

SHEILA JACKSON LEE  
18TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2160 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3816

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
1919 SMITH STREET, SUITE 1180  
THE GEORGE "MICKEY" LELAND FEDERAL BUILDING  
HOUSTON, TX 77002  
(713) 655-0050

ACRES HOME OFFICE:  
6719 WEST MONTGOMERY, SUITE 204  
HOUSTON, TX 77019  
(713) 691-4882

HEIGHTS OFFICE:  
420 WEST 19TH STREET  
HOUSTON, TX 77008  
(713) 961-4070

FIFTH WARD OFFICE:  
4300 LYONS AVENUE, SUITE 200  
HOUSTON, TX 77020  
(713) 227-7740

The Honorable Joseph Biden  
President of the United States  
White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

I am writing to request that you use the authority of your office to issue a pardon for Abdul Wasi Safi who is in U.S. custody charged with unlawfully crossing the border into the United States. Mr. Abdul Wasi Safi served in the Afghanistan military and worked as an intelligence officer in the Afghan National Security Forces alongside U.S. troops.

Mr. Safi's life was endangered because of his military service in defense of U.S. troops and his inability to evacuate with them when they departed following the collapse of the Afghan government. He had credible fear for his life if he remained in Afghanistan under Taliban control, so he wisely decided to travel to the Southern Border of the United States to lawfully seek asylum. He crossed three continents and sustained serious injuries as he crossed the world to reach the Texas-Mexico border, including being beaten by an officer as he emerged from the treacherous Darién Gap, a stretch of jungle in South America known to claim migrant lives. Unfortunately, he was taken into custody in Del Rio, Texas by Customs and Border Protection was held in Detention (DR-22-CR-02316) before being transferred to U.S. Marshall custody.

The United States makes a commitment to those who work in support of, or fight alongside, our nation in war and conflict zones around the globe. Fundamental to the commitment is a promise that we will never forget their sacrifice and faithfulness in standing with our troops on the battlefield. Over the centuries this has meant that foreign nationals who fight alongside our troops earn the right to apply for citizenship. When their service exposes them to credible threats, we must redouble our effort to keep our word because doing so also protects our troops stationed around the world today and into the future. For this reason, I request that you use the authority of your office to pardon Mr. Abdul Wasi Safi.

Thank you for your consideration of this request on behalf Abdul Wasi Safi. To discuss this case, I may be reached at 202-225-3816.

Very truly yours,



Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEES:  
JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
COURTS, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND THE INTERNET  
IMMIGRATION AND BORDER SECURITY

HOMELAND SECURITY  
SUBCOMMITTEES

RANKING MEMBER  
BORDER AND MARITIME SECURITY  
TRANSPORTATION SECURITY

SENIOR WHIP  
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

January 12, 2023