



CLIP TRANSCRIPT

Shafiq Rasul- Flight to Guantanamo

The day we were taken, we were moved from our cells in the night, into a separate part of the camp in Kandahar. And we were woken up in the morning, and told to sit to the back of our cells. We all had numbers, and they were calling them out 2 by 2, the numbers of all the people. So my number would come up, and we would be taken to the front of the cell, made to lie down on the floor, two soldiers would come and basically sit on us and say to us...and shackle us up and drag us to the processing place.

They made us sit down on these like, wooden benches, chained our hands to the wooden bench so we couldn't move, shaved our heads, shaved our beards off, cut all our clothes off of us. And then we were marched, naked, out to the tent; in front of I don't know how many soldiers were there—that was basically done to humiliate us; there was no other reason that they did that—into another tent. And there was a guy with a camera there. And we were naked when they were taking the photos. We don't know if they were taking headshots or full body shots of us.

And we were given an orange uniform and told to put it on. And we put the uniform on, then we were marched out of that tent, outside. And then they put these mitts on our hands and taped them up. And...what else...they put goggles over our eyes so we couldn't see anything. And then they put these hats on our heads, which was probably to keep us warm because it was freezing there. Then they put these denim jackets over us and made us sit down on the floor for a really long time.

Then, it was at nighttime when we were actually taken, by groups, because they did that same thing—putting the rope around our arms and marching us in groups of I think about ten. Then we were put onto the plane, with our ears covered, our mouth covered, our eyes covered, so we didn't know what was going on, and put on the plane. And about...I think it must have been about an hour we were on the plane, and then it took off.

And the first journey was horrendous, because we were sitting on these wooden planks, and it was impossible to sit on them for more than 5 minutes, and we couldn't move because we were chained to the floor, and it was causing us a lot of pain. Because we had lost a lot of weight at that time, and it was impossible to sit in one position for that long. And we had nothing to lean back on, so I had to sit constantly in one position, and not be able to move. And I was in a lot of pain. And I was shouting, "I'm in pain! I'm in pain!"



Witness to Guantánamo

And then somebody came, took the mask off me, and put something in my mouth, and made me...it was some kind of medicine. I don't know what it was. But after that, I just felt really, really drowsy. And I don't know if I went to sleep, but I was...I could still feel the pain in my body.

And then that journey must have lasted about...it felt like it was forever. But it was...we landed somewhere. It must have been about ten, twelve hours later. We were taken off the plane, searched, and it seemed like they...they took us off the plane. They might have put us on a different plane, or they brought us back onto the same plane. And that must have taken about two or three hours. And then we were just waiting there. And where we landed, it was really hot. That's the only thing that I remember about that place. Because they kept our faces covered, so we couldn't see anything. Then we were put back onto the second plane, and that's the one that took us to Guantanamo.