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Zarrin

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Zarrin

Interview taped at the Oinofyta Refugee Camp, Greece

Zarrin(female, 32), who spoke English answered Morgan's questions

Her husband, Belton (m, 35), was present and gave a few statements.

Children (not on camera): Maseeh (m, 8), Pari (f, 7), and Hamed (m, 5)

Interviewer: Morgan Gibbons

1 July 2016

Also included: 2018 follow up interview, Germany

transcribed by Twila Bird, 4 Jan. 2017

Introduction. My name is Zarrin. I am from Afghanistan. I live in Herat City. In Afghanistan I was a teacher, the government, Minister of Education — English teacher. My English is not good very well with you. Your pronunciation is different than me.

Life in Afghanistan. Because the security in Afghanistan doesn't good. My life was danger because my husband was a businessman — carpet, hand carpet worker. [He made carpets by hand.] My life was very great in Afghanistan. My children was study in priority school. My brother worked a technical assistant, public defense, the government, Kabul. And my life was very dangerous. The Taliban all the times warning my husband. Your husband must warning about the exact location of my brother because he was a technical assistant of minister of public, the government, from Kabul. And many times my husband announced [they told my husband], "If your brother wife [wife's brother] came to Herat City and your house, you must call for the Taliban. If you not call, after that, you and your children and your wife who go to school, we take her and kill her."

Decision to Leave. My economic was very gay. I don't have any problem with my life. I like my life. In Afghanistan I have a big house, like [a] garden. My wife [husband] was a rich man; he has a lots of money.

All the time the Taliban warning my husband about my brother, about me. “Why your wife go to school and teach children? If your husband [wife] go to school [we’ll] take the acid on [her] face and take (stolen) your children. If you not aware me about your wife[’s] brother, I killing you.”

After that I call for my brother. My brother life [lives] in Kabul. I said for my brother, “My life is very dangerous. What should I do?” After that my brother say to me, “You must leave country because maybe your husband, you, me and my children are stolen and kill them.” After that it was hard, very difficult for me to get a decision because I like my life. No problem my life. I have a good life. My economic was very gay. No problem with my life.

After that, decide and came to here. Very difficult, for buy car, for buy food — very, very difficult for me. And came to here.

Chit chat. *[Back and forth chit chat between Morgan and Farahnaz here explaining some of what has been said before.] One new bit of info: her brother was an engineer.*

Taliban kills educated Afghans. Because he is an engineer, the Taliban don’t like [educated] engineer. If [they]take an engineer and ask him, “You are engineer?” if he said, “Yes,” they would kill him. [Farahnaz draws her hand across her throat to emphasize the point.] Because the Taliban don’t like study, education, because my brother worked the (mossisa?), before my brother work (mossisa?).

Ban against women outside of home. They don’t like education, don’t like the woman go to school. [They asked my husband] “Why your wife is go to school and teach? The woman never go to school teach the students, never go to (wassa?). Just the woman stay at home. Not outside.

Death threats. I like my life because I have a very good life in Afghanistan. My economic was very good.

[We had to leave] Because all the time warning, many times warnings my husband, “You must give about the exact location [of your] brother-wife [wife’s brother].” He [her husband] go to from Qal’eh-ye Now [city, pop. abt. 15,000] take a carpet [business] and come [to] Herat City [nearby city, pop. 492,000] because he was a businessman. In Qal’eh-ye Now it has lots of Taliban. When the Taliban (?) my brother and my husband and give a big lighter — the commandant of Taliban — warning about my brother and me. Every time said for my husband and give some letters, “When your brother-wife and your wife go to school, you must give about your family.” The Taliban.

“Why your wife is go to school? Why she teach?” After that my husband said, “My wife is not go to school.”

Encounter with Taliban at School. One day my husband with me go to school, in front of school, by car — and the Taliban — my husband has a lots of work and a meeting [so he left]. After that, the Taliban they were coming in front of my school and their car is at stand [stopped]. And call me, “Come here.” I not go to. Then I see. I do know this pupil then I see, I shouted. All the person is coming and the car is very soon run. [They left.]

And after that I call with my husband. Back into the school I said to [told] the principal. After that the principal called my husband and my husband came back [to get] me and take me. After that I called for my brother. “What should I do? It is like life. I can’t live life here. This life is very difficult for me. Every time I wear my clothes, I go to the school, I teach, my mind is good to teach students. On holiday, my husband has work and can’t come to follow me. I go to home and another person, a Taliban, is stand [standing there] and maybe he stolen me or my children is stolen. After that my brother told me, “You must leave here. You go to Holubar (?)” And after that my husband decided to come here.

All of their money thrown into sea. I think there was open the border. I never think about they close the border and came to here. And when I came to here, my husband collected lots of money and my money was into the back. When I came to sit in the rowboat, in the ship, the Mafia said to me, “All the back, all the person take and throw into the sea. If you not throw into the sea, maybe all the person into the sea.” Because the ship is [full of] water, water! [She indicates with her hands up high on her chest how high the water level was in the boat.] My dress, yes, my clothes were wet. I don’t remember my money is into the back. The Mafia took all the back and threw into the sea.

Husband Loses Consciousness from Stress. When we arrived, my family and other persons, in the island, Greece, my husband called me. “Where is your bag?” I said, “Into the sea. Into the boat.” When my husband see my bag is not into the boat, my husband is shouting and fell out onto the ground. After that the Greece person — police — come and take the shoulder of my husband and put him in the hall. And the doctor is there. The doctor come and examine my husband. That doctor doesn’t know about the diseases and called another doctor is [to] come. And he checked [him] and after that they bring an ambulance and give oxygen because he doesn’t have breath. Because he lost the money. [He passed out following his anxiety attack.]

I’m crying, “What should we do?!” My children is crying and I am crying. “I want my husband. Maybe my husband is lost [will not live].”

Now he is OK. After two hours they gave oxygen and some tablets and the doctor examined and after two hours let him go on the bus into the island. And all the time I memorized my life and my money and worried about this. It was very difficult.

Distress while husband is unconscious. My family is shouting. The doctor is worried about him because his color was very yellow — very, very bad. Not he can speak. Not he can open eye. Not hear. Because when the boat is arrive at the island, he shouted. Maybe, I don't know, he's never sick and or had an attack. Never. And he doesn't breathe. I think my husband has died. All my family, my children and me is crying about my husband.

While in Turkey, her dread of crossing sea in unseaworthy boat. The Mafia said I go [went] in the ship despairing. Every time the Mafia — because we have lots money and gifts for the Mafia — the Mafia said, “You go in despair to sit in the plastic boat.” One week (or two week) we stay in Turkey. My husband said to the Mafia, “I have lots of money give to you [for] my family to buy (dispur?) ship, not the plastic boat.” The Mafia said, “OK.” Every time said, “OK.” When I came insight the sea, he said, “Go! Go! Go! If you not go, you never go to ship (dispur?).”

After my family is have to go to sit in ship, when my boat is into the sea, lots of water — my clothes, my children — maybe my children is dead and into the sea. I'm shouting! The Mafia said, “No, no. Go! You must go!” And after that, when we arrived, the police is coming, arriving, and taking my ship, my boat, and the hoy (?), all the person is take. And when my husband see, didn't see the boy (?), he shouting because I don't want to stay here [in Turkey?]. I want to go to (?) and(?). Because he [pointing to her husband] was lots of money.

Not happy in Greece. Now we don't have any money here because I lost the money. I lose and I don't have money. This life [here in Greece] is really difficult for me. All the time my children didn't eat this food because this food is not good — no oil, no salt, no delicious. All the time my children crying. My small children is sick. And I take to [pharmacy] and some medicine for my children. I tell my children, “It's hell. Good.”

Bribery to get food and documents? [I'm unclear what she's trying to say in this section. I think she's talking about being separated from her husband for three days while he arranged for food and documents.] Eighty hours buy food came from Iran to camp to, and Turkey for the (?), for the visa. In Afghanistan, when I came to the life, my passport came in the Iran. At first I think the passport. Just for three days, three days, my husband give the passport. Because he has lots of money, he has to pay lots of money for the

government people and for three days he give a passport. And leave here. Because the Taliban every time warnings for my husband. I'm very afraid.

[Morgan tells Zarrin he's about out of time for the interview and asks her to ask her husband if there is anything he wants to add — that she can translate for him.]

Arduous trip from Afghanistan to Turkey. My husband said in Afghanistan when he leave to come to Iran and in Iran came to Turkey to buy food eighty hours buy food, all the time, all the time my children, my wife, were thirsty and eat snow. Because no water. No beart (?).

He said the back is behind my husband here one children is into the neck-shoulder [on his back], one daughter is in my hand [she indicates by gesturing holding a child in her arms against her shoulder], and one children is run [on his own].

Distrust of Mafia (Smugglers) The Mafia said to my husband [that] just one of us run to buy food. The Mafia said, "No." When I call my parents, my brother, I said, "If you or every person wants to go buy Mafia," I said "Never go. Never!" I promise for every person every time I call for the family or another person, I said, "Never go to buy Mafia! Mafia said 'No.' Never go to buy ship."

Nightmarish Fear of Sea journey. It is my advice for another person. "Never come by ship in the sea!" Because the sea is really dangerous. All the time my dream I saw — I think my family is into [drowns] in the sea. It was very dangerous for me. Sometimes at the midnight I was crying in the dream. My husband calls me, "Sandup (?), why you crying?" When I sit in my place I mortify (?) [think] about the journey, about the sea. I don't like sea. I don't like to ever [go to] the sea. It was very, very bad — very dangerous for me. [At this point she is tearing up and showing stress.]

Their first, unsuccessful attempt at a sea crossing. [She translates for her husband again here.] When I was back in (?) and (?), I came to buy food — three hours. After that I came in the forest and came in the boat. When the boat is go into the sea, because the sea was like a storm, the boat [tipped] into the river. And the Mafia take the persons [out]. The sea was lots of storm. Much. The water is [she makes motions with her arms indicating waves were coming into the boat].

Zarrin oncludes. With my children and my husband come into the forest to camp near the sea. It was very difficult for me. Every time my advice for another person, "Don't go

in the sea! Because very dangerous.” Now we come here. Never open the border. We stay here. This is very difficult for my family. [She is showing a lot of stress at this point — holding back tears.]

2018 Germany

Interviewer Melissa Dalton Bradford and Twila Bird

Photographer Annie Gedicks

Zarrin

Help is the most important. Help, safety and family. Be together with your family.

Melissa

This is this beautiful, oh I tell many people about this woman. I talk to people and I say this woman, Faranaz she is smart. She is beautiful, she is strong, she has survived so much. You people cannot understand how strong this woman is. I tell many people about you. Many many people in different countries. In America, in France, in Germany. [FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Interviewer

Who is she? [FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Twila

She is in Serbia still.

Zarrin

No in Bosnia.

Melissa

She is in Bosnia.

Zarrin

Yes the directions are very difficult.

Melissa

Very very terrible. So you went from Afghanistan, you went to, you were first family in Oinofyta.

Zarrin

Yes the first.

Melissa Dalton Bradford

Before Lisa?

Zarrin

Before Lisa yes.

Melissa

You are more important than Lisa. [LAUGHS] [FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Doctor Frederic and Marcos. Doctor Frederic is German I think. I don't know Frederic.

Zarrin

From Africa.

Melissa

Oh from Africa. Oh I don't know that OK. So you go to ... and you stay how long? How many months in ...

Zarrin

Ten month. Because uh [FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

One hundred people sent in Canada.

Melissa

So someone said they did interviews and then one hundred people went to Canada.

Zarrin

Yes but not bring.

Melissa

But didn't bring you.

Zarrin

Ten month all families wait and when they arrive on Canada. All so happy because they are to go in German and that country is great and the language is English. It's very easy.

Melissa

Easier, yes easy to learn.

Zarrin

And safe and maybe get the house, everything is good but nothing.

Melissa

No nothing comes because America and Europe closing all of the doors right. Closing all of the borders.

Zarrin

After ten months move in Serbia. Walk in Macedonia.

Melissa

Macedonia.

Belton

Albania. [FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Melissa

From Greece walking Macedonia, Albania.

Zarrin

No no at first in Macedonia. Three night, four night go an police take and deport again back to Greece with children. All the time walk the streets.

Melissa

The deep mountains hiding, hiding. Little children.

Twila

Did you have to go across the water again?

Zarrin

Yes.

Melissa

Two times.

Zarrin

Not two times eleven times.

Melissa

Because they were already in Greece.

Twila

Eleven times.

Zarrin

Yes eleven times.

Melissa

So they didn't have to cross the water because they were already in Greece so they'd crossed the water in Greece. So it was up to Macedonia is what we call it, Macedonia eleven times.

Zarrin

No no no. After that camp and we went in Albania, Kosovo. [FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Melissa

Kosovo yes.

Zarrin

And after that in Serbia. In Serbia police is cash deport in one place, the boarder asked from that police where is this place and ... All crying, we don't want to go back to. Not good, the police is bad cash with the people. They said no no they are not safe to right and after that between the forest later it was very very cold and it snowed and three family together. More children.

Melissa

How many children?

Zarrin

Three children, me and. [FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Eight.

Twila

Where are the families.

Melissa

Your family and who? Who else?

Zarrin

Another family not from here. One family is from ... and the name was, she was [FOREIGN DIALOGUE] the new family.

Melissa

So three families, eight children and then the police send you.

Zarrin

Yes back.

Melissa

Back to Oinofyta or back to?

Faranaz

Back to in Greece. And as arrive in Serbia and the police is deporting in Kosovo. I don't know here is Kosovo. Between the forest at the night very very cold.

Melissa

And no where to stay warm.

Zarrin

And children is sleep between the forest and the fire is in front of the children.

Interviewer

Right to keep them warm.

Faranaz

Yes and no sleep all the time is keep children as the bread or no. And when we wants to sleep there is like fire and we take more photo. In Croatia the police is take my mobile and broken that.

Melissa

No?

Zarrin

Yes in Croatia.

Melissa

So your mobile was gone in Croatia, they took your phone?

Zarrin

Yes, yes.

Melissa

And break it.

Zarrin

And we write all my history in one notebook. The police is take it and because I was afraid and write our life.

Melissa

Yes your journal, your whole story they took.

Zarrin

Then I move from Afghanistan I write on the notebooks all the journey I have written that and the police is ... and take and look that and after that all take that. My notebook and my mobile broken there. And then we have finger from Croatia.

Melissa

I know this is the problem. So they take your fingerprint in Croatia, you come to Germany but you don't know, you don't know. Will the government, you are waiting?

Zarrin

Yes I have a lawyer. [FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Melissa

He is looking for the name of the lawyer?

Zarrin

Yes Sabina.

Melissa

I don't know who she is but many many lawyers working with many many.

Zarrin

Three days between the forest in Serbia and smugglers take all my money.

Melissa

The smugglers take all of your money of course.

Zarrin

And after that experience with the police in Serbia everything. And all the time the police is tell me when you see that people you call me. And I tell him you are the police.

Melissa

Yes you are the police.

Zarrin

Yes explain you are the police and I am not the police.

Melissa

[looking at the legal papers Zarrin's lawyer has given her]

So these are all, how do you understand this?

Zarrin

Translating not good.

Melissa

Like this, very advanced, very advanced. [FOREIGN DIALOGUE

OK she is doing good work. She's doing good work. She's talking with the government in Croatia and she is saying this must be done quickly. It must be done quickly, we have to have information quickly. That's an aisle antag. [FOREIGN DIALOGUE

So this is good. What it means is because baby you cannot be sent away, not now. Not now. This is good, this is good. Because of Nyeesha you cannot be sent back to Croatia right now. That's the argument that Sabina Stoll is saying to the Croatians. They're saying OK we understand. Fingerprints Croatia OK but now we have Nyeesha you cannot send this baby to another land. This

00:11:03:07

is what Sabina is saying which is good. This is good news. [FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

So what she is saying is we then take the case to the Frankfurt Court, to the judges and we let them think about it for a while. This is good because it means you give you time. It means no one is saying Ahmadi family no. Croatia right now no. So it goes back to the judges, do you understand what I'm saying.

Zarrin

Yeah yeah.

Melissa

So it goes to the judges in Frankfurt she's saying. Not Damstract but Frankfurt. Bigger court, bigger judge and [FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Zarrin

So Nyeesha cannot be sent away and because you are with Nyeesha the family cannot go. You cannot be sent away. [FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Melissa

So this is good. There is a court in Damstat. There is a court in Frankfurt. Court in Frankfurt bigger court. Has bigger and can say yes or can say no. Sabina Stoll is telling Damstat and Frankfurt we have Nyeesha. Nyeesha is a baby. Nyeesha cannot be sent to Croatia. The family must stay together and so now we send the case, the [FOREIGN DIALOGUE] if you would be. Now

00:12:57:00

we send it to Frankfurt and Frankfurt sits and thinks about it for a while. So you ave time. So Sabina will still have to speak with the judges in Frankfurt but for

now no worry because Nyeesha cannot go to Croatia and the family must stay together. This is good. This is all good news.

Zarrin

OK thank you so much. [FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Zarrin

Before my ... when I was in Hindburg.

Melissa

That was the first place right. Hindburg was the first place.

Zarrin

This one is the second place.

Melissa

This is second. Hind-burg was number one? [FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Melissa

When you come from.

Zarrin

Before inside the camp after six month, started the seven months half in Dermis tat and two month in [Rawtenberg]

Melissa

You were in Rawtenberg?

Zarrin

Yes.

Melissa Dalton Bradford

Really. OK. Wow.

Zarrin

That camp was good but the food.

Melissa

Rawtenberg is a very beautiful city.

Zarrin

Not inside the city!

Melissa

You were outside of course. We call it Rawtenberg but it's not in the city it's outside.

Zarrin

We can't [promotion] and cook for children. I wanted some kind of food for my son and we haven't food and we eat butter like that. And when I wanted to go outside and my husband from the restaurant bring me some kind of food one family here is my family and cook something and bring in front of the camp and I eat.

Melissa

Outside of the camp?

Zarrin

Yes.

Melissa

So you can have meat and vegetables.

Zarrin

Yeah.

Melissa

And not bread and yogurt and butter.

Zarrin

Before I don't have [annie diabi]

Melissa

But now. Yes

Zarrin

Now I have diabetes.

Melissa

And high blood pressure.

Zarrin

Yes. The doctor has every time checked in Dermis tat. Doctor give me the blood pressure check every time and also here is one lady from London, her name was [FOREIGN DIALOGUE] Suzanne, Mrs Suzanne.

Melissa

From London?

Zarrin

Yes she was very great woman. All the time help me and bring me in the doctor and explain I was pregnant because my diabetes and sugar very high. Before ten days she was born.

Melissa

She was born en days early. Premature is what we call it.

Ten days premature yeah right. Your blood pressure high, your diabetes high.

Zarrin

Yes, we don't have any pain. An ecology doctor has tested me and after that call with that lady you came here because the situation with the baby is not good and brought me in the hospital. My doctor also was sick and another daughter. Eight day in the hospital, she was in the hospital.

Melissa

No. So you are having your baby ten days early. You have diabetes, you have high blood pressure, you're going to have your baby early and your other child is in the hospital.

Zarrin

Yeah.H

Twila

How is the other child now?

Zarrin

In school.

Melissa

Is OK now. The child is OK. But what was it.

Zarrin

... the doctor has checked and she doesn't have any problem. Hasn't seen any problems for days, stomach check. After that they bring inside the room and now when she eats something her stomach is very pain. And one day inside the school [FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Melissa

I am so sorry. Here is my friend Annie, the one with the camera. She has tried to come but she couldn't get through for some reason. May I talk with Annie because Annie wants to meet you. Annie is a good woman, she just has a baby too. Annie it's Melissa, hi your call wasn't coming through, hi. Do you know where you are?

Interviewer

I will have Belton go outside and look for you Can you describe what you look like. Green coat, jeans, she has short dark hair. He is wearing a grey sweatshirt which says Trend X something on the front. He's handsome, he's very nice, he has beautiful eyes and he has great sideburns and he's in grey sweatpants. If he comes to the front of the building will you see him at the front. You're inside? They are in the building. They are on the second floor. OK he'll come out and look for you. There is a very strange connection in the building here so I'm sorry. OK see you in a sec goodbye. Yeah good, oh they're here, they're outside the door.

Zarrin

I show some picture.

Melissa

Hello Nyeesha.

Melissa Dalton Bradford

And Zarrin if we take pictures we will not put pictures on Facebook.

Zarrin

Yes because my family and my husband also don't like on the Facebook.

Melissa

Can we. I'm holding the baby. Oh Annie. This is Zarrin and this is, well Jim is here. Jim come in let me move my things.

Melissa

Nyeesha is three weeks old. She is still asleep. We've just told the Ahmadi's that if we take pictures we will put none of Facebook.

Melissa

Do you know that we have made a book, we haven't shown you the book. Do you have any pictures of the book we can use? No pictures of the book. I might be able to pull it up on my phone. I'll hand you Nyeesha. I will show you Zarrin the book that we had made.

Melissa Dalton Bradford

This is Jim.

Zarrin

Nice to meet you.

Melissa

This is Annie.

Interviewer

Jim has a daughter, Annie has a brand new baby and another child. Two other children that's right. Two other children and this is Nyeesha.

Annie

Oh shes precious.

Melissa

We've just been hearing from Zarrin about their escape from Afghanistan by foot with three little children.

Zarrin

Inside the forest from Croatia.

Melissa

This where they were living in the forest in Croatia with the snow. Here they are with their three children. When they escaped Greece and the borders were closing and they went up, 11 times they tried to get past to Serbia which means walking for three days, being sent back. Walking through 11 times. 11 times with their little children. This is in the forest in Croatia where they're

00:22:45:15

trying to make because all around them is now. All around them is snow and it's very difficult to have food.

Zarrin

One time the day is between the forest and two nights nothing. Food and water is finished.

Melissa

So no more food or water.

Zarrin

And after we take one less children is crying and also my husband. All people family were horror.

Melissa

So it was three families.

Zarrin

Two families.

Melissa

Two families with eight children.

Zarrin

No no.

Melissa

The other time there were two.

Zarrin

Another time, the last time yes 11 time and with [Bo har e] in [viz body]

Melissa

Yes.

Zarrin

She is in this body.

Melissa

I need to talk with Bohare, I want to talk with her. Wiesbaden is not far away from me or from Annie.

Zarrin

By car is no but by foot.

Melissa

Four hours.

Zarrin

No four hour.

Melissa

No it would take you, well I don't know. I don't know how long it would take but it's far, it's far.

Zarrin

And after that, this one is from Bohare children.

Melissa

And your three children.

Zarrin

So there is six children.

Melissa

Six children in the forests around Croatia.

Zarrin

Yes. But the last time I don't know that we explained that place we want to stay in your country. Not to deport in Serbia.

Melissa

You wanted to stay in Croatia?

Zarrin

Yes and explain for him and I am pregnant and my feet is more freeze, very cold and the colour was very grey.

Melissa

Dangerous blue and grey.

Zarrin

Yes and after that the police is so, after that the police is cry. I don't know how to take that police and bring in Croatia.

Melissa

These were the, wait those were the Croatian police or were they Serbian police? Those were the Croatian, from Croatia? The Croatian police saw your son's feet. Did I understand yes?

Zarrin

Yeah.

Melissa

And the Croatian police said?

Zarrin

I explain for him, he wants to stay in your country.

Melissa

In Croatia.

Zarrin

Yes and please not be deport in Serbia.

Melissa

Why not Serbia what was wrong? Tell me about Serbia.

Zarrin

Serbia was very very bad. Very special the camp is very bad. In one room three families are together.

Melissa

Three families all together in one room. Did you have a kitchen to make food?

Zarrin

No inside the room is.

I have a picture from that, yes.

Melissa

Nothing.

Melissa

Can you show?

Zarrin

Yes I can. That place was very dirty and two toilet only.

Melissa

Two toilet.

Zarrin

For woman. Bathroom for women and for men together. One toilet for all the people in Serbia.

Melissa

Oh gosh.

Zarrin

When we want to explain for another people for German it came in Serbia. Explain and the boss is more fighty with me, with another family. Why you complain from Serbia and we said that situation is not good. Go outside and life inside the forest. Here is a camp and we get you a room and you complain. Sit, here is no good. No kitchen, no toilet, toilet, nothing. Very

00:26:59:23

dirty. Which country people is live here and have to all the time is fighting with immigration. Why you explain that.

Melissa

But they took your thumb prints in Croatia.

Zarrin

Yes.

Melissa

What does that mean? If the police take your finger prints in Croatia that means that's where you are supposed to stay right? Is that right? Is that correct? What

I'm trying to talk about is you escaped from Serbia, you escaped, you got out and you came to Germany.

Zarrin

Yes we left our country, my mind was in German not to stay in Greece or Serbia or Croatia.

Melissa

As I look out the window I see a German flag right there Jim it's incredible. You never see a German flag. The whole time you were thinking get to Germany, not Croatia, not Serbia. Go to Germany right?

Zarrin

If we wants to stay in Croatia the first time we stay here. 11 times travel by small children. All the time.

We know we play with our life. Our life is special children. Small children are very very healthy and the weight was very great and now you see him very very thin. Weight is very lost. Every time crying to me Mum my feet is pain.

Melissa

And these are your children, your babies. So 11 times you tried and you've finally come to Germany. But in Germany you stay in camps. Also in Germany the first camp was where?

Zarrin

In [Dermistat]

Melissa

In Dermis tat.

Zarrin

The first one is in Deeson.

Melissa

Yes of course.

Zarrin

Two weeks in Deeson. After two weeks transfer in Dermis tat and that camp was good.

Interviewer

It was OK.

Zarrin

Yes and after two months and half I get transferred in ...

Melissa

So outside of Rotten-berg and then here.

Zarrin

Yes in Hind-burg.

Melissa

Another place. So one, two, three, four different places moving, moving, small children.

Zarrin

Yes and pregnant.

Melissa

And pregnant. You just moved into this house three weeks ago right?

Zarrin

Yes. Two weeks is here.

Melissa

Two weeks you've been in the house. How old is your baby?

Zarrin

Now on 4th November my baby is born.

Melissa

So on the fourth of November.

Zarrin

She was born.

Melissa

This means your baby, you had a baby and the next week you moved to an apartment.

Zarrin

Yes.

Melissa

You had a baby, your body is tired, you are exhausted and you move to a new apartment. Now you have your own apartment. Is that good?

Zarrin

Yes better, we are thanks for god we found that place. More suffer inside the journey.

Melissa

How did you find this place? Who helped you find?

Zarrin

Social. One lady is help me.

Melissa

Who is this lady from the social?

Zarrin

The social, that lady Mrs Lembo.

Melissa

You also mentioned another lady, this is important. The wonderful lady.

Zarrin

From London and she wife is in German. Mrs Suzanne. Very very good. I don't know how to explain.

Melissa

How good.

Zarrin

Yes about her, very. In German people.

Melissa

What did she do for you?

Zarrin

Very kind people. Each country have good and bad difference. Better than Croatia, I have very bad people in Croatia especially the police. Very bad with the children bring a big dog.

Melissa

The Croatian police brought a dog to frighten your children?

Zarrin

Yes.

Melissa

What else?

Zarrin

Beat my husband and push my arm.

Melissa

Why?

Zarrin

God back in Serbia and we explained we don't want to stay your country I wants to go in German. No no no and catch and deport in Serbia again. When deport at the night, at the midnight which mean they train is at the station. Three hour walk by feet in the train station. All the time children is look behind and saw the train has came or no.

Melissa

So they're walking along the train tracks.

Zarrin

Yes.

Melissa

Train tracks right for three hours.

Zarrin

Three hours.

Melissa

Children in the night.

Zarrin

In the night. At midnight, at three o'clock, at two o'clock at four o'clock and explained very difficult. Shouting. [FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Zarrin

On small baby, I don't know, do you know that news on the TV from Afghanistan, one lady, one girl was six years old and seven years, the train has crashed and kill.

Melissa

Hit her.

Zarrin

I saw that girl. Me good to her and one camp that girl. Go and visit their family. Very very difficult.

Melissa

Because she was walking along the train tracks.

Zarrin

Yes and the police is Croatian catch and deport in Serbia. At the midnight that girl didn't see the train is kill and crashed.

Interviewer

It hit her.

Zarrin

Yes.

Melissa

The Train his her, she couldn't see, she was a child.

Zarrin

And after that died. My daughter also all the time crying. We don't want to go there, please stay in Serbia, not to go and maybe the train is came and we died like that. All the time.

Melissa

Of course. How old were your children as you were going from Croatia? How old were your children in detention in Serbia? Remember detention is so bad in Serbia. How old were your children do you remember? [FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Zarrin

One children is six or seven years old. Another is eight and now nine years old. Another is ten and after four days is the birthday and 11 years old. When I came

from Afghanistan one children, small children four years old. Another is six, another is seven and half. And now eleven, nine and seven.

Melissa

All little children. Little little children.

Zarrin

Not to know, not to more move. No more grow.

Melissa

They are the children that had the frozen feet that could not eat for two days, could not drink for two days. Sleeping on the floors.

Zarrin

I found the water on the ground.

Melissa

Water on the ground?

Zarrin

Water on the ground and we take the bottle, as we put on the and after that drink that water.

Melissa

Oh my goodness.

Zarrin

Allah is keep my children.

Melissa

Of course.

Zarrin

And they were sick between the forest. [FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Zarrin

The feet is also more swollen and we show the police, you see please.

Melissa

You're with your children, I am a mother of four children. I love more children more than anything and I can't imagine someone holding a gun at my children or my children not being able to eat or my children being afraid. I can't imagine it. I can't imagine it. Now your three children are living in a small town in central Germany and they're going to school. They're going to school. How

00:37:24:10

are they learning? How is it? What do they say?

Zarrin

Now they speak Deutsch. They are very small.

Melissa

They're speaking Deutsch OK. And do they have friends?

Zarrin

Yes I hope so.

Melissa

Do they have teachers who understand and help them?

Zarrin

Not good year because before I was sick and last time, the day before yesterday I went to school and visit the teacher and I want to ask about my children and everything ask for the teacher. The teacher told me another time I get to you and said together speak about your children and we explained for her my children is because they don't know your language is difficult, especially for me, I can't help my children inside the room. Then came my room and told me Mom you help me I don't know the way. And sometimes more depress, more push for me and me explain for them I can't help you because I don't know this language.

Melissa

Of course.

Zarrin

Difficult for me. I don't know the name of this and after that crying why no helping me and he wants to be a good student inside the class and I want to be a good because one children he likes to be in the future, he loves engineering and also another kid, children he likes to doctor. And explain me you don't help me how to be a good doctor or a good engineer in the future.

00:39:40:15

Said I try to learn Deutsch and after that help me. And my husband better than me in Deutsch and help by mobile. Here is no WiFi. Before there is WiFi and big helping for me and for children. Here is no WiFi and my husband buy internet by mobile and bring some kind of words in Deutsch and helping children. [FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Zarrin

My husband wants to go in Deutsch class but he doesn't provision him because you don't have [Duldum]

Melissa

Duldum is an important German word which means you're in limbo, that's all it means. It means you're waiting. You're waiting. If you're just in Duldum you're

waiting to find out what the courts say and they don't give you German courses right. They don't give it to you so he can't get a German course.

Zarrin

When he wants to go in the doctor place in some place especially in ... in the office and explain for that please speak English because I don't know Deutsch and that person is I don't know English. And we explain for him you know English and please. No no you bring translator, here I bring the translator and help me. And very bad experience for me at the end of this month when I went to ... explain bring your ... for your daughter. When I bring the ... the first time and give me for six months. After that took that ... and change one month in Duldum and me please speak English I don't know and bring me some paper with your signature. You must signature. I don't know that in Deutsch how to signature. Maybe not good for me and me signature. It is your, it is belongs to you and you must signature.

Melissa

You must sign.

Zarrin

Yeah sign sorry. All the time explain for it and after that is shouting. You must sign that. And after that we sign. When I came here one, two person has helped me in the hospital and explain me something for the point, speak Deutsch not English. Wife and husband together and see that people and we sign and I said yes, you never signed that, why you sign. I explained for it.

Melissa

You didn't understand.

Zarrin

I don't know and tell me and you must sign. When more argue and tell me because I am more afraid about police. If kill me and I don't wants to see the police.

Melissa

So sometimes you sign forms because you are afraid of the government employee or the official or the police so you sign but you don't know what you're signing and you don't know what it means and you can't find someone to translate into English.

Zarrin

Yes I explained for that man. After that one from African person is one woman, one man and came inside that office and that lady speak. Two persons, one man, one woman and that lady is speak English and after that we told her why. Before you told me I don't know English and why you speak English now.

Melissa

And you do speak good English. How do you answer this question for me Zarrin. How do you speak such good English? Where did you learn your English?

Zarrin

In Afghanistan.

Melissa

Were you going to school?

Zarrin

Yes I was a teacher, English teacher.

Melissa

What were you teaching?

Zarrin

English.

Melissa

At a children's school or at a middle school? What were you teaching? What students were you teaching?

Zarrin

In middle.

Melissa

So the students between the age of?

Zarrin

In 12 class, 11 class.

Melissa

So you are a teacher in Afghanistan, you're teaching English.

Zarrin

Not good like you. Especial now all the time I forgot the words. I don't know how to tell because more stress. My mind is not good work.

Melissa

Did anyone have a problem with you teaching at the school? What was the, why was that a problem in Afghanistan? Can you explain. Maybe some people don't understand. In my country women can teach at school. Women can teach anywhere. Why was that a problem in Afghanistan?

Zarrin

Before all explain it and ... and now like before I don't have good mind because I don't remember that.

Melissa

We have it. If I remember your story, tell me if I'm correct. Certain people, perhaps Taliban don't want the women teaching at school.

Zarrin

Yes.

Melissa

And what do they do? What can Taliban do to a woman like you?

Zarrin

Because they tell that my government is a Muslim government. The lady is never have gone to a school, not to teach girls. Just only men is go to school because that. And I can explain to you but now I assume because all the time I forgot.

Melissa

It's OK. When we are very stressed, when we feel stressed we forget things. It's normal, it's normal. But what you do know is that you have survived the long walk from Afghanistan to Greece. From Greece to Croatia. Croatia back. Serbia, detention, terrible time in Serbia and now you make it to Germany. You're here.

Zarrin

Yes I know here and here is because we have ... Croatian and all the time send me the letter when we wants to learn something and after that and bring me post. And then I don't know the language, I saw that and from some translate and that news about that very afraid all forgot and I don't wants to learn that.

Melissa

And Dublin means I'm explaining for anyone who doesn't understand. Dublin means the place where you took your fingerprints is the place where they can send you back. The government can say you cannot choose where you're going to live, you have to go back to where your finger prints were. Is that right?

Zarrin

The first, my wish is the first one this one from this country in German. When they wants to refuse you the first time when someone, another country for me, another family wants to come inside the German and get interview. They don't want that family, reject and sent that back for like me nine month, ten month stayed in this country in German. Children were sent at the school.

Interviewer

He's learning German.

Zarrin

Yes and my husband wants to learn Deutsch and we wants to learn Deutsch. Like the first baby is born that learn that language. Very difficult. For example one lady wants to learn Farsi. Very difficult for her how to learn. All the time no sleep and help with children and he wants to learn. Very difficult for him and bring all the time shoe. I don't want to stay in this country. That lady how to learn that was difficult.

Melissa

Right very difficult.

Zarrin

And someone from German, from government people and instead of immigration and think about that. For example Mrs Anna Lisa was from German. She was teacher here and tell me you have a good talent. Come in the class and you learn Deutsch. Three times we go inside the class in Dermestat. That teacher was very great. All the time speak Deutsch and now when you speak Deutsch I know but I can't speak because I can't continue. More stress and blood pressure is very high. I was pregnant and I all the time thing. I have came and learned Deutsch. After that bring me letter and when I saw that letter I read that letter and we don't want to stay in German and you go back in Croatia.

Melissa

What was in the letter?

Zarrin

The letter is about you must return back in Croatia because you are dublin. How to learn that language, how to know. When we wants to go in the doctor and another place and why you don't know Deutsch. You came here why you don't know Deutsch. How to explain for one hour, half hour for him. I came here and life is better. I'm like baby, the first time the mother is tell, mother explain for the baby until she knew and learn. Very difficult and here why you don't like. You don't know about my life. All the time we try to learn but your government all the time sent me post. That letter we don't want to stay and think the police is came and catch and one time sent me back.

Melissa

What do you want people to understand about who you are? Lets pretend. Lets think that we have the German government here. Just imagine we have Angela Merkel, we have people. What do you want them to understand about you as a person?

Zarrin

The first time the government has intelligent people. The first time we stayed together and have a psychology person and know about that. For example that me or another person how to people is that. And explain everything. This one is right or this one is not right. And after that, for example you said your Merkel or another one, you are intelligent woman and your Americans and you have more experience, your ... is very high and you know better than me when I speak with you and you, it is correct or not correct.

Melissa

So what do you want to say? What do you want to explain to people? There are people that don't understand what it is like to be an Afghan woman who has brought her children across the Middle East to a camp in Greece to Serbia and back, to Serbia and back, Croatia. Some people just see you and they don't understand.

Zarrin

I have more picture from inside the forest from Serbia and Croatia.

Melissa

It would be good. This would be good if we can look at the pictures that would also help. Can you show? You can show pictures? is helpful, it helps us. So this is in the forest in Croatia. Three children, other children, no food, snow. And if, there we are, children. Let him take the picture just so we can see the children. No food, no water, in the middle of the night. [FOREIGN DIALOGUE] What was his job? [FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Zarrin

Before he worked in the carpets.

Melissa

Oh.

Zarrin

By hand and selling the car.

Melissa

Selling cars.

Zarrin

Buy the cars and also room.

Melissa

So real Estate, we call that Immobilien in German. Immobilien is to sell the rooms and sell the house. So Real Estate, selling cars, making and selling carpets and you could be educated. You went to school and you taught at the school. Did you have a beautiful garden? You had a beautiful home?

Zarrin

Yes.

Melissa

And the children were going to school?

Zarrin

Yes and I went to school. [FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Zarrin

And when I came here on special, very good date for me and children we put in school. Very very happy now.

Melissa

Now that you can go to school.

Zarrin

Yes if the government uh, put me relax and not send me all the time back back.

Melissa

We call that, you feel threatened, danger that you have to go again. That makes you feel.

Zarrin

All the time I never sleep especial at the night.

Interviewer

Yes can you tell about your health and what is your health like right now?

Zarrin

My health is not good. My back is problem. My feet is also problem and diabetes. I have diabetes, we don't have any diabetes. My blood pressure is very high and health is very important than everything. Very very important.

Melissa

The mother needs to be healthy for her family.

Zarrin

Yes when we have good life, good room I have everything and I don't want nothing when we are not healthy. And now I can help children. I can't cook. I can't clean. All the time my husband not sit behind me. Not inside the room. He must work outside. He must learn and how to help and I hope in the future like before I wants to continue education and I wants to teach another children. I don't wants to here risk and take ... and other people give me ... and me eats. I don't want. I want to work like you. Like another people. That is the difference between me and between her. She works, she is a human, she works and find a good work and give many and help husband and children. And me also like that. I don't want to relax inside the room. I am young and I want to be a good future for children and helping children Otherwise the children are now more problem. All my body is not healthy.

Melissa

Because of stress. Because of so much stress.

Zarrin

All is stress. I never at night sleep all the time especially when Doldum my ... I think all the time the police is coming and maybe take and deport in Croatia. If I went to Croatia why. Three has been the way, my journey not to stay in Croatia.

Interviewer

Can you describe one thing for us. I don't know whether Jim and Annie understood. Twila and I heard before but I think it's important for them to hear.

You were in many different camps. [FOREIGN DIALOGUE] Here in Germany for but I think you say the worst was Serbia right? Is that true? You said Serbia was the worst detention.

Zarrin

Yes was very very bad.

Melissa

Can you describe for them what happened in Serbia? What did it look like? Who was there? What did you eat? How did you sleep? How long were you there. Can you tell us all about Serbia.

Zarrin

In Serbia more than one year, more than one year I was in Serbia.

Melissa

In detention?

Zarrin

Yes. In one room three family together live.

Melissa

How big the room?

Zarrin

Not very big and the place is very very small and my family, I have one bed. Children, two children together sleep on me and my daughter together and my husband on the floor. And sometime I sleep on the floor, my husband with children in one bed. No water. No toilet. No bathroom. Just only two toilet for all person and two bedroom for all person. All immigration.

Melissa

Three families.

Male Voice

No all come.

Zarrin

All family.

Melissa

For all the camp. How many people in the camp?

Zarrin

... I forgot the words in English like that. One person is.

Melissa

In a line.

Zarrin

Aline, yes a line.

Melissa

So in the camp in Serbia many families. In your room three families. How many children?

Zarrin

One. Some family is two children, three children. Some family is one children.

Melissa

And in the whole camp two toilets.

Zarrin

Yes two toilets and one follow [FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Melissa

To follow I don't understand.

Zarrin

In 200 people two toilets.

Melissa

For 200 people, that's for 200 people in the camp, two toilets. Lots of children, many children.

Zarrin

Many children.

Melissa

Many many children. For you one year, more than one year. What did you eat?

Zarrin

Cook inside, inside the room, that place.

Melissa

Bedroom? With fire?

Zarrin

No by electricity.

Melissa

Electricity. You cook inside the little room. [FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Zarrin

I shoot here from Serbia.

Melissa

Please.

Zarrin

I take, I took more video and picture. I also picture from all my journey and also I have been written one book about my journey.

Melissa

But the police in Croatia took it.

Zarrin

Yes and broke my mobile.

Melissa

And broke the mobile.

Zarrin

Yes in case that notebook because complain from conversion in UNHCR. We explain all the UNHCR.

Melissa

You told the truth to UNHCR about what was happening in Croatia so they took your journal where you had written everything for all of this journey.

Zarrin

When that place beat my husband and me take photo from mobile and the police is saw that and catch my mobile and crash on the ground, yes and after that broke that. And all my bike is check and take that notebook because 11 times journey that the way and me write.

Melissa

You wrote everything in this book about 11 times. 11 times walking with your children in the night, in the cold, without food, without water. Hiding from police. Making your fire at night. Your children's feet freezing. You write this all. You say here is my story. Here is my story.

Zarrin

Oe time especial you can ask from Mrs [Bohari] and from Serbian people, one lady from, she was from Croatia she was a journalist and take she took interview by video and we wait out cover explain everything and I don't know when the police saw me and know me. They did that crash with me. And now we are very afraid how to back in Croatia.

Melissa

You can't. You can't go back to Croatia because too dangerous. So tell more about y our children. What did you children do everyday. One year detention camp Serbia. What do the children do? What do they do? No school.

Zarrin

Yes to school. All the time is inside the forest and children they are all the time cry. They cry and here is more person that went to school and children in school. Why we don't.

Melissa

Cannot go to school. Mm mm. One year detention. Camp in Serbia then you escape.

Zarrin

Greek is very better than Serbia.

Melissa

Greece is better than Serbia.

Zarrin

Very very better.

Melissa

I don't know what it's like now but once it was better, that's right.

Twila

It's not very good now.

Interviewer

It's not good now because it's all closed and no one can get out and the government is being very bad to refugees.

Twila

I know ... is very dirty and it's not good now.

Melissa

Lisa is not there. At Oinofyta anymore.

Zarrin

Before when I was here very very bad. [FOREIGN DIALOGUE] Better than Serbia. My life was inside the tent. Tent is better than the room from Serbia.

Melissa

Tent in Greece was better than a room in Serbia. And how did the Serbian guards treat you? How did they, they police and the guards in Serbia did they, did they talk with you? What did they do?

Zarrin

The police, between the CPS police it was good not bad. No like Croatia. People is better than Croatia and now we are afraid that the point this flat is Croatia lady.

Melissa

You go back. [LAUGHS]

Zarrin

Very bad chance. Very bad chance because we have very bad memory from Croatia.

Melissa

Of course, of course.

Zarrin

Children one time came Iran, told me Mum do you know that lady from the flat is she the new from Croatia. Yes I'm telling my daughter I'm afraid that lady is come. I didn't, maybe I saw her and I don't know. I don't know and explain my neighbour please tell me when that lady is came and this room is from that. I don't want to be staying here. Maybe that lady was good because very bad memory for Croatia.

Melissa

Of course, that's natural. So I have one last question for Belton, if you can translate for me, Zarrin.

Melissa

So my question is you've been a strong father. [FOREIGN DIALOGUE] You've been a magnificent father. [FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Zarrin

Thank you so much.

Melissa

You have brought your family from danger [FOREIGN DIALOGUE] across a dangerous route. [FOREIGN DIALOGUE] and now we hope, we pray [FOREIGN DIALOGUE] that you are in safety. [FOREIGN DIALOGUE] As the father of the beautiful family, four children, what is your dream? What is the thing you want for your family more than anything? [FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Belton

[FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Zarrin

He says my dream is, uh he said please not record because maybe not correct.

Melissa

It's OK we will have other translators. What we will do is I will have my friends, they will listen to the video and then they can translate.

Zarrin

Because not correct.

Melissa

It's OK.

Zarrin (translating for Belton)

He say his dream is children went to school, they will go to the school, no like me and go another country, immigration and they have a good future here. And his wish is, his dream is children went to school and learn and they have a good life not like me. All the time I'm journey.

Melissa

OK so he wants his children to have a stable, we call it stable, stable life, school, just school right and not have to flee to anther country. Are you glad, are you happy that you left Afghanistan? [FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Belton

[FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Zarrin translates

I am so happy and came here, my life is safe and I am happy because I loves my life.

Melissa

What kind of life did he have before? Can he describe what his life was like before? What kind of life [FOREIGN DIALOGUE] in Afghanistan?

Belton

[FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Zarrin translates

He have a good life and a good job.

Belton

[FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Zarrin translates

From economy we don't have any problem, just only problem of our life.

Melissa

Problem with government, Taliban, no freedom.

Zarrin

Yes.

Melissa

So financially no problem but the life big problem.

Zarrin

Life is very important.

Melissa

Freedom.

Zarrin

Freedom is very important yes, freedom is very important.

Melissa

Stability, no war. What is the best thing for you? What is the best part about being here? We've heard what is difficult. What is the best part? [FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Belton

[FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Zarrin translates

All the hard his life is travelling from the journey because children.

Melissa

That was the hardest. That was the worst part the journey with the children. Now is it the best part? No more travel?

Belton

[FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Zarrin translates

I am so happy arrive in German and wants to stay in German.

Melissa

Wants to stay in Germany.

Zarrin translates

Not to back another country.

Melissa

Not go back in another country. You're an intelligent man. [FOREIGN DIALOGUE]
You're a hardworking man. [FOREIGN DIALOGUE] You're an industrious man,
you work hard, you brought your family on a hard journey, you're a good leader.
[FOREIGN DIALOGUE] What kind of work would you like to do in Germany?
[FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Belton

[FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Zarrin translates

He says I wants to continue education and work for children. Not to stay in the room and like before I want to stay in front of on the feet and work.

Melissa

Wants to work You want to work. And you've sold carpets, you've sold cars, you've sold real estate. [FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Belton

[FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Zarrin translates

He says we can work two works and selling buying car and we can fix the carpets and we can also continue education.

Melissa

Learning German.

Zarrin translates

Yes. At first he wants to learn Deutsch because language is very important.

Melissa

Language is number one.

Zarrin speaks for her husband

Yes number one language. When I know Deutsch I can interview in the Deutsch all the person is know about my life. When we wants to go some place from the ladies in German and see me I'm immigrant and someone bad crash and you wants to stay and relax and you eat and you take money. She doesn't know about my life, why I came here.

Melissa

She doesn't know about Serbia.

Zarrin

She doesn't know about my journey. She doesn't know about the sea. I don't like water, I don't like sea because I'm afraid about that.

Melissa

All of our friends from Afghanistan, the water, they don't swim. No swimming, no water.

Zarrin

Now my children wants to go and learn swim. Yesterday my husband went to in one place and gave the cart and they just said the name and know about swimming.

Melissa

Good. OK. But the water was for you very frightening?

Zarrin

Yes and I don't like water. When I saw one place. Before I was pregnant and send me in the hospital. [FOREIGN DIALOGUE] And send me in [bodies field] in the hospital. When I saw all the tree I think I was inside the forest.

Melissa

Croatia.

Zarrin

Forest, Croatia and Serbia, Macedonia, Kosovo and I remembered that very bad affect me. I don't want to stay in front of on the window and saw that trees. And

all the time I wish one place is near on this street. I saw the people. I was just like water. We want the water and like that I want to see visit the people and the car.

Melissa

Of course. Let me ask do you have any questions? Do you have any questions? Annie do you have any questions? Just one last question if you have any because we take so much of your time. Do you have any footage at all. Can you had me my phone Jim. Let me show you something, let me show you. I want to find something to show you. I don't know where these all are. I have to go digging through here to find pictures.

Zarrin

This place is from Serbia and she is from United and she says that ladies give interview. This is my place.

Melissa

Oh this is the place in Serbia that was the detention.

Zarrin

Yes from the room. Plus only this place. After that that lady is explain about the life.

Melissa

You see this, that's a book. We have made a book. This is not our job, we don't get paid, no one pays us, we do this as volunteer. You understand volunteer?

Zarrin

Yeah.

Melissa

So this is all what we do. But we make this book, you know her?

Zarrin

Yeah.

Melissa

She is in Bosnia right now, she's still in Bosnia but we will visit tomorrow. We will go to Switzerland, we will visit her. So we have friendship. But this is a book, it's this thick, it's big, it is beautiful photograph, photograph and stories. So we tell the stories. We say this is [FOREIGN DIALOGUE] is from the countryside. He has a sister in the end.

Zarrin

At the end I have one question about your book, about your job.

Melissa

OK good you're going to ask me. Good I want you to ask the question. So that's one thing we do. We take the stories and we put them in the book and then we sell the book and the money that we get from the book helps us to travel here, tell more stories. Share the story. Share the story. Share the story. Tell true story. Tell Belton story. Tell Zarrin story. Tell [Shick a ne] story. Tell Hamid's story. Tell everyone's story so people know what kind of people you are. Strong people. Intelligent people. People who want their children to be safe.

Zarrin

Yes that people is read that book and why no explain for the government no helping the immigration.

Melissa

Yeah this is what we're trying. This also goes to government. We give this to the government.

Zarrin

And that family has more problems inside and have three children and she doesn't have any money because all the money smugglers is take and.

Melissa

Seven billion dollars the smugglers. The smuggling business seven billion dollars. I know.

Zarrin

Any why that family or another family like that is not helping.

Melissa

So when we go and we take this book to the government we say government change, help with this family or we show this to someone and we say this family is in detention, this family is sitting in a detention family in Bosnia. Who wants to help? Who can help? Who can help this family? Who can help that man? He's been living on a street, this man, living on a street, three years on the street in Italy, yes.

Zarrin

[FOREIGN DIALOGUE] And that they did in Hamburg.

Melissa

Yes they've gone to Hamburg but they're from Oinofyta

Zarrin

Yes.

Melissa

So in the book, in this one book we have Oinofyta, we have people on the street in Paris, no house, no toilet, no food, sleeping on the street, Italy. Paris, Ali living

for months on the street. On the street in Paris, no help. But someone hears his story, sees the book, sees the pictures and somebody says my friend Christine.

Zarrin

Before I came in German I visit Ali in France.

Melissa

Did you?

Zarrin

Yes.

Melissa

Were you in his apartment?

Zarrin

No no no. Just only on the street.

Melissa

So the woman that helped him, maybe you met Christine. Christine is a woman. Christine is also from London, she's from England and she said Ali I will help you. I will help you with your leg. I will help you get French. I will help you get a job. I will help you get an apartment because she heard his story. If people don't hear the story they don't know. If people don't hear the story they think why don't you go back to Afghanistan, you know. People don't understand. So we try to tell the stories. [FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Melissa

So this is why we try to tell the stories. These are my friends, my Syrian friends in Here we're telling the story of Kamaria. This is Kamaria, she's from Aleppo. She goes with her eight year old boy. She lives with 32 people in one house. 32 people, one house. Her husband in Turkey. Three teenage boys. She

Zarrin

Is safe and I agree with her 'cause I saw with one.

Melissa

Yes you know.

Zarrin

One time me with children and with the seven single person in one room life.

Melissa

Crazy, crazy, impossible, crazy.

Zarrin

That person is drink alcohol and at the night is shouting, playing and in Serbian we explain for the boss please change my room and that person is drink and we have three children, very bad effect me. Here is no place if you don't want that room you go outside. Please please go outside. And we live with that single person in one room for two months, three months. You can ask from him how to explain that.

01:25:29:16

Melissa Dalton Bradford

Oh I believe you. So here's what happens with Kamaria. Kamaria is like you. Kamaria is like Zarrin. She's a teacher, mathematics. Aleppo, she leaves with her husband, three boys, teenagers and one little girl.

Zarrin

How do you know that people are explain and we can put here as one book all the time.

Melissa

Can never tell the story.

Zarrin

People is and I don't know about my life, about my journey, about everything that happen.

Melissa

Father, three boys, Turkey. No money for smugglers. Cannot come to Germany, they could not come but Kamaria and her boy they come to Germany. Three years. Three years. Father, boys Turkey, mother child in Germany. You understand, you understand the pain. Tonight, tonight ten o'clock father, son, son, son arrive in Frankfurt. They will be together.

Zarrin

Thanks from god.

Melissa

Thanks fro god. We will be there taking the pictures, talking with them. And it's because Kamaria told us her story. When the judge said no no family in ... no family Kamaria went with the story and said my story, this is my story, people know my story. They know my story, they have heard my story and it changes and the judge changed and brings the family.

Zarrin

[FOREIGN DIALOGUE]

Melissa

There we are. The German woman and there I am. We went to court, we went to the judge together. We went to the court together. [FOREIGN DIALOGUE] He speaks, they've not been here three years and his German is very good like your boys, your children.

Zarrin

I know my children is a translator.

Melissa

I know. That's what he does. We were with Kamaria yesterday and sitting on the sofa and Kamaria is speaking Arabic and Bhara, [FOREIGN DIALOGUE] he makes it, intelligent. Kamaria is very intelligent. You are very intelligent good people.

Zarrin

And now before when I came here, here is some kind of blame. I got blame from here and contact with her and when we have in German and call for him and I'm in Frankfurt. I'm in Frankfurt and wants to stay and tell me OK you come and stay my room for one night. No problem, say no problem. When I go there and that lady is explain about everything and we ask about the government and tell me because I don't know the rule of this country. Three year is ... and my life with children was very dangerous. All the time inside the forest and I am explain everything for him and after that told me no no you never tell for when you go to an interview and not to tell your judge and you three years between your journey and you said you came by ... and Croatia. And because when you explain for the judgement and after that deport and Croatia and you tell strike you came from Afghanistan and Turkish you come in Croatia and you came in Frankfurt. And me tell him three year is between the forest my life wasn't good. Not good and how to explain for him. He say no no no you tell and why here plenty. And after that we found the judge explain right we came from Afghanistan and Turkish, Turkish and Croatian. Not explain about the journey for the judgement for the judge.

Melissa

Because the judge doesn't want to hear or the judge is not interested. I know. I know. I know. People have told me. They said they go to Geeson and the people say don't tell your story. Don't give all of the details.

Zarrin

Yes and I'm crazy I didn't tell my story to the judge and Geeson and now all the time the government from the Geeson, the judges, the court reject me. ... I am very very worry and very ashamed why believe that man, that woman and if me say true for right the judge better for me every night, every night I'm punish myself. Why believe that lady and not to tell about my story.

Melissa

So I understand if you feel afraid I understand what you're saying. If you feel afraid about sharing your story we understand. It is your story not my story. You control the story.

Zarrin

No just now I wants to ask about you because you said been all people and I said for the doctor about my children and the doctor is know because explain and it is good explain about my journey.

Melissa

Does not help.

Zarrin

Yes and explain for that just only the judges said I that lady has told me if you explain and the police is catch and deport in Croatia not to tell. You said because ask the court why you not stay in Greece, why you not stay in Serbia. More question just you said and true you came here. Not tell about the journey and I am very very regret if me explain about the journey better.

Melissa

Right that's what we could do. We could sit down with Zarrin, we could sit down with your children. I could come and talk with you and you tell me and then I write it and I share it and we share with pictures. But the question is you don't want on Facebook, I understand. But could we put it in a book or could we make a video? Could we make a video? Could we show a video and show it to other people? Could we do that?

Zarrin

Foreign dialogue