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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

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JUDICIARY

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

HOMELAND SECURITY
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January 12, 2023