the papers for a green card but he's the legal resident here. He had the employment authorization.

Q. So he...so...Can they deport him?

A. Like, they can, of course, deport him if he's convicted for something. If he's not convicted how can they deport him.

Q. Can they deport him if he's convicted of larceny?

A. Like, there is...Like, there are limits according to my information--what I found out from people. Like, if, after any kind of conviction, if you go to jail, like, for more than one year,--right?--then of course INS has the right to deport you. But still there are certain restrictions on that.

Q. Okay. thank you very much.

A. You're welcome and thank you. That's all. Right? It was good meeting with you also and....

Q. Now, look! Is it possible to talk to the lawyer?

Q. Yeah, of course. I can give you the number also.

Q. And is it possible to talk to any of his friends? Who else, like, is involved in all this?

A. Yes. You can, of course, talk with...I can give you the numbers of his friends.

Q. You know, I know that you have letters and I don't know you...you want copies of anything. But there's also something that I have a copy of (inaudible)...NO media is allowed to visit without...

A. The written consent from the higher authorities.

Q. And that's (inaudible) But I'm just trying to think of what might be useful. Also, I was wondering if any of those other inmates who are...who know him inside would be able to talk to the media with less restrictions or (inaudible)

Q. Yeah, sure. Anybody we could talk to...(inaudible) brought copies of the documents. There is a second document that kind of exonerated him. If there any other paper?

A. Yeah. Look at...Yeah. I brought everything. I will just give Jim the copies of everything. I'm just going through the papers....

Q. We would like to get copies.

A. Yeah. I brought you the copies of everything. The only thing is, because the latest letter is in our language and I could not make the copies because I received this letter last night. But...like their

roommates...roommates...and then even their roommate, he wrote one letter to (inaudible) also that if ... and he asked us if we can, you know...but I'm just...I don't want to give that letter because otherwise that guy will be in trouble if they find out that this guy wrote a letter out (inaudible) and I put that letter on hold to mail him back. But we did write a thanks letter and just like, some words to him saying that we received the letter and he can call us any time with the immigrant situation because he's inside and he will find out more information than us anyway.

Q. They might allow m to call out once every, you know, week or ten days or something. I don't know what the rules are in segregation.

A. Yeah.

Q2. This is almost already two weeks, March...always almost one week now, one week.

A. One more week to go.

A2. And he is so scared. He mentioned in that letter alone (inaudible)

A. ...of his visiting list.

Q. He's scared...(inaudible)

S.G. And what happened is, like, we are there.

A2. It's almost seven months and they treated him very badly.

S.G. this is, like ...