



2016

## Salman

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TSOS

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## 015 Interview with Salman and his wife, Nabila, and son Paryan

Tent 15, Oinofyta, Greece, 2016

Interviewer: Garrett Gibbons, TSOS

**Nabila:** My name is **Nabila**. We had a good life in Afghanistan.

**Paryan:** My name is **Paryan**. I am a student of grade 12. We had a hard life because we had no money. We had security threats. My father had a drugstore. Before that, he used to work in the mine clearing institute. He was threatened a lot. The Taliban had told him that they would ruin his drugstore. We had problems because of this. There was a suicide attack on [my high school]. It was two thousand and some, I don't remember it exactly... It was two years ago in 2014. I was inside the hall of [my school] In the suicide attack, I was so shocked. From then on, sometimes on my way to school, they threatened me and told me to tell my father they would destroy all of us if my father did not shut down his drugstore. Therefore, that was the reason why we decided to emigrate from there, or else thank God, we had everything in Afghanistan as far as economic conditions were concerned.

**Translator:** Was it the same explosion that happened in that play...

**Salman:** Yes, it was the same play, which was inside the hall. It was six pm when the explosion occurred. We were there. We had been invited by the French.

**Nabila:** Sorry, I don't feel well...

**Nabila:** I am a dressmaker and a teacher. I was a teacher for 20 years and also worked as a dressmaker on the side. We had a great life, but unfortunately, we couldn't keep our life going because of the threats.

**Nabila:** My husband used to work for almost five years with Americans in a hospital. But now he isn't fine because he has memory loss. After he closed down his drugstore, he had hypertension and had a mental problem and his memory was damaged. He had worked for ten years with Germans in a hospital.

He was a doctor for fifteen years in the institute which was for clearing mines. Yes, he was a doctor there. After this incident happened to us, his memory was damaged and he felt sick. He has hypertension and diabetes. He also suffers from cardiovascular disease. He had his children with him. They had education problems. The conditions were not good there.

Just because of the bad conditions, my daughter did not go to school. She was poisoned once in school. The Taliban had intoxicated the water in school. She was hospitalized for three or four days. We had such a hard life. We feel as if we should cry for ourselves. What shall we say?

We want to go somewhere I can at least continue my dressmaking and where my children can study and have a good, peaceful life. Just peaceful.

**Paryan:** We want to be somewhere in the future that is safe and far from dangers. We don't want anything else. All people living here are having a hard time. They live in tents in hot weather. All of them have come from good places but they are currently here. We want to have a life in which we can live comfortably and peacefully. We want to be far from fear and panic, we want to go to school freely and spend a good life with freedom.

**Translator (to the daughter):** Do you want to say something?

**Ghazal:** No, I have nothing to say. They said everything.

**Nabila:** Talk, talk, if you have something to talk about.

**Ghazal:** I have nothing to say.

**Nabila:** Say what you have to say.

**Ghazal:** I have nothing to say.

**Nabila:** Talk about your school, your lessons, and soccer. Don't be shy, Talk. She is so happy to talk. Her name is **Ghazal**. She loves soccer. Once she ranked three in a competition and her soccer team won the games and received a medal. She is very interested in studying. She wants to be doctor. A cardiologist in the future.

**Ghazal:** Since we came here, we couldn't study. I want to go to school soon and study.

**Translator:** Thank you. He says add anything you think you need to say.

**Nabila:** No, I don't think it will be necessary. Thanks for coming here. Besides, sorry if I got too emotional. It's because we are here in a state in which we cry for ourselves. Sorry. I didn't want this to happen.