



December 6, 2022

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is [REDACTED]. I am a US citizen, residing in [REDACTED] TX and a former U.S. Marine infantryman. I served with the [REDACTED] Marines during the heaviest urban fighting in Fallujah, Iraq. I write this letter urging that you dismiss the criminal charges against Abdul W. Safi.

After reading his story in the November 30, 2022 article “An Afghan soldier fleeing the Taliban spent months reaching the U.S. to request asylum. He was arrested at the Texas border,” I knew I needed to get a hold of this office. You see, in the Marine Corps – and especially in my battalion – we have a saying that informs our actions during combat: No better friend, no worse enemy.

What does this mean? It means that we are ferocious and cold when encountering the enemy, but it also means that those who we consider allies and friends are treated with the highest levels of dignity and warmth. Unfortunately, when I read about everything Mr. Safi has endured to reunite with his family after being left to fend for himself in Afghanistan, I fear that we are far from living up to the “no better friend” part of our commitment to a former ally.

I served in Iraq, and while I do not have first-hand knowledge of the Taliban I do have experience fighting Al Qaeda and other groups who use a particular brand of terror and violence against their enemies. Knowing the level of barbarism that members of these groups can reach, it is impossible to blame Mr. Safi for desperately wanting to escape the situation.

I ask that you take his service into consideration. I ask that you understand the real danger he was in and how desperate his situation truly was. I ask that you help our country live up to my battalion’s saying and prove that America truly is the best friend to have around the globe.

