

**Sworn Declaration by Principal Applicant [REDACTED] in support of his Application  
for Asylum**

**Executive Summary**

1. My name is [REDACTED]. I currently live at [REDACTED], MN. I was born on [REDACTED], in Afghanistan. I entered the U.S. on [REDACTED], in OAR parole. I currently am in this parole status. I came to the U.S. with my wife [REDACTED]. I currently work a [REDACTED].
2. I am afraid that if I returned to Afghanistan, the Taliban would kill me. For several years, I worked very closely with companies that supported NATO goals in Afghanistan. I worked with these companies because I wanted freedom in Afghanistan. The Taliban threatened to punish me—which meant killing me or even killing my wife or children—because I worked for [REDACTED] which was one of these companies. In addition, I am afraid the Taliban would target me and my family because my father was a high-level prosecutor who prosecuted many Taliban fighters. They also would hurt us because my brother [REDACTED] worked for the U.S. military. He moved to Minnesota several years ago with an SIV visa.



**Growing up with a father who prosecuted Islamic extremists**

3. My family is originally from [REDACTED] Province, Afghanistan, but I was born in [REDACTED] Afghanistan. I was raised by my father, [REDACTED], and mother, [REDACTED], and I had [REDACTED] siblings. My siblings are [REDACTED].
4. When I was a young child, while President Najib was in power in Afghanistan, My father worked as a prosecutor in Kabul. He prosecuted many criminals, including Islamic extremists. Some of men he prosecuted were people who joined the Taliban once it was formed.
5. My family believed people had the right to be free and independent. For example, my sister [REDACTED] attended school, which she finished before the Taliban took over. My parents did not want to live in the same way the extremists wanted everyone to live. The extremists wanted to force people to attend the mosque. We would sometimes attend the mosque for prayer, but our family opposed forcing people to attend the mosque. Also, the extremists wanted to force all men to grow beards. My father did not believe in this. He was clean-shaven.
6. When the Taliban took power in the 1990s, they started disappearing and killing prosecutors and other government officers. I remember my parents told us about these

disappearances and killings. The Taliban executed many of these people and did not even give their bodies back to their families. They would also attack prosecutors' children and brothers. They also didn't allow girls to go to school.

7. My father quit being a prosecutor, but it still was not safe for my family to stay in Kabul after the Taliban took power, because of his work. I remember my mother told me the Taliban would kill anyone who had my father's job. So we fled. We went into hiding before they could find us. My father fled to [REDACTED] Province, but neither me, my mom, nor any of my siblings went with him. My father was afraid that if the Taliban found him, they would kill him and we would also be in danger. We lived separately from him for our own safety.
8. After I, my mother, and my brothers left Kabul, I do not remember exactly where we went at first, but we moved to [REDACTED] Province, Afghanistan, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
9. Our family was scared of the Taliban due to my father's past job and our beliefs. I would go to school and home and almost nowhere else. For example, my uncle had an orchard that my brothers and I would play in, but other than that I would not go very far from his house. Living in hiding at my uncle's property was very difficult for my family.
10. When the Taliban lost power. My father came to see us in [REDACTED] and then our family moved back to our old house in Kabul together.

#### **I begin work supporting Americans and NATO in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

11. The Taliban lost power over Afghanistan when I was a teenager. We were able to move back to Kabul. I remember feeling like things were going back to normal. I was able to return to school in Kabul along with my brothers.
12. After President Karzai took power, my father returned to a job as a prosecutor. I think he eventually worked at the Afghanistan Supreme Court. As part of his job duties, he prosecuted members of the Taliban.
13. Although the Taliban had lost power over the whole country, my family still felt unsafe. The Taliban had a very strong presence in Paktika, my parents' home province, which is why we could not live there. None of us would go to that province. I remember that the Taliban still bombed and attacked Afghan government buildings (like where my father was working), the U.S. embassy, and other buildings where foreigners lived or worked.
14. My sister [REDACTED] began owning a construction company, called [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], while President Karzai was in power. After I

finished my schooling, I started working for this company around 2008. I did account work for the company.

15. [REDACTED] company built buildings for the American military in the Kandahar district of Afghanistan. It also had contracts with USAID and IRD, major American organizations in Afghanistan. The company built apartments and did roadbuilding.

### **My marriage and first child**

16. My wife [REDACTED] and I had an arranged marriage and met in person on the day of our wedding, which is traditional in our culture. Our wedding was around the Summer of 2009, at my family's house in Kabul and we each had our family there to support us. My parents and my siblings, including [REDACTED] were there. We did not have a honeymoon and stayed in Kabul because other places were not as safe as Kabul.

17. My daughter [REDACTED] was born in February 2010 in Kabul. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### **I begin working for [REDACTED] and the camp where I work is attacked by the Taliban**

18. Around September 2010, I started working for a company called [REDACTED] [REDACTED] supplied food and clothes to the army deployment camps of foreign troops, such as Canadians, Americans and the British. This company was a part of NATO's operations. I worked with [REDACTED] at a camp around the north part of Kabul. My job was to divide up the amount of food and clothing for each person at the camp, so each person had what they needed. When I worked for [REDACTED] they took my fingerprints and an eye scan for NATO security.
19. When I worked for [REDACTED] the Taliban attacked and threatened the company and its employees several times. Around the first few months of 2011, the Taliban set off an explosion at the gate of the camp I worked at. I heard the explosion; it was very loud. I know it hurt and killed many civilians. Uniformed men at the camp told me I was not allowed to go close to where the explosion happened, but I remember others in the camp saying how bad the explosion was. Afterward, it was common knowledge that the Taliban was responsible.
20. I remember that around the time of the explosion, the Taliban were threatening and attacking people who were employed at camps like the one where I worked. If the Taliban found out who was working at these camps, they would find them and kill them. I also remember seeing reports in the news that the Taliban were looking for people who worked at NATO and U.S. supply camps, like I was.
21. No one knew how, but the Taliban got the fingerprinting information that was originally gathered at the camps. I heard that the Taliban had checkpoints where they fingerprinted people to see if they worked at the camps and killed people who did.

## **The Taliban threaten to murder me and my family because of my work supporting U.S. goals in Afghanistan**

22. Not very long after explosion, the Taliban gave me a letter threatening to punish me because of my work supporting NATO. Through this message, they were threatening to kill me and my family. The Taliban does not have mercy on anyone, not even children. They said they would harm me because of my work advancing the invader country's goals. That meant NATO's goals. The letter also mentioned my name and my father's name.
23. They dropped this letter off inside the gate of my home. My wife [REDACTED] found the letter in the yard in the morning, so I think they left it in the middle of the night. I didn't tell anyone outside of my family about this letter because I was afraid.
24. After I received this letter, I was never the same. I lived in a constant state of fear that the Taliban would find and kill me. This fear did not leave me even when I slept. I was constantly afraid that the Taliban would arrest me and kill me, after I received that letter. The fear did not leave me until after I left Afghanistan.
25. I quit working for [REDACTED] around a few a months after I received the letter. The camp I worked at was closing at that time, I think because it was too dangerous. I was offered a position by [REDACTED] at another camp, in Helmand Province, that I turned down. I think this camp was called Camp Bastion. A big reason I didn't take the job was because we would have had to use ground transportation to get there. I was afraid the Taliban might find me and take my fingerprints at a checkpoint. I thought if that happened, the Taliban would kill me, because I think they had my fingerprint records from when I worked for [REDACTED] at the military camp.

### **I change jobs and a Taliban supporter comes looking for my father**

26. I started working for [REDACTED] around January 2012. I worked at that company for around a year. It was a factory that made sofas and furniture. I would help to ship the furniture by packing it in trucks and driving the furniture to where it needed to go. [REDACTED] had contracts with foreign companies. When I worked at that company, the situation was getting worse in Kabul. The Taliban was setting off explosions in many places in Kabul, including near the factory and my own home. I know it was the Taliban because they would take responsibility for many of the attacks.
27. I remember feeling that Kabul was getting very dangerous again, and I was concerned about my child. I wanted to keep my family safe, so I quit working at the factory around 2013. I did not have a job until I fled to the United States. I laid low because it was too dangerous to have a job with the increase in explosions and violence.

28. My father passed away around 2013 or 2014. Around a few months after he passed away, the father of a Taliban member who my dad had prosecuted showed up to my family's home in Kabul looking for my father.
29. The man knew my father was a prosecutor and had knowledge of his son's case. The man asked about my father's immediate family. My uncle lied and said we did not live in that house. I was home at that the time, and I saw the man from a distance, but I don't know whether he saw me. My uncle (my father's brother) also told him my father had died, and he left. This man was from Paktika. We knew because of the way he talked and who his son was.

#### **My brother [REDACTED] work assisting American and international forces**

30. My brother [REDACTED] worked for Americans, Germans and Canadians in Afghanistan. I know his job involved interpreting. He worked for the U.S. Embassy in Afghanistan for several years. Eventually, he had to quit and move to the United States because he was in danger from the Taliban.
31. The Taliban were known to kill people for working at foreign embassies. [REDACTED] applied for SIV visas for himself and his wife and kids. We were all relieved when [REDACTED] was able to go to the United States because we knew he wasn't in danger anymore.
32. My son [REDACTED] was born in 2016 in Kabul. We were very excited to have another child and happy that God gave us a healthy son.

#### **My decision to flee Afghanistan for the U.S.**

33. Around August 2021, I realized we had to leave Afghanistan. I was afraid for the safety of my family because the Taliban had taken over the government. I was very afraid because of the threats from the Taliban about my job, my father's job and my brother's job.
34. My brother [REDACTED] called and emailed us, telling us to leave. His wife and children were visiting at the time; they'd been staying with us for a month or so. We rushed to pack the things we needed before we left. We left so much behind including photos of my father, my wedding certificate, birth certificates, and other documents. We left in the night and did not tell anyone else that we were leaving.
35. I went to the airport with my wife, my children, my mother, my brother [REDACTED] wife, his son and daughter, and my brother [REDACTED] and his family. We all lived together in one house, so we all left together. Our driver took us through backroads and alleys in order to avoid Taliban checkpoints.
36. We arrived at the airport and there were stations for different countries. We went to the United States' station and presented our papers. They asked who I brought with me and

checked all our documents. Then we were allowed to enter the airport and we left the airport around noon the following day.

37. We flew to Qatar and stayed in the airport for around one day and one night. After that, the plane stopped in Bulgaria, but we did not get off. We landed in Washington D.C. and the immigration officials stamped my passport and checked our documents. That night we flew to Wisconsin and stayed in a military camp with around 12,000 refugees from Afghanistan. We stayed in Wisconsin for around four months.

### **The Taliban raids our house and takes our documents**

38. Around the first month my family was in the U.S., while we were living at the military base in Wisconsin, I spoke with my neighbor in Kabul, [REDACTED]. Many people who lived in our neighborhood were connected in some way with the U.S. military or Afghan National Army, but [REDACTED] was not.
39. [REDACTED] told me Taliban members came and raided most of the houses in our area, including [REDACTED]. He said that he saw them take documents and some of my father's belongings from our house.
40. After we learned the Taliban had gone to our empty house and taken things, we decided to invite [REDACTED] wife's sister [REDACTED] and her family, to take the house. In Afghanistan, people focus on the relatives from someone's husband's or father's side, so [REDACTED] and her family are not so associated with me, my father, or even [REDACTED]. After [REDACTED] moved in, she told us that the Taliban had left our house in a messy state. She also said that a cabinet where we kept my marriage certificate, the children's birth certificates, and my father's things was empty.

### **Conclusion**

41. I do not think I can return to Afghanistan ever. Even before the Taliban took over, my life in Afghanistan was very dangerous. Now that they are in control, the Taliban would kill me if I ever went back, because of my father's job, my brother's job, my own work with Americans, and my views about society, which oppose them. They do not really care about human beings, and they would do anything to harm me.
42. If I had to go back to Afghanistan, I could not hide from the Taliban. Now that they have taken over the country, there are no places where I could hide. Even if my family and I tried to change our names, the Taliban still have fingerprinting at checkpoints and would know it was us. There is nothing we could do to avoid being hurt or killed.
43. They would also harm my family a lot. My children are very small, and I do not want to risk them being hurt by the Taliban because of my family and my work with companies that supported the U.S.

44. I want freedom. The Taliban wants to keep girls from going to school. I want my daughter [REDACTED] to receive an education. My daughter loves going to classes here in Minnesota. She wants to become a pilot or a doctor. She wouldn't be able to do that in Afghanistan

45. My entire family is in the United States because of our fear of the Taliban, and we are all afraid of having to return to Afghanistan.

46. I feel like everything I've been through has messed with my brain and it made it difficult to remember things like dates. I've done my best to explain my story.

I swear under the pain and penalty of perjury that the foregoing has been translated to me in a language I understand, and is true and accurate:

