

Please help Mohammad's family -- They helped us

Written by Administrator

Friday, 17 October 2014 11:41 - Last Updated Saturday, 25 October 2014 15:10

Editor's note: *The following is the text from a Change.org petition. In the past, the staff at tinytowntimes.com has refrained from asking readers to participate in any sort of Interweb campaign. This one is different. I've interviewed Mohammad and Adrian Kinsella, the marine captain to whom Mohammad reported. The Afghani Pashtun, son of a brave and proud father, put his life on the line again and again for his country by serving with U.S. forces. The State Department promised to offer naturalization papers to these allies and their families, but have since reneged. While we had plenty of money to invest toward invading Afghanistan, the coffers were surprisingly dry when it came to bailing out the people who helped us and their families and remain in mortal danger. Mohammad is one of the "lucky" ones, but only by sheer dint of the efforts of Capt. Kinsella, who pursued his mission to "leave no one behind" with true U.S. Marine spirit. A process that should have taken three months, took three-and-a-half years and help from the Iraqi Refugee Assistance Program, the Pat Tillman Foundation as well as 11 congressional and Senate "inquiries." Now a third year Tillman scholar at UC Berkeley's Law School, Kinsella paid out-of-pocket for calls to US Embassies and in Kabul and elsewhere, almost all of which led nowhere. A piece I've written about that effort will appear in the Nov-Dec issue of Cornell Alumni News: Adrian is a 2007 CU graduate who decided to join ROTC in his junior year; five days after graduating he reported to Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Va. If we can in any way redeem ourselves for the harm done to people who helped us, this is certainly one path.*

Here is the link to the petition: <https://mail.google.com/mail/ca/u/0/#inbox/1491ea419b940349>

For more see Save Mohammad's Family ...

Below is the text written by Mohammad. The rest is up to you. We implore you to sign it.

– Franklin Crawford, sole surviving son of Albert C. Crawford, US Army Capt. Served with 78th "Lightning" Division, campaigns in the Battle of the Bulge and Roer Valley; Bronze Star, Purple Heart; brother of Douglas J. Crawford, KIA, South Vietnam, Tay Ninh Province, Bronze star with "V" device ... obviously, Purple Heart.

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MOHAMMAD'S STORY

As an Afghan interpreter for the U.S. military, it was my honor to serve the United States.

But in retaliation for my work alongside the U.S. Marines, the Taliban captured, tortured, and murdered my father. I moved my family to safety and continued to serve. Three years later, the Taliban struck my family again by kidnapping my my then three-year old brother and holding him for ransom. We paid the ransom and fled the country. I was able to come to the U.S. this January, but my family remains in danger. I need your help to save them.

I have never seen my father happier than when I told him I was volunteering to be an interpreter for the U.S. Marines. He told me he was proud that his son had chosen to serve with the Americans to free Afghanistan from the Taliban's rule.

In the summer of 2009, while I was working at the main entry gate of Marine Corps Base Camp Dwyer, a Taliban sympathizer from my hometown of Kandahar recognized me. **A few days later, Dad disappeared.**

A broadcast soon came over the radio: an unidentified body had been found in a dried riverbed and needed to be claimed at the morgue. My mother made a trip that no wife should ever have to make to see if the body was that of her husband. By this time, Dad had been missing for a week.

In the morgue, **Mom found a body with missing fingertips and riddled with bullet holes, including one in the head.** She knew we had lost Dad when she noticed the body's shoes— my father was still wearing the sandals I had given him as a keepsake when I left to work as an interpreter. We wore the same size shoes.

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PHOTO ABOVE: ~~PHOTO ABOVE: A portrait of a man with a mustache, wearing a suit and tie. The text below the photo is heavily redacted with black bars.~~