



07 December 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Offices of United States Attorney Hoff.

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for Lieutenant Abdul Wasi Safi, a former Afghan Special Forces Soldier and Asylum Seeker to the United States.

I am [REDACTED], United States Army, Special Forces (Retired). Currently, I am the [REDACTED] nonprofit; dedicated to assist our At-Risk Afghan Partners escape Taliban persecution. I am also a Texas Veteran, living in [REDACTED]

It has come to the attention of our veteran members that Lieutenant Abdul Wasi Safi, a former Afghan Army Special Forces Officer, has been charged with illegally entering the United States and is being prosecuted by one of your Assistant U.S. Attorneys. I respectfully request that the charges against him be immediately dropped and he be allowed to make his request for asylum without delay. I say this because I don't believe you are aware of Lieutenant Safi's unique circumstances.

Due to the United States' sudden withdraw from Afghanistan on 30 August 2021, Lieutenant Abdul Wasi Safi's is now a stateless person of Afghan origin seeking asylum in the United States. His only mistake in perusing his legitimate asylum petition was failing to enter the U.S. through an authorized port of entry.

Before the U.S. pullout from Afghanistan, Lieutenant Safi served his nation honorably as an Afghan National Army Special Forces Officer defending his country against Taliban Insurgents and ISIS Terrorists, as part of a specifically tailored Counterterrorism Task Force. For years, United States Special Operations Forces (SOF) along with our Afghan SOF counterparts, stood "*Shoulder to Shoulder or Shuna Ba Shuna*" to combat our common enemies in what has been the longest military conflict in U.S. history.

Throughout his time as a Special Forces Officer, Lieutenant Abdul Wasi Safi was determined to see Afghanistan remain a free nation so that all its citizens would be able to look to the future with hope and optimism. Additionally, he aimed to assist his U.S. SOF partners achieve our nation's National Defense Strategy objectives. To those goals, he tirelessly worked with members of the U.S. Army's Special Forces, commonly known as "The Green Beret" to attempt to change Afghanistan's volatile past and build towards a hopeful future. As a result of his close working relationship with U.S. Special Forces and the inherent danger of their combined mission, Lieutenant Safi regularly acted without regard for his own personal safety, and would place himself in mortal danger to safeguard the lives of U.S. Special Forces operators during intense

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Continuation of: Letter of Support for Lieutenant Abdul Wasi Safi

combat engagements with Taliban insurgents. For these repeated acts of selfless courage, Lieutenant Safi earned the deepest respect, admiration, and undying gratitude of the Green Beret and other allied SOF members.

Unfortunately, after the U.S. hasty withdraw, the Taliban was able to exploit the gaps left by U.S. and quickly seized power. Many capitulated to the Taliban; yet most Afghan Special Forces and Afghan Commando units fought on till the very end. Eventually their ability to resist crumbled without critical logistical and air support. Those who surrendered were either summarily executed or jailed at the U.S. built prison on Bagram Airbase which now see approximately 10-15 detainees executed every single day. The former COVID cemetery there has grown over 900% since the Taliban took control of the facility. For these reasons, Wasi, feared he would eventually be captured and executed so he fled to Pakistan and applied for a Brazilian visitor's Visa. Wasi's only option to save his life was to embark on a 12,000 mile journey and request asylum in the country he had shown such great loyalty to in its time of need; he thought, perhaps in his time of distress the United States would take him in. He first fled to Brazil but encountered severe hardships there (beatings and robbery), so rather than wait on his U.S. immigration petition, he made the difficult decision to walk the 4,700 miles north to cross into the United States at the Texas border and request asylum.

Wasi has always demonstrated the greatest respect and admiration for America and he still does. I do not believe it was ever his intention to break the laws of the U.S. but rather to simply seek asylum and reunite with his brother who is now a U.S. citizen living in Houston, Texas. Now that Afghanistan has fallen to the Taliban, Wasi can never return in safety, if he were to be deported back to Afghanistan he would undoubtedly be executed upon his return. In these types of cases, deportation is a death sentence.

I sincerely hope that you give Lieutenant Abdul Wasi Safi's case the utmost consideration and show him mercy given his unique circumstances. Again, I humbly ask that your office drop the charges against him altogether. He has sacrificed much in service to Afghanistan and the United States, granting him leniency is in the United States' best interest and a dismissal would go a long way towards restoring America's honor and would demonstrate that the U.S. continues to be a nation who remains loyal to our friends and allies.

Please feel free to contact me anytime! I can be reached by cell at [REDACTED] through email at [REDACTED]