

23 February 2012

Interview of

(b)(6), (b)(7)c

I am from Kabul. I studied for four years and graduated from Kabul University. I speak a little English. I took some courses of English in Kabul; I also speak Dari and Pashtu. Dari is my native language, and I learned Pashtu in Pakistan.

In September 2009, I started working at the detention facility. There was an old jail that was broken down; that was the detention facility. I was working as an Islamic educator, and I was responsible for the library and served the prisoners. I hold a room here and stay here when I am working.

There were some sources that they were writing in the books and the prisoners were passing notes. When I went to the prisoners' cells, they were giving me names of books they wanted. I was making a list of specific books and giving the lists to the Commander. The commander, through contractors, was getting those books for the prisoners.

I was sent back to my room at 9:30 because they said they were cleaning the area and did not need me today. On Saturday, I was supposed to teach a class, but I did not have the library.

[Inaudible due to background noise.]

We would give a book to a prisoner. After reading them, and they were done, we would take the book back. But they had no idea where the book goes or who is going to look at it. They don't know anything about that book. We get the book from them; we take it back to the library. We go through them and make sure nothing is in it, and then we put it back on the shelf. Sometimes, if we bring a lot of books back to the library, it takes a few days for the books to be cleaned. For this reason, we soak them and put them in the library. The first time I put them on the shelves, I might forget sometimes to look. But when we give them back to the detainees, I search them before it goes to the detainee. They usually write in the books, their names, their address, their numbers, where they're from, how they were captured, how long they've been detained, what cell number they live in, etc.

According to the rules of the detention facility, every detainee can keep four books within their cell. We have about thirty detainees or more than thirty in every cell, so they can keep more than a hundred books without counting the Quran. The number of books in each cell depends on how many books we would give them. On average, there are 80 books in every cell, maybe 100 books. Even in some cells, there are 150 books.

We don't have just one copy of one book to take from one detainee and give to another detainee. For example, for a majority of the books we have, we have 50, 80, 100 copies of every book. The detainees do know where and what dates I get books for them. For example, I have put in every cell sets of [inaudible]. They don't need to get it from this cell and put it in that cell. We have a copy of "taff seed," a copy of "hadee." A copy of English beginners, level one and level

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two. I have put in every cell a dictionary, Pashtu and English. And also level one, two, three and four of English. And also level one, two, and three of Pashtu. We don't have to change out the books because every cell has a copy. We change out the novels because they read them quickly. They like novels.

No, I have not helped the detainees communicate. If their brothers, they can talk with the S2 [staff intelligence] and coordinate visits. I am not allowed to do this, and I have limits in my speech with them. When I go there, I'm a religious supporter. I get what they need, what books, what religion, what books do you need. Also, if they have any religious questions, I can answer them. If they have any problems, I tell them to talk to the S2 and operations. Yes, I talk about religious stuff with them. As an Islamic expert and educator, it is part of my job.

Within the facility, I have contact with the U.S Soldiers. I worked for G2, and now it's S2 and I work for him. I have a meeting with the Battalion Commander inside the facility because I am a religious supporter, and he is the guard force commander. I report meetings between the detainees and the leadership when they have any questions about the religion and about the books; I am the supporter of them. If it belongs to religion, it comes to me.

I have a good relationship with the American Soldiers. I am surprised. Inside the facility when we move the books from the library, a U.S. Soldier tells me if they want to see the book and ask if it's a religious book or not. I am surprised by what happened. It's the first time it happened; it hasn't happened before.

I have two years here. I'm working here and doing my work. We have contact with the U.S. Soldiers. When I move the carts to the detainees, the Soldiers ask me if it's religious book or not, can I touch it or not; they ask me. They don't do anything without my permission. I was surprised by this incident because they get trained before they come here. Before Ramadan, I even train them about Afghan behavior. When I heard about this, I thought it was a mistake because the Battalion members are new. Its two months they have been here. I don't think they did it intentionally. It was a mistake. It was a mistake that they did it without telling me or the commander or consulting with me, or even the S2.

When I heard about the incident I was here. I did not go to demonstrate. I was here the whole time. I was here yesterday when I got off. I was here yesterday until afternoon time. Then I went to Kabul. After that, they told me I had to come today and I have to come tomorrow. The first day it was just the Quran burning in BAF, the second day they told that the Quran was burned in the jail, and today I heard that the Quran was moved from the library. The information has come to me day by day.

I did not participate in any demonstrations. I am concerned about myself. I am responsible for the libraries. All of the detainees that have been released from here know me; 2000 detainees also know me, I have concern for myself. I live in Kabul.

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They told me for two days that I am not in charge of the library. We could have buried them somewhere clean. We could have put them in the water. They never ask me so I could never tell them these things. Nobody ever ask me.

[End of interview.]