

BOZ Credibility Issues

1. Spotting credibility concerns
2. Addressing them in the interview
3. Confusing burden of proof issues with credibility
4. Focusing too much on the documents and not obtaining information about the entire claim
5. Confusing lack of inclination with lack of detail about the applicant's escape
6. Focusing on the applicant's description of other people's actions for lack of detail points

Practical Exercise

(b)(6)

1. After watching the video clips, consider what we have learned and answer the following:
 - a. Do you think [redacted]'s testimony is consistent, detailed, and plausible?
 - i. Yes or no? Please explain your answer
 - ii. If you answer no, please pick one credibility concern to address.
 - b. Please explain which facts led you to believe that his testimony had the particular credibility concern that you highlighted? Please list at least 5 facts/factors that you used in making your determination.
 - c. Please explain whether you think his testimony is reasonable, in light of the circumstances. In doing so, please address the positive and negative factors that you think either support or counter your conclusion.
 - d. Please list at least one issue that you would want to follow-up on in this case and list at least 5 questions that you would ask to follow-up.

Credibility Exercise – 30 minute Breakout Session

Tell who u fear in ur country	The person that killed my father
Tell me about the something that u fear in ur country	I am afraid to go back and they do to me what they did to my dad
I know this may be hard for u but, I need u to explain something to me ok	ok
Tell me what happen to ur dad	He was killed because of a piece of land
When was ur dad killed	He was killed on aug 5 2000
Where were u when he was killed	I was in the house with my mother
Where was ur father when he was killed	We were very poor he would buy to sell cows and pigs so one day on a Friday he was coming back from selling cows and he found out there were going to be a mass in the afternoon so he went back home and told my mom that there would be a mass and he would attend mass so he went to the mass. The person who killed him found out he was at church. He told friends to hold the gun for him outside of the church, that's what I heard. Then they hold the gun then he went into the church and called my dad to come out and told him that he wanted to resolve the problem in a good way. So the problem that they had was that my father when he found out that the land was for sale he would try to get it because he didn't want his children to remain poor
Have u ever heard from the person that killed ur father after he did this to ur father	Comments from friends
But did u actually hear from the person that killed ur father after he did it	What do u mean
I mean after this person killed ur father have u spoken to him or has he spoken to u	No
Who would say this	Friends of him and his daughters and they would even send me messages top the phone and they would send ppl to come to the house and on 3 occasions they tried to kill us
Who tried to kill u	The person who killed my father when he was here he would pay ppl and would send other ppl to frighten us and after my dad died there was another fight that arose and they wanted to take away our house
How many times did these ppl try to kill u	3 times
Do u know for what reason they tried to kill u three times	What they would say is they wanted to finish with the entire family of my father

do u have any idea y they wanted to kill ur fathers entire family	The truth is I don't know, they already had the land they wanted, I don't know y
Do u remember the dates they tried to kill u	Yes
Can u tell me those dates please	First time was april 8 or 9
What yr was this	2005
Do u remember when the second time was	Sept 27 2005 and the 3 rd time was I don't remember ri fit was the 29 or 30 th of oct 2005
In el Salvador who did u live with	With my mom
Has anyone ever came into ur house to threaten u and or u or family at any time	Only the 3 times that they came
What happen next	My mom couldn't close the door she run towards us and took my youngest brother and she took him
What date did this happen	Im not sure 8 or 9 of april 2005
How many ppl came to ur home on this day	There were 3. The first one that held my mom he had a gun and he pointed to my mom on the throat and he requested 20000 dollars and another one came in and he was holding a very big knife the one that was holding the knife put it against our throat when we tried to ask for help and the 3 rd one was at the door cause I tried on 3 occasions to get out my intention was to get out and yell to the neighbors to yell for help but the one at the door he pushed me in
Were u able to yell for help	Yes the first one didn't let me out the 2 nd time I tried again he pushed me strongly and appx 5 minutes after being inside they turned the lights off. They turned off the candle then my mom just said now my mom said, now my kids this is all gods will. So when they turned off the lights I became very nervous cause my mom was crying cause my mom was still under the gun threat they were still pointing the gun under my mom's throat as I could I just got to the door I was very thing at the time cause i was younger so I lowered down and got in between the feet of the guy that was in the door so once i was outside I just run to the street and I yelled to the neighbors I was saying help we need help robbers are in the house I was crying and an aunt that just came to visit her mom she's an aunt that's a distant relative and our mom told us to call her aunt. Her brother had a gun but her brother was not at home so when she heard the cries she said that's maria carmens daughter. So she was looking for her brother but the brother was not there she didn't know where he was hiding the gun she said don't worry well be there and she blew up fireworks
U stated that this incident	Yes

happened on the 8 or 9 th of april 2005 is that correct	
Were the ppl that came to ur home on that day on april 2005 trying to rob u and ur family	I don't think so cause they didn't take anything with them and they had the opportunity
Did any of these guys tell u y they were there	No they were just asking for 20000 they said if we didn't give them the 20000 dollars they would kill us
when again did someone try to kill u	Sept 27 2005
How did some try to kill u on this day	That time they came around 11 pm at night
Continue	I was sleeping when I heard some1 knocking really hard on the door and they were requesting 20,000 dollars and I woke up really scared when I heard that then I tried to touch the bed and see if my mom was there and my mom was sitting on the edge of the bed, I touch here and asked her what happened and she told me very quietly shut up so I asked what happened who are they and she said shut up they r robbers I stood up from the bed they were yelling to open the door otherwise they would knock it down and they would do anything they wanted with us I was very nervous and I stood up where we sleep they used to be windows that separate the kitchen the kitchen was tied with a knot and my mother had a pig that she was feeding to sell it so she would leave it tied in the kitchen otherwise they would steal it if she left it outside so when I heard that my plan was to go to the kitchen because they were just knocking where we were sleeping
Were the ppl able to come inside of ur home	No, but they did fire shots because for me to cross into the kitchen I had to go to the door where they were knocking so I was going through the window and the pig started making noise my mom heard I was half body into the kitchen when she pulled my leg
Y did they shoot	I don't know
Was anyone hurt on that day	No
When was the 3rd time someone tried to kill u	I am not sure but it was the 29th or 31 st of oct
What yr	2005
If I ask u to summarize something do u know what that means	Yes
Ok, please summarize how u someone tried to kill u in oct 2005	That time they just spilled gas by the door and they just put fire
Who did this	The same
The same what?	The same that wanted to kill us the first two times
How do u know who wanted to kill u the second time	Because the second time they came at 11 pm because they left a letter my mom took that paper to the da's

	office and took it as evidence since the shots remained there
Y did someone spill gasoline at ur door in oct 2005	Maybe with the intention that we burn
Y do u think they wanted to harm u	They just said they wanted to make the whole family disappear they wanted to get rid of the entire family
Do u know y these ppl wanted to get rid of ur whole family	No, it was just hatred
Y did they hate u and ur family	I dont know that's what I don't understand they already killed my dad they already got rid of my dad they already kept the piece of land my dad was buying so I don't know

Questions

1. What issues do you notice with this case?
2. What factors would you consider?
3. What lines of questioning would you pursue? Why would you follow those lines of questioning?

- Identify the three types of credibility concerns
- Identify the 5-Step Credibility Analysis/Approach
- Define a non-adversarial approach
- Learn how to avoid certain mistakes when addressing credibility concerns

Enabling Performance Objectives

- Inconsistency
- Lack of detail
- Implausibility



Types of Credibility Concerns

- What does it mean to be inconsistent?
- Types of inconsistencies:
 - Internal Inconsistency
 - External Inconsistency

Inconsistency

- Identify the credibility concern
- Determine whether the concern is material to the claim
- Inform the applicant of your concern
- Provide the applicant an opportunity to explain
- Assess the reasonableness of the explanation

5-Step Credibility Approach

- Inconsistency
- Lack of detail
- implausibility

Identify the credibility concern

- How is the credibility issue relevant to the merits of the applicant's claim? How is the credibility issue connected to the applicant's story?
- What are other relevant factors?

Determine whether the concern is material to the claim

- Remember, the applicant is not your opponent.



**Non-adversarial
approach**

Quiz

Please answer the following questions based on what we have just learned.

1. A [redacted] at her March 2014 asylum interview that her husband was killed by rebels [redacted]. However, according to her written statement [redacted] (b)(6)
- [redacted]

Or

- B. The applicant testified that [redacted] [redacted] " However, when asked [redacted] (b)(6)
- [redacted]

- a. Which is the better credibility point? Please explain your choice.
- b. How could you improve the credibility point that you have selected.

2. The applicant presented oral testimony to indicate that [redacted]; however, [redacted] (b)(6)
- [redacted]

- a. Is this an internal or external inconsistency?

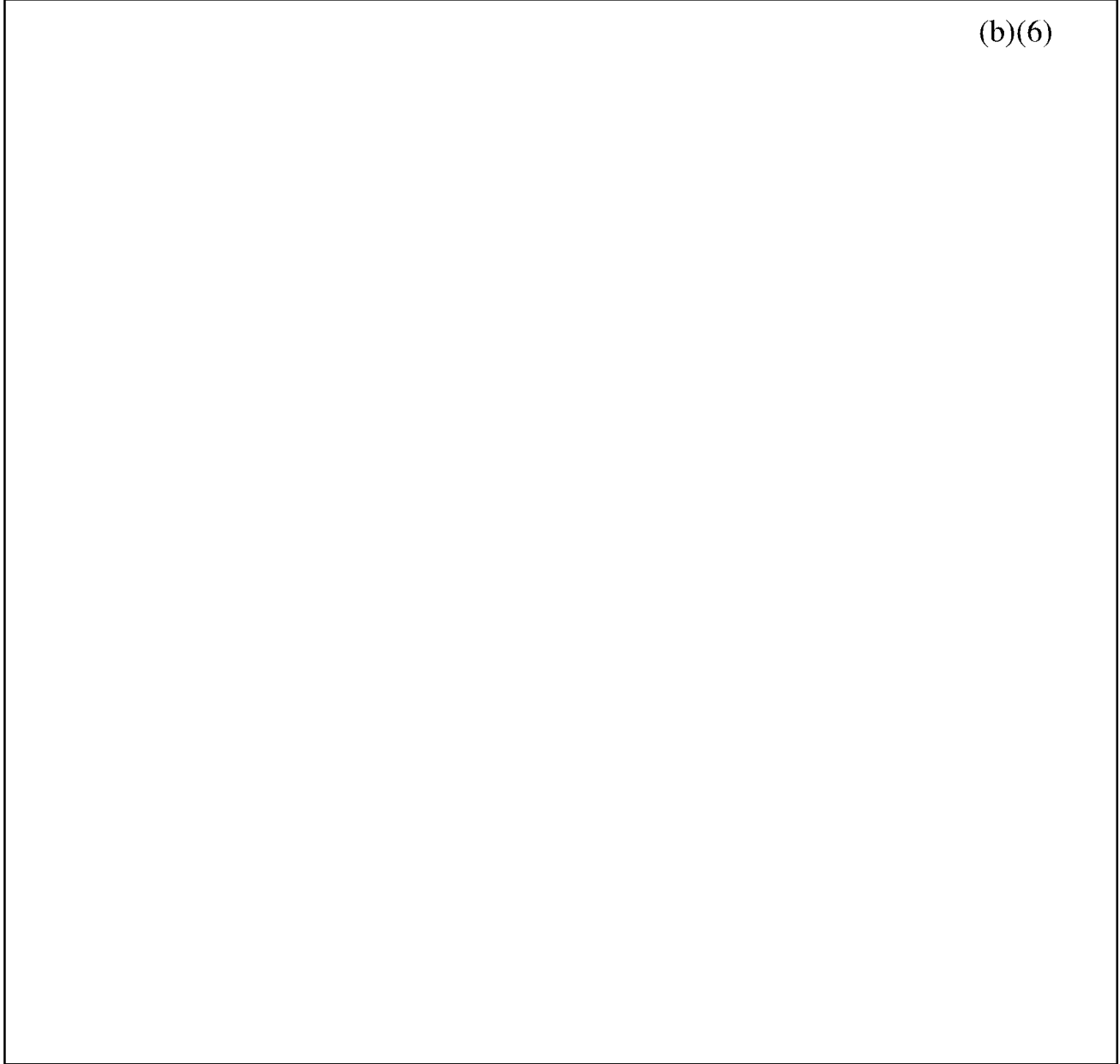
3. The applicant's testimony lacked important detail regarding his activities when he was detained. The applicant testified that he [redacted] (b)(6)

[redacted]

- a. What is the problem with this credibility point?

Fact Pattern 2

Please read the following excerpt from the officer's notes and answer the question below.



- Is the applicant's testimony reasonable? Please explain your answer. In thinking about this issue, do not only think about the quantity of what she is saying, but the quality, as in what she is actually saying.

1. Read and review the interview notes provided labeled #1.
 - a. Identify potential credibility concerns as well as some follow-up questions that you think could have been asked.
2. Read and review the interview notes provided labeled #2.
 - a. Find at least one identifiable credibility concern that we will discuss.
 - i. What is the type of concern?
 - ii. What is the evidence of the credibility concern?
 - iii. Is the applicant's explanation reasonable?
 - iv. Is this issue material?
 - b. Find at least one identifiable credibility concern and draft a sample credibility point.

Draft Fact Pattern for Eliciting Testimony Training – Identity

1. The start of this segment will be a discussion about why identity is important in asylum adjudications and a brief discussion about how we get there in an interview.
2. They will be given a chance to review the materials provided, which will include the fact pattern below, a copy of the applicant’s passport, a copy of the applicant’s birth certificate, a copy of her I-589 as well as copies of the visa applications from the applicant, her father, and the woman who she claims is not her mother, but who is listed as her mother and her father’s wife in their respective visa applications.
3. The officers will then be allowed to develop lines of inquiry and discuss why they would follow particular lines of inquiry. This activity will be in the form of game.

Background Information:

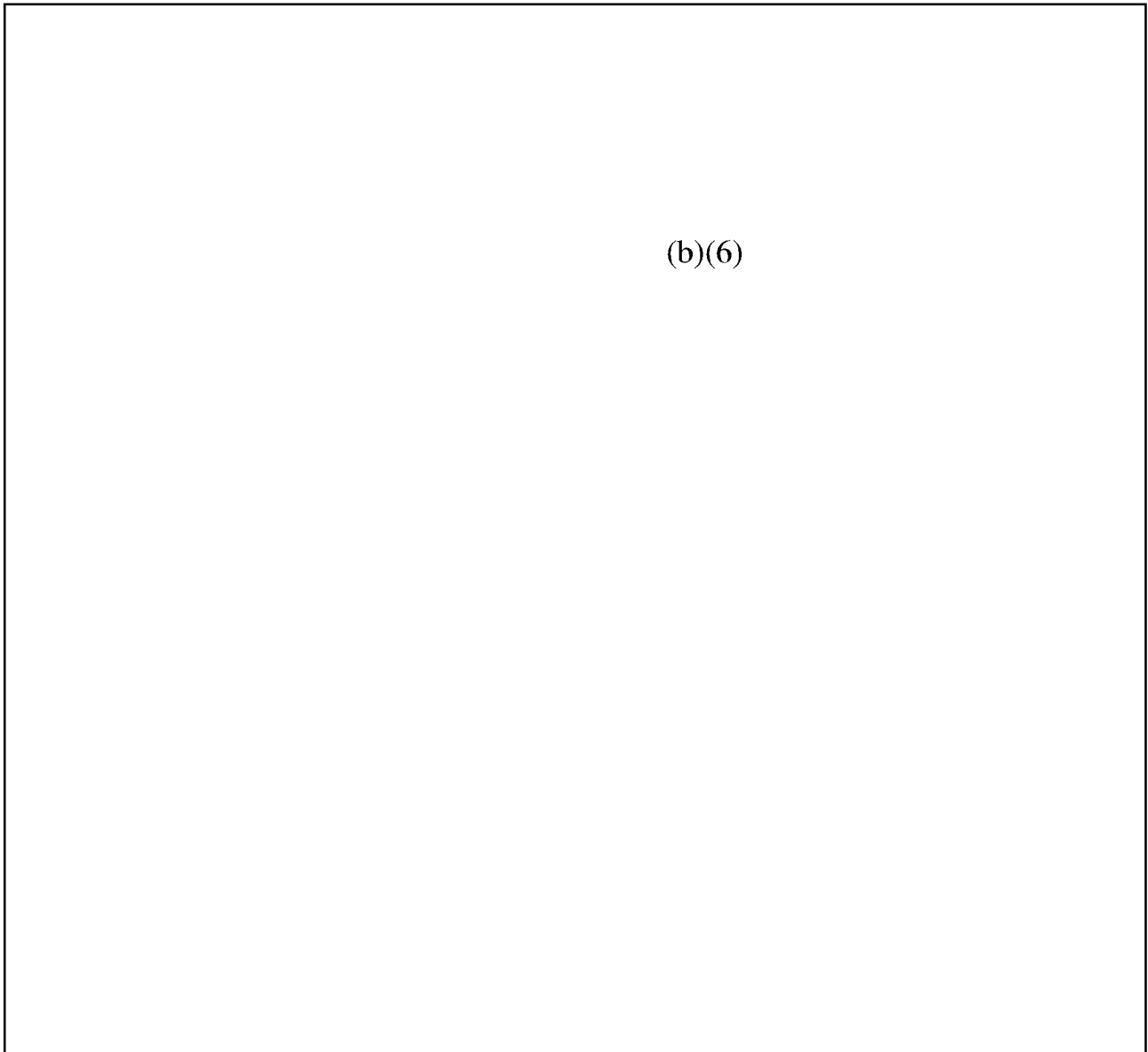
(b)(6)

(b)(6)

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Background Information:



(b)(6)

Steps for addressing lack of detail

- File review – Issue Spotting
- Lay the ground work – decide what groundwork you need to lay
- Ask the about the most relevant issues first
- Avoid topics that are not individual to that situation
- Avoid topics for which even a reasonable person in that situation may not be able to provide details – details about past harm

Activity 1

- Review the documents provided in the case study
- Spot the issues
- Review the notes – identify 5 questions for follow-up
- Identify lines of inquiry the officer could have avoided

Activity 2

- Review the Notes
 - Find the credibility concerns in the notes- specifically focusing on lack of detail
 - Discuss the how lack of detail was addressed and additional questions that could be asked

QUESTIONS

1. Do you think the interviewer did a good job with this child? Why? or why not?
2. Are there more questions that you would have asked? What are those questions?
3. What questions wouldn't you have asked? If any and why not?
4. Does the child's affect influence your perception of the child or of the information that he is providing?
5. Do you think the setting of the interview would have changed anything? If so, what?

QUESTIONS

1. Is there an agenda on the part of the interviewee? If so, what is it?
 - a. Do you think there are instances when asylum applicants have an agenda?
 - b. How do you react or what do you do when you realize your asylum applicant has a hidden agenda?
 2. What further questions would you ask to elicit further details to discern truth?
 3. What are the tools you need to conduct this type of interview?
 4. Does Taylor's affect influence your perception of him or of the information that he is providing?
-

(b)(6)

Credibility Exercise – 30 minute breakout/ discussion

- i. Applicant stated in her oral testimony that she lived with her aunt because her parents went to work out of town.
 - a.
 - b.

- ii. Her I-589 indicated that she resided with an aunt since February 2010 until her departure from China because her parents, and that it was that living arrangement that led to her introduction to the underground church, her subsequent religious practice and consequent claimed past persecution.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

- iii. Applicant also stated that she resided with her grandparents throughout her school year from September 2009 to June 2011.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

- iv. Applicant testified that her grandparents' address is
 and gave the family composition at her grandparents' home.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

- v. When asked why she resided with her grandparents rather than her parents, applicant stated it was on account of the proximity of her grandparents' home to the location of her school. She also stated that she would sometimes visit with her parents on weekends when possible.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

- vi. Applicant stated that she resided with her grandparents when she began attending School from September 2009 until June 2011.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

(b)(6)

Additional Questions

1. What are some issues that have arisen when assessing credibility concerns in a minors case? Or If you have not yet dealt with credibility issues in a minor's case, what issues do you anticipate arising?
2. What strategies do you have for approaching a credibility issue when interviewing a minor?
3. Do you have any good examples of how

- (1) The top 3 nationalities interviewed at your office.
 - a. Guatemala – (mostly UACs)
 - b. Brazil – although we see numerous filings from Brazil, it appears that many are cases that end up withdrawing bc they just want to go to court
 - c. El Salvador –(mostly UACs)
 - d. I would also like to note the Central/ East African countries because this is where we see the most notable amounts of fraud and they have the most numerous filings after El Salvador (and Mexico). I have listed the main countries by order of amount of cases filed with the asylum office: Uganda, Angola, DRC/ Republic of Congo – DRC and Republic of Congo have lumped together because of the numerous errors in distinguishing between the countries in RAPS.
- (2) The top 4 documents applicants present as identification and/or proof in cases adjudicated at your office.
 - a. Documents from political organizations – letters and ID cards
 - b. Identity documents – Passports, ID cards, birth certificates, family composition letters
 - c. Police Records
 - d. Medical records
- (3) Any fraud issues or trends that your AOs are encountering in their interviews and cases.

(b)(6)

Shirk, Georgette L

From: Milano, Rosanne T (Rosie)
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2020 6:23 AM
To: Swen, Oluremi A (Remi)
Subject: RE: thoughts on credibility

Of course 😊

From: Swen, Oluremi A (Remi) <Oluremi.A.Swen@uscis.dhs.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2020 7:15 AM
To: Milano, Rosanne T (Rosie) <rosanne.t.milano@uscis.dhs.gov>
Cc: Sundborg, Rachael S <Rachael.S.Sundborg@uscis.dhs.gov>
Subject: Re: thoughts on credibility

(b)(5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 23, 2020, at 7:11 AM, Milano, Rosanne T (Rosie) <rosanne.t.milano@uscis.dhs.gov> wrote:

(b)(5)

Thanks again!

From: Swen, Oluremi A (Remi) <Oluremi.A.Swen@uscis.dhs.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2020 7:04 AM
To: Milano, Rosanne T (Rosie) <rosanne.t.milano@uscis.dhs.gov>
Cc: Sundborg, Rachael S <Rachael.S.Sundborg@uscis.dhs.gov>
Subject: Re: thoughts on credibility

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 22, 2020, at 1:36 PM, Milano, Rosanne T (Rosie)
<rosanne.t.milano@uscis.dhs.gov> wrote:

Hi!

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Let me know if I am not clear! I know I can be muddled sometimes ☹

THANKS!

Rosanne (Rosie) T. Milano
Supervisory Asylum Officer | DHS | USCIS | Boston Asylum Sub-Office
15 New Sudbury St., Room 600, Boston, MA 02203 | ☎ [redacted] Fax 617-565-9507 |
✉ [redacted]

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Bonus Quiz #2



1.

(b)(6)

2. Only serious injury qualifies as harm severe enough to constitute persecution. True or False?
3. Prior to establishing that an applicant is a refugee, who has the burden of proof?
4. When are you required to analyze pattern or practice of persecution?
5. What are two circumstances that would make internal relocation unreasonable for an applicant other than issues related to lack of safety?

Credibility



∞ Types of Credibility Concerns

- ∞ Detail

- ∞ Consistency

- ∞ Implausibility

∞ Materiality

- ∞ Does the credibility point relate to a central aspect of the applicant's claim

Credibility Cont'd



- œ Consider the totality of the circumstances
- œ Nature of applicant's testimony should be consistent with how the applicant presents himself-
 - œ for example: if applicant's answers tend to be brief and not very detailed throughout review of the I-589, this may be the same with the remainder of the interview

Credibility – 5-Step Analysis

1. Identify the type of credibility factor (lack of detail, inconsistency or implausibility)
2. Provide the evidence of the lack of detail, inconsistency or implausibility
3. Provide the applicant's explanation or lack of explanation
4. Address if the explanation is not reasonable, and explain why
5. Explain how this factor is material to the applicant's claim

Bonus Quiz #3



(b)(6)

1. has missed the one-year filing deadline, but claims this delay was caused because of her former attorney who failed to provide her with accurate information.
 - a) How would be able to address the one-year filing deadline ~~(b)(6)~~ issue and still have the merits of her case considered?
 - b) What would be required to show in order to establish an exception to the one-year filing deadline?

2. Is entitled to an exception to the one-year filing deadline? Please explain.

(b)(6)

Quiz # 3 Cont'd



3.

(b)(6)

- a) Did meet the one-year filing deadline?
- b) If does not meet the one-year filing deadline, do the facts support an exception to the one-year filing deadline?
(b)(6) Please Explain.
- c) If has established an exception to the one-year filing deadline, did the applicant file within a reasonable period after the established exception?

BURUNDI

(b)(7)(c) (b)(7)(e)

1. Request originals /retain originals

a. Ask about [redacted]

b. Birth certificates, marriage, death certificates are [redacted]

- i. [redacted]
- ii. [redacted]
- iii. [redacted]

iv. Take note of documents being signed by [redacted]

[redacted]

v. Death certificates- According to the law, death certificates are to be prepared within 15 days of death, upon the declaration of two witnesses before the officer of civil affairs from the area where the deceased resided. Certificates mention the date and location of death, last names, first names, profession and resident of the deceased. As well as his parents' names and spouse (if applicable).

- 1. Is there a reason why an applicant would not have an actual death certificate rather than a certificate copy if the certificate was issued within days of the death?
- 2. Where is the original death certificate?

c. Look for inconsistencies in [redacted]
[redacted]

d. Adoption documents – retain these. (b)(7)(c) (b)(7)(e)

- i. Applicants have submitted these adoption decrees but they all look different. Even though this is not material to their claims ask questions about relationship. Why is the child adopted? Where are the parents? Adoption process? Documents required. What is the difference between a legal adoption and an informal one?
- ii. Aunts/uncles/family members raise other family members' kids all the time. Why did applicant formally adopt? Who are the kids with? Has someone else adopted them since you left them behind?
- iii. Burundi has specific, detailed adoption laws. For example, children have to be under a certain age to be adopted (under 15). Married couples have to have been married for at least five years and both have to consent. (I will try to translate some of the important information regarding conditions/requirements of adoption).

Here are some links though in Refworld and to Burundian laws

- Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, *Burundi: Information on the procedure to follow and the documents required to obtain a birth certificate and a national identity card; whether a new national identity card can be obtained if a card is in poor condition; whether the birth certificate is stored by the regional passport office; the magnitude of fraud involving identity documents, particularly passports, visas, birth certificates and marriage certificates*, 11 June 2009, BDI103183.FE, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4b20f03126.html>
- Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, *Burundi: The practices involved in issuing proof of birth documents, particularly in Bujumbura; whether proof of birth documents are normally issued at birth; if not, when they are normally issued and for what purpose; the information and documents that parents must provide when applying for a proof of birth document several years after the birth of their child; the documents required to register a child at school*, 15 March 2012, BDI104036.FE, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/50eac3fe2.html>

2.

3.

(b)(7)(e)

(b)(7)(c) (b)(7)(e)

(b)(7)(e)

RWANDA

(b)(7)(c) (b)(7)(e)

(b)(7)(c) (b)(7)(e)

Assessment Components: One Year Filing Deadline

UACs with Prior Determination

The applicant filed the asylum application on March 15, 2015. Under the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2008 (TVPRA), USCIS has initial asylum jurisdiction over any asylum application filed by an unaccompanied alien child. An unaccompanied alien child (UAC) is a child who has no lawful immigration status in the United States; has not attained 18 years of age; and has no parent or legal guardian in the United States, or for whom no parent or legal guardian in the United States is available to provide care and physical custody. Evidence in the file, including an I-213 Record of Deportable/Inadmissible Alien form dated November 6, 2013, indicates a previous UAC status determination was made by CBP or ICE. As USCIS has determined that the applicant was previously found to be a UAC, USCIS has jurisdiction to adjudicate the applicant's asylum claim pursuant to the TVPRA. Further, because the applicant is a UAC, their application is not subject to the one year filing deadline.

Assessment Components: One Year Filing Deadline

UACs with No Prior Determination

In this case,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

Assessment Components: Credibility/Evidence Assessment

Five-Step Framework

- Identify credibility concern
- Present evidence of concern
- Provide applicant's explanation
- Address reasonableness of explanation
- Explain how concern is relevant

Assessment Components: Focused Legal Analysis

- Past Persecution
 - Presumption of Well-Founded Fear
 - Other Serious Harm
 - *Chen*
- Independent Well-Founded Fear
 - Past harm not claimed *or* past persecution not established
 - *Mogharrabi* (PACI) vs. similarly situated

Note: Referrals may need analysis of past harm, rebuttable presumption of well-founded fear, humanitarian asylum (OSH and/or *Chen*), and independent well-founded fear claim.

Assessment Components: Focused Legal Analysis

Shortcuts for Grants

PSGs: first analyze the PSG and the applicant's membership therein; then analyze the other elements of past or well-founded fear.

Independent WFF: If past persecution fails, presumption is rebutted, no *OSH/Chen*, you do not need to do full past persecution analysis. Note claimed past harm but move straight to independent WFF.

Assessment Components: Focused Legal Analysis

Shortcuts for Referrals

PSGs

If the PSG is invalid, you only need to address one prong that fails (e.g. immutability, particularity or social distinction).

If the PSG is valid but the applicant is not a member, you do not need to do the full *M-E-V-G-* analysis. Just explain why applicant is not a member.

No Nexus

If neither past nor future harm is on account of protected ground, you can explain this in past persecution section and skip the section on well-founded fear:

“The events the applicant described and the harm applicant fears are not found to have been on account of one of the five protected grounds.”

[Explain.]

Assessment Components: Focused Legal Analysis

Shortcuts for Referrals (cont.)

No WFF

Even if the applicant can establish some of the prongs of *Mogharrabi*, you only need to address the one that fails (e.g. the applicant may be a Christian but do not worry about possession and awareness if his feared persecutor is not inclined to harm him on account of his religion).

Legally Sufficient Credibility Determinations

In order to make a legally sufficient credibility determination, an Asylum Officer must employ the **five-part analytical framework** in both the interview *and* the assessment.

	Interview	Assessment
Step 1	Identify credibility concern	Identify credibility concern
Step 2	Determine if concern is material	Present evidence of concern
Step 3	Inform applicant of concern	Provide applicant's explanation
Step 4	Ask applicant to explain	Address reasonableness of explanation
Step 5	Assess reasonableness of explanation	Explain how concern is relevant

Assessing Credibility in the Interview

- Step 1: Identify the credibility concern
- Step 2: Determine if the concern is material (relevant)
- Step 3: Inform the applicant of the concern
- Step 4: Ask the applicant to explain the concern
- Step 5: Assess the reasonableness of the applicant's explanation

Assessing Credibility in the Interview

Step 1: Identify the credibility concern

Lack of Detail

Inconsistency

Plausibility

Other relevant factors: demeanor, candor, responsiveness

Examples of each of the above?

Assessing Credibility in the Interview

Step 2: Determine if the concern is material (relevant)

Materiality vs. Relevance

Examples of relevant concerns? Non-relevant concerns?

Assessing Credibility in the Interview

Step 3: Inform the applicant of the concern

Must we do this?

Yes.

How do we do this?

Lack of detail: *Why can't you tell me more about...?*

Inconsistency: *Earlier you said X, now you're saying Y...*

Your I-589 says X but your written statement says Y....

Implausibility: *How is it possible that...?*

Assessing Credibility in the Interview

Step 4: Ask the applicant to explain the concern

Must we do this?

Yes.

How do we do this?

Why...?

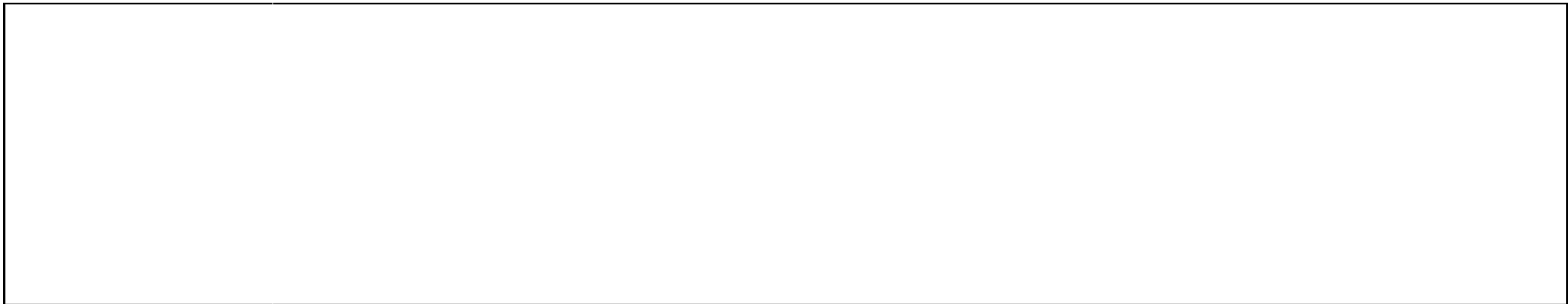
Please explain to me...?

Help me understand...

Assessing Credibility in the Interview

Applicant testified that [redacted]
[redacted] *He later testifies that* [redacted]

(b)(7)(e)



AO found the applicant’s testimony regarding the identity of his attackers not credible. Was credibility properly assessed here?

Assessing Credibility in the Interview

(b)(7)(e)

Applicant testified that

He later
testifies that

-
-
-
-

(b)(7)(e)

Assessing Credibility in the Interview

Step 5: Assess the reasonableness of the explanation

(b)(7)(e)

Are these explanations reasonable?

It depends.

Examples: Assessing Credibility in the Interview

(b)(7)(e)

Examples: Assessing Credibility in the Interview

AO found testimony regarding applicant's arrest inconsistent and lacking detail, specifically that she was not able to provide details regarding [REDACTED]

(b)(7)(e)

- Is there an inconsistency?
- Is there a lack of detail?

What more would the AO need to do here in order to make this a legally sufficient credibility concern?

The applicant needed to be informed of the AO's concern and then given an opportunity to explain. Since this was not done and the AO cannot assess the reasonableness of any explanation provided, this credibility point is not legally sufficient.

Examples: Assessing Credibility in the Interview

In his I-589, UAC Applicant stated that

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b)(7)(e)

In the interview, UAC Applicant testified

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b)(7)(e)

Inconsistency?

Examples: Assessing Credibility in the Interview

In his I-589, UAC Applicant stated that

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

In the interview, UAC Applicant

testified

[Redacted]

(b)(7)(e)

(b)(7)(e)

[Redacted]

Reasonable Explanation?

Examples: Assessing Credibility in the Interview

(b)(7)(e)

UAC Applicant testified that

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Later in the interview,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b)(7)(e)

Inconsistency?

Examples: Assessing Credibility in the Interview

UAC Applicant testified that

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b)(7)(e)

UAC Applicant further testified that

[Redacted]

(b)(7)(e)

Reasonable Explanation?

Examples: Assessing Credibility in the Interview

(b)(7)(e)

***Was applicant informed of credibility concern?
Given an opportunity to explain?***

Examples

Handouts: Moldovan case; Congolese case

	Interview	Assessment
Step 1	Identify credibility concern	Identify credibility concern
Step 2	Determine if concern is material	Present evidence of concern
Step 3	Inform applicant of concern	Provide applicant's explanation
Step 4	Ask applicant to explain	Address reasonableness of explanation
Step 5	Assess reasonableness of explanation	Explain how concern is relevant

Conclusion

Interviewing for Credibility:

[Redacted]

(b)(7)(e)

Road Map

- Who We Are
- Ways of Interacting with FDNS
- FDNS “Product Lines”
 - Fraud → DS
 - National Security → CARRP
 - Public Safety → EPS
- FDNS Extras – Databases, HSDN Room, Social Media, Site Visits

THIS INFORMATION IS INTENDED TO ASSIST ASYLUM OFFICERS WITH DEVELOPING THEIR OWN LINES OF QUESTIONING
To be interfiled on the top, non-record side, of the Alien File.
DO NOT DISCLOSE INFORMATION TO APPLICANT

FDNS PRE-INTERVIEW SCREENING NOTIFICATION

CASE INFORMATION

A Number	<i>(Your Applicant and possibly a Dependent)</i>	Review Type	N/A	Date Completed
		FDNS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>(Pre-Screening)</i>
		SMD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>(Social Media check by HQ)</i>
		RAS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>(Enhanced Vetting by HQ)</i>

REVIEW RESULTS

File released for interview before completing pre-interview screening. Return the file to FDNS post interview to complete FDNS review.

FDNS has reviewed this case and did not find any Fraud, Public Safety or National Security indicators that would warrant referral to FDNS. **If any such indicators are discovered during the interview or subsequent processing, please refer the case to FDNS using a FDNS Referral Sheet.**

FDNS has discovered the following issues with this case:

- National Security
- Public Safety
- Fraud
- RAS Enhanced Review Derogatory; Additional Identity
- Social Media Vetting Information of Interest; Additional Identity
- Attorney/Interpreter/Preparer Issue
- Other: *(Trafficking indicators, Mandatory bar indicators, etc.)*

Please forward this case to FDNS upon completion of the interview along with the following forms: G28 I589 Interpreter oath and ID Interview Notes

Additional Comments:

(Substantive information about the box(es) ticked above. Sometimes a note to see a specific FDNS IO prior to interview or to return the case to that IO post-interview/post-adjudication. Often continues onto second page so please look for one!!)

If you don't see an
FDNS Pre-Screening sheet in the A file
DO NOT assume there are no Fraud,
National Security or Public Safety concerns
in the case!!

FDNS does not pre-screen all cases!

Which Files Does FDNS Pre-Screen?

(b)(7)(e)

Required SMD and EFR Vetting

(b)(7)(e)

(b)(7)(e)

SMD and EFR Vetting (Cont'd)

(b)(7)(e)

Possible SMD and EFR Results

(b)(7)(e)

SMD and EFR Sign Offs

(b)(7)(e)

FDNS Duty Officer

(b)(7)(e)

ECN

-
- Currently a work in progress (!)
 - “I am an FDNS Team Member” ECN Page:
 - Duty Officer for the week, FDNS Contact Info, Outdated Team Photo

[Redacted] (b)(7)(e)

- “I need FDNS Resources” ECN Page:

- [Redacted] (b)(7)(e)
- [Redacted]

[Redacted] (b)(7)(e)

Knowledge Check: SMD Grant

(b)(7)(e)

Knowledge Check: SMD Referral

(b)(7)(e)

FDNS “Product Lines”

- Fraud → DS
- National Security → CARRP
- Public Safety → EPS

FRAUD

-
- Please contact FDNS or submit a Fraud Referral if:

(b)(7)(e)

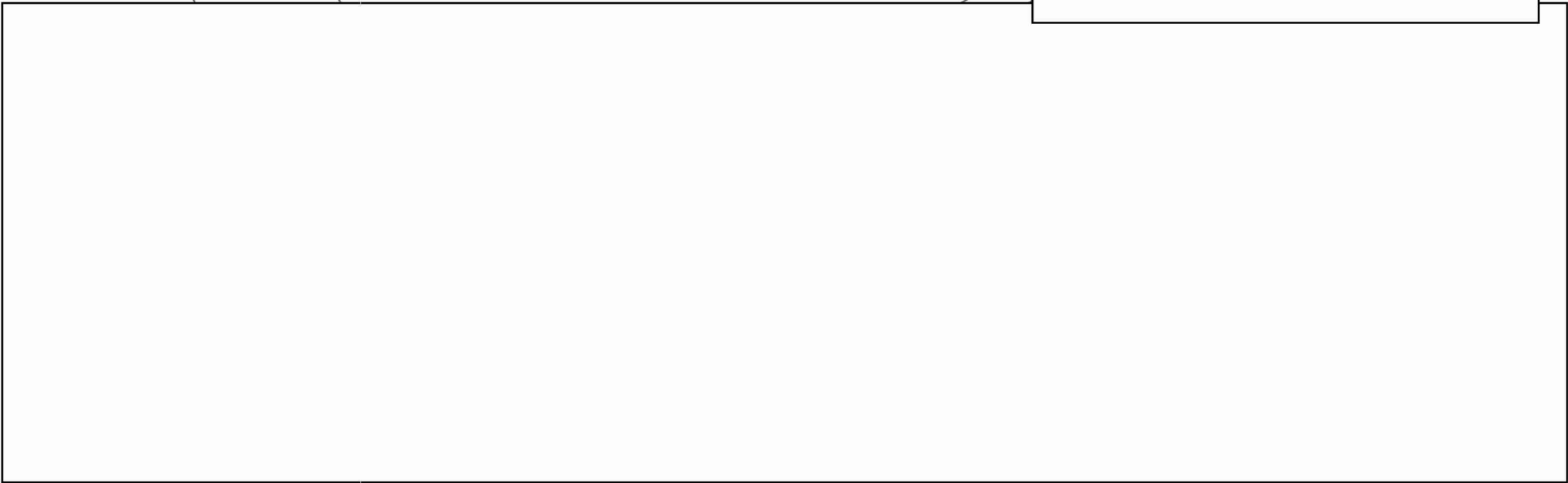
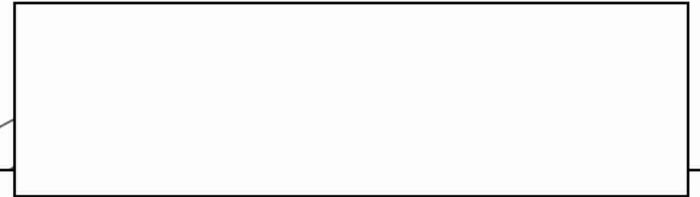
FDNS Support for AOs - Fraud

(b)(7)(e)

Fraud Referrals via DS

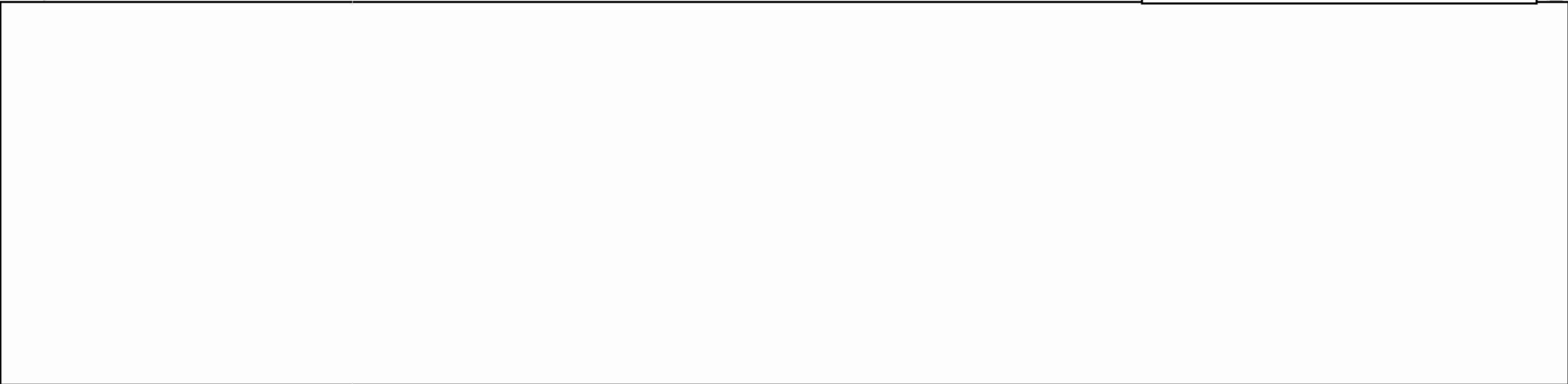
Step 1: The AO is required to fill the following information:

(b)(7)(c) (b)(7)(e)



Step 2: The AO will then be required to explain the reason for the referral:

(b)(7)(e)



Step 3: AO will need to include the applicant's biographical information:



(b)(7)(e)

(Note: Step 4 is skipped because it relates to requesting an Overseas Verification. It's rare that you'll need this and if you think you might, please reach out to FDNS before making the Fraud Referral.)

Step 5: To Save or Submit?

(b)(7)(e)

From: [Hough, Leslie D](#)
To: [Pinkham, Tara A](#)
Cc: [Baj, Ewa](#); [Vitiello, Lauren M](#); [Schank, Alex R](#); [Kelly, Brooke A](#); [Zelege, Aster N](#)
Subject: Feedback on common errors observed during SAO detail
Date: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 11:23:00 AM

Hi Tara,

We'd talked about my writing you an email with the most common security checks errors that I saw during my acting SAO detail. Then as I started writing it up, I realized it might be helpful for me to list the most common problems I saw more generally in interviewing and assessments as well. I'm including the other TOs and Brooke and Astor in case it's at all useful for them.

Common Security Checks errors:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)

(b)(7)(e)

Common interviewing problems:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

(b)(7)(e)

Common problems with assessments:

- 1)

(b)(7)(e)

2)

3)

4)

(b)(7)(e)

Common problems with NOIDs:

1) Not listing dependents;

2)

3)

4)

(b)(7)(e)

Hope this is helpful!

Leslie

Shirk, Georgette L

From: Young, Noel L
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 1:42 PM
To: Taubes, Ethan J; #ZNK Asylum Officers; #ZNK Supervisory Asylum Officers; Varghese, Sunil R; Heinrich, Lorie R
Subject: RE: Last week's credibility training

Hi all,

I'm sorry I missed this training! At the risk of sounding like a broken record, as I am sure Lauren and Ethan covered it, I just want to remind everyone that a credibility point is only valid (read: legally sufficient) if the interviewing officer provides the applicant with an opportunity to explain the inconsistency/lack of detail/implausibility. For example, just because there is a glaring inconsistency between the applicant's written statement and oral testimony, if the AO does not ask the applicant about it, that concern cannot be the basis of a negative credibility finding. Similarly, if an applicant's testimony lacks detail, the AO must ask the applicant why he is unable to provide more detail – and assess the reasonableness of the applicant's explanation – before the lack of detail can be the basis for a negative credibility point. Remember the five steps, applicable to both interviewing and assessment-writing:

	<u>Interview</u>	<u>Assessment</u>
Step 1	Identify the type of credibility concern (lack of detail, inconsistency or plausibility)	Identify the type of credibility concern (lack of detail, inconsistency or plausibility)
Step 2	Determine if the concern is material (relevant) to the claim	Present the evidence of the lack of detail, inconsistency or plausibility
Step 3	Inform the applicant of your concern	Provide the applicant's explanation or lack of explanation
Step 4	Ask the applicant to explain	Address if the explanation is or is not reasonable, <u>and</u> explain why
Step 5	Assess the reasonableness of the explanation	Explain how this concern is material (relevant) to an issue of asylum eligibility

Any questions, you know where to find me!

Noël Young

Training Officer | Newark Asylum Office

☎ [REDACTED] (b)(6)

From: Taubes, Ethan J
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2015 8:08 AM
To: #ZNK Asylum Officers; #ZNK Supervisory Asylum Officers; Varghese, Sunil R; Heinrich, Lorie R
Subject: Last week's credibility training

I wanted to thank all of you for your active participation and engagement in the credibility training.

(b)(5)

From: [Dragan, Mariusz](#)
To: [Patel, Meeta A](#); [#ZNK Asylum Officers](#)
Subject: RE: case law re: [redacted]
Date: Friday, April 21, 2017 1:09:37 PM

[redacted]

From: Patel, Meeta A
Sent: Friday, April 21, 2017 11:59 AM
To: [#ZNK Asylum Officers](#)
Subject: case law re: [redacted]

Hi All,

[redacted]

Thanks !
-Meeta

(b)(5)

From: [Hough, Leslie D](#)
To: [Gan, Christopher](#)
Cc: [Pinkham, Tara A](#); [Vitiello, Lauren M](#); [Schank, Alex R](#); [Baj, Ewa](#); [#ZNK Supervisory Asylum Officers](#)
Subject: RE: credibility language reminder
Date: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 8:21:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

That is a very good question, Chris!

Personally, I think that we use this language when we are finding an applicant credible overall so we use it when we are finding their testimony internally consistent and consistent with their documentation and COI. That is, this is the language you would use when you do not have any major credibility concerns.

If instead you do not find the applicant credible or have credibility concerns, you would **not** use this language and instead address each credibility point at length. I know people differ on where they address inconsistencies with documentation and COI. Those inconsistencies can either be credibility points themselves in the credibility section of the assessment. Or often I will note those further inconsistencies with documentation and COI as a lack of burden of proof that taken together with the testimony casts further doubt on the claim. (I included an example of how I usually structure my credibility referrals below.)

But this is just how I do it – maybe the trainers or SAOs could weigh in or pass the question up to Harun?

Best,
Leslie

V. CREDIBILITY DETERMINATION

The applicant's testimony lacked sufficient detail and was internally inconsistent concerning three points material to his claim. The applicant's testimony was deemed not credible for the following reasons:

- The applicant's testimony lacked sufficient detail and was internally inconsistent concerning his possession of a protected characteristic...
- The applicant's testimony was internally inconsistent concerning his past harm...
- The applicant's testimony was insufficiently detailed concerning his fear of future harm...

The above-described lack of detail and inconsistency in the applicant's testimony raise significant doubts as to the credibility of the applicant's testimony and thus diminish the evidentiary weight that can be given to it.

VI. FOCUSED LEGAL ANALYSIS

Under the REAL ID Act, an applicant's testimony alone is sufficient to sustain an applicant's burden of proof without corroboration only if it is credible, persuasive, and refers to specific

facts sufficient to establish that the applicant is a refugee INA § 208(b)(1)(B)(ii). The First Circuit Court of Appeals has held that even if an asylum applicant is found “generally credible,” testimony may be found insufficiently compelling to support an applicant’s burden of proof without corroboration *Chhay v. Mukasey*, 540 F.3d 1, 6-7 (1st Cir. 2008). **In this case the documentary evidence provided by the applicant did not definitively establish past persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution.**

The applicant submitted medical reports from his two incidents of harm. However, these reports do not indicate the cause of the harm for which he was treated in Ukraine. The applicant further submitted affidavits by witnesses to the harm he suffered in Ukraine. However, the affidavits were not notarized and were provided by individuals not present to be questioned during the interview. As such, these documents do not constitute proof of the matter asserted and the witnesses’ testimony could not be afforded substantial weight. **In the totality of the circumstances, the documents in support of the applicant’s claim do not substantiate the applicant’s membership in or past persecution on account of his political opinion in a way that would compensate for the inconsistencies and lack of detail in his testimony.**

Considering the identified credibility issues, the absence of reasonable explanations for those issues, and taking into consideration the applicant’s individual circumstances, the testimony is found not credible under the totality of the circumstances. As the testimony was found not credible in material respects, the applicant has failed to meet his burden of establishing that he is a refugee as required by 8 C.F.R. § 208.13(a). Therefore the applicant has not established that he is a refugee.

V. DECISION

Assessment is to refer to the Immigration Judge.

From: Gan, Christopher
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 7:08 AM
To: Hough, Leslie D
Subject: RE: credibility language reminder

One question:

In this context, does “the applicant’s testimony” include his or her documentary corroboration? In other words, when we say that the applicant’s testimony is consistent”, do we mean that it is consistent with other evidence in the record, and with known country conditions?

Please advise. Thank you,

Chris

From: Hough, Leslie D

Sent: Friday, August 24, 2018 12:25 PM
To: #ZNK Everyone
Subject: credibility language reminder

Just a reminder from Harun's assessment writing presentation last month to please use the below language when finding an applicant credible:

"The applicant's testimony was detailed, consistent, and plausible. Considering the totality of the circumstances and all relevant factors, the applicant's testimony is found credible."

cid:image001.png@01D43BA4.7F4B65B0



From: Hough, Leslie D
To: Thurtell, James A (Allen)
Subject: RE: credibility referral language (b)(6)
Date: Friday, July 27, 2018 4:04:00 PM
Attachments: (b)(6) [redacted] Burkina Faso female WFF of FGM due to marriage CREDIBILITY REFERRAL [redacted].docx
[redacted] Burkina Faso female WFF of FGM due to marriage NOTES [redacted].docx

Thanks for pointing that out—I hadn't realized the language changed until the HQ presentation the other day. The amended notes and assessment are attached.

Best,
Leslie

From: Thurtell, James A (Allen)
Sent: Friday, July 27, 2018 3:50 PM
To: Hough, Leslie D
Subject: credibility referral language

To throw in at end:

Considering the identified credibility issues, the absence of reasonable explanations for those issues, and taking into consideration the applicant's individual circumstances, the testimony is found not credible under the totality of the circumstances. As the testimony was found not credible in material respects, the applicant has failed to meet his burden of establishing that he is a refugee as required by 8 C.F.R. § 208.13(a). Therefore the applicant has [redacted] (b)(6)

J. Allen Thurtell
Supervisory Asylum Officer
Newark Asylum Office
1200 Wall Street West, 4th Floor
Lyndhurst, N.J. 07071
[redacted]

(b)(6)

ASSESSMENT TO REFER

ALIEN NUMBER:

DATE: 4/24/2018

NAME

ASYLUM OFFICER: L. Hough/ZNK 270

COUNTRY:

SAO:

LOCATION: ZNK

(b)(6)

I. BIOGRAPHIC/ENTRY/IMMIGRATION STATUS INFORMATION

II. BASIS OF CLAIM

III. ANALYSIS OF PROHIBITIONS AGAINST FILING FOR ASYLUM

IV. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

V. CREDIBILITY DETERMINATION

(b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

(b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

(b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

VI. FOCUSED LEGAL ANALYSIS

(b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

(b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

V. DECISION

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

What it is not

- Split Credibility is not a personality disorder.



REAL ID Act

- This is where I thought I would have to “have it out” with Scott...



... but I was patient.
And you know? It
turned out all right!

Next page please

Falsus in uno, falsus in omnibus

The Second Circuit has...identified five situations in which the *falsus in uno* doctrine may not apply:



Felix Norbert SIEWE, Petitioner,
v.
Alberto R. GONZALES, Attorney
General, Respondent.
480 F.3d 160



Aliens may “not be entirely forthcoming” during the initial interview due to their perception that it is “coercive” or “threatening,” particularly aliens who may have a well-founded fear of government.



Continued

WHY USE SPLIT CREDIBILITY

- Recent cases where this could have been used but was often lacking dealt with claims by . (b)(7)(e)
- AO finds applicant not credible because testimony regarding claims of past harm were not detailed and at odds with other evidence.
- AO grants based on well founded fear.

REVIEWING THE I-589

- The way you review this document can *slow you down*
- When to use leading questions:

(b)(7)(e)

PROPER PROCEDURES - NTAS

(b)(7)(e)

PROPER PROCEDURES – NTAS, CONT'D

(b)(7)(e)

PROPER PROCEDURES NTAS, CONT'D

(b)(7)(e)

SWORN STATEMENT

(b)(7)(e)

SWORN STATEMENTS CONT'D

(b)(7)(e)

SWORN STATEMENTS CONT'D

(b)(7)(e)

RECORD ORDER

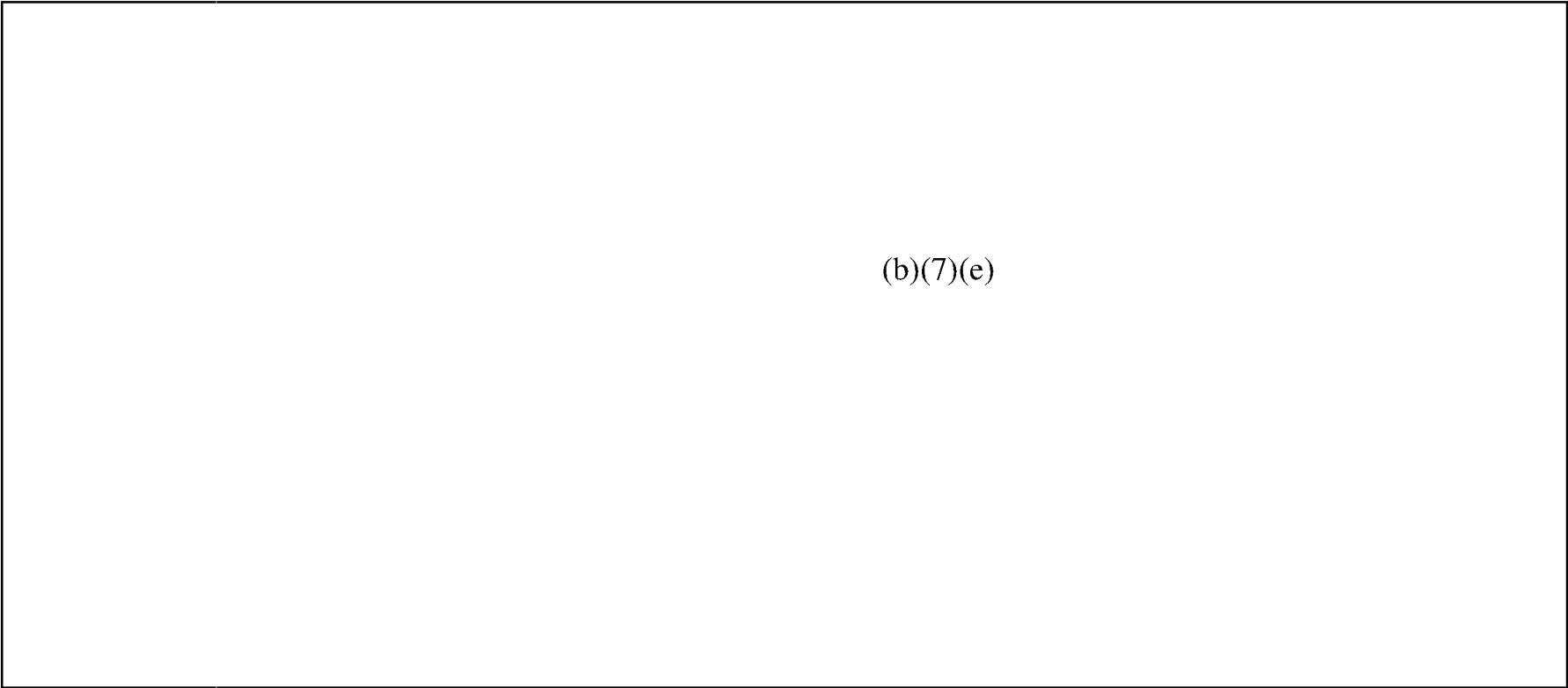
(b)(7)(e)

ACCURATE SECURITY CHECKS

(b)(7)(e)

ACCURATE SECURITY CHECKS CONT'D

■TECS



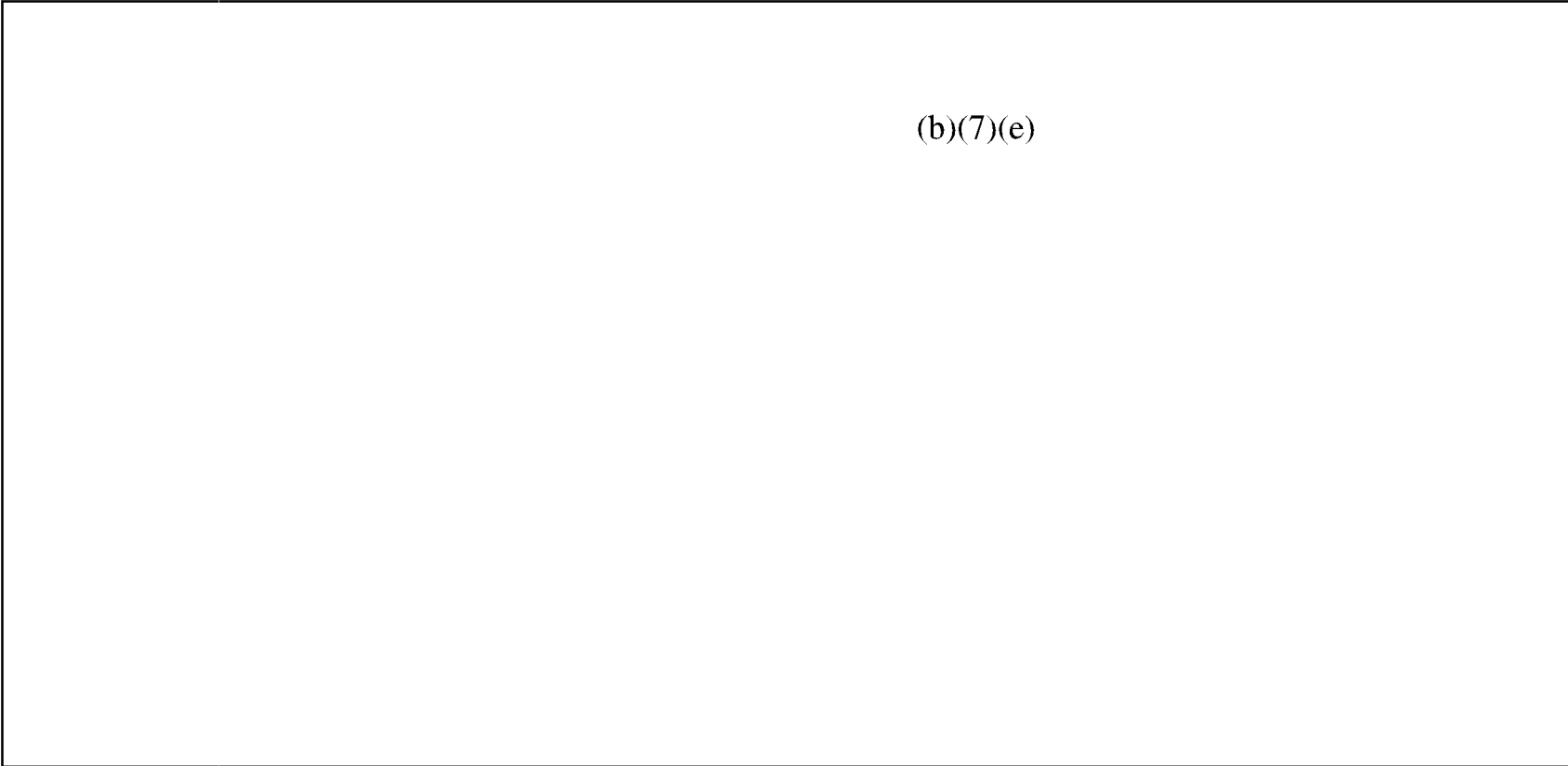
ACCURATE SECURITY CHECKS CONT'D

■ Updating IBIT

(b)(7)(e)

ACCURATE SECURITY CHECKS CONT'D

- **FBI Name Checks**



Legally Sufficient Credibility Determinations

In order to make a legally sufficient credibility determination, an Asylum Officer must employ the **five-part analytical framework** in both the interview *and* the assessment.

	Interview	Assessment
Step 1	Identify credibility concern	Identify credibility concern
Step 2	Determine if concern is material	Present evidence of concern
Step 3	Inform applicant of concern	Provide applicant's explanation
Step 4	Ask applicant to explain	Address reasonableness of explanation
Step 5	Assess reasonableness of explanation	Explain how concern is relevant

Assessing Credibility in the Interview

- Step 1: Identify the credibility concern
- Step 2: Determine if the concern is material (relevant)
- Step 3: Inform the applicant of the concern
- Step 4: Ask the applicant to explain the concern
- Step 5: Assess the reasonableness of the applicant's explanation

Assessing Credibility in the Interview

Step 1: Identify the credibility concern

Lack of Detail

Inconsistency

Plausibility

Other relevant factors: demeanor, candor, responsiveness

Examples of each of the above?

Assessing Credibility in the Interview

Step 2: Determine if the concern is material (relevant)

Materiality vs. Relevance

Examples of relevant concerns? Non-relevant concerns?

Assessing Credibility in the Interview

Step 3: Inform the applicant of the concern

Must we do this?

Yes.

How do we do this?

Lack of detail: *Why can't you tell me more about...?*

Inconsistency: *Earlier you said X, now you're saying Y...*

Your I-589 says X but your written statement says Y....

Implausibility: *How is it possible that...?*

Assessing Credibility in the Interview

Step 4: Ask the applicant to explain the concern

Must we do this?

Yes.

How do we do this?

Why...?

Please explain to me...?

Help me understand...

Assessing Credibility in the Interview

Applicant testified that he was harmed by unknown men in civilian clothes. He later testifies that the men were uniformed gov't soldiers.

(b)(7)(e)

AO found the applicant's testimony regarding the identity of his attackers not credible. Was credibility properly assessed here?

Assessing Credibility in the Interview

Applicant testified that [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] He later
testifies [REDACTED]

-
-
-
-

[REDACTED]

(b)(7)(e)

[REDACTED]

(b)(7)(e)

Assessing Credibility in the Interview

Step 5: Assess the reasonableness of the explanation

(b)(7)(e)

Are these explanations reasonable?

It depends.

Examples: Assessing Credibility in the Interview

(b)(7)(e)

Examples: Assessing Credibility in the Interview

AO found testimony regarding applicant's arrest inconsistent and lacking detail, specifically that she was not able to provide details regarding the [REDACTED]

(b)(7)(e)

(b)(7)(e)

- Is there an inconsistency?
- Is there a lack of detail?

What more would the AO need to do here in order to make this a legally sufficient credibility concern?

The applicant needed to be informed of the AO's concern and then given an opportunity to explain. Since this was not done and the AO cannot assess the reasonableness of any explanation provided, this credibility point is not legally sufficient.

Examples: Assessing Credibility in the Interview

In his I-589, UAC Applicant stated that

(b)(7)(e)

In the interview, UAC Applicant testified that

(b)(7)(e)

Inconsistency?

Examples: Assessing Credibility in the Interview

(b)(7)(e)

Reasonable Explanation?

Examples: Assessing Credibility in the Interview

(b)(7)(e)

Inconsistency?

Examples: Assessing Credibility in the Interview

(b)(7)(e)

Reasonable Explanation?

Examples: Assessing Credibility in the Interview

(b)(7)(e)

***Was applicant informed of credibility concern?
Given an opportunity to explain?***

Examples

Handouts: Moldovan case; Congolese case

	Interview	Assessment
Step 1	Identify credibility concern	Identify credibility concern
Step 2	Determine if concern is material	Present evidence of concern
Step 3	Inform applicant of concern	Provide applicant's explanation
Step 4	Ask applicant to explain	Address reasonableness of explanation
Step 5	Assess reasonableness of explanation	Explain how concern is relevant

Conclusion

Interviewing for Credibility:



(b)(7)(e)

- Remember:

(b)(7)(e)

- But don't worry: EPS includes it!

Area of National Security Concern Include:	Section of the INA
Espionage	§212(a)(3)(A), and §237(a)(4)(A)
Sabotage	
Exporting sensitive goods, technology, or information	
Overthrowing the U.S. government by force or violence	
Hijacking or sabotaging transportation	§212(a)(3)(B), and §237(a)(4)(B)
Hostage-taking	
Attack or assassination of any government official (U.S. or any other government)	
Using biological, chemical, or nuclear weapons	
Using other weapons to harm people or cause damage (other than for personal monetary gain)	
People or groups the Secretaries of State and/or Homeland Security have determined are terrorists	§212(a)(3)(F), and §237(a)(4)(B)

NOTE:

EPS Grounds

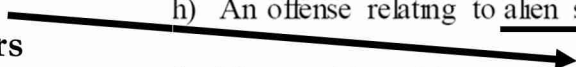
An EPS case is defined by USCIS and ICE as a case where information indicates the alien is under investigation for, has been arrested for (without disposition), or has been convicted of, any of the following:

- a) Murder, rape, or sexual abuse of a minor as defined in section 101(a)(43)(A) of the INA.
- b) Illicit trafficking in firearms or destructive devices as defined in section 101(a)(43)(C) of the INA.
- c) Offenses relating to explosive materials or firearms as defined in section 101(a)(43)(E) of the INA.
- d) Crimes of violence for which the term of imprisonment imposed, or where the penalty for a pending case, is at least one year as defined in section 101(a)(43)(F) of the INA.
- e) An offense relating to the demand for, or receipt of, ransom as defined in section 101(a)(43)(H) of the INA.
- f) An offense relating to child pornography as defined in section 101(a)(43)(I) of the INA.
- g) An offense relating to peonage, slavery, involuntary servitude, and trafficking in persons as defined in section 101(a)(43)(K)(iii) of the INA.
- h) An offense relating to alien smuggling as defined in section 101(a)(43)(N) of the INA.
- i) Human rights violators, known or suspected street gang members, or Interpol hits.
- j) Re-entry after an order of exclusion, deportation or removal subsequent to a conviction for a felony where Form I-212, Application for Permission to Reapply for Admission into the U.S. after Deportation or Removal, has not been approved.

(b)(7)(e)

Gang Members

Persecutors



NOTE:

EPS Grounds

An EPS case is defined by USCIS and ICE as a case where information indicates the alien is under investigation for, has been arrested for (without disposition), or has been convicted of, any of the following:

- a) Murder, rape, or sexual abuse of a minor as defined in section 101(a)(43)(A) of the INA.
- b) Illicit trafficking in firearms or destructive devices as defined in section 101(a)(43)(C) of the INA.
- c) Offenses relating to explosive materials or firearms as defined in section 101(a)(43)(E) of the INA.
- d) Crimes of violence for which the term of imprisonment imposed, or where the penalty for a pending case, is at least one year as defined in section 101(a)(43)(F) of the INA.
- e) An offense relating to the demand for, or receipt of, ransom as defined in section 101(a)(43)(H) of the INA.
- f) An offense relating to child pornography as defined in section 101(a)(43)(I) of the INA.
- g) An offense relating to peonage, slavery, involuntary servitude, and trafficking in persons as defined in section 101(a)(43)(K)(iii) of the INA.
- h) An offense relating to alien smuggling as defined in section 101(a)(43)(N) of the INA.
- i) Human rights violators, known or suspected street gang members, or Interpol hits.
- j) Re-entry after an order of exclusion, deportation or removal subsequent to a conviction for a felony where Form I-212, Application for Permission to Reapply for Admission into the U.S. after Deportation or Removal, has not been approved.

(b)(7)(e)

Shirk, Georgette L

From: Kumar, Vikram
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2019 10:13 AM
To: #ZNK Asylum Officers
Subject: FW: New FAQ on Attending Demonstrations & research paper on Movement for Solidarity and Democracy (Burundi) - TRIG

Hi all,

See below for an FAQ regarding the TRIG implications of attending protests.

(b)(7)(e)

Vikram Kumar
Senior Asylum Officer
U.S. Department of Homeland Security- Newark Asylum Office

From: Mathew, Ajai [redacted] (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2019 11:09 AM
To: Knowlton, Nicholas D [redacted]; Berman-vaporis, Rachel P [redacted]
[redacted]; Sullivan, Laura C [redacted]; Cleary, Heather M [redacted]
[redacted]; McMillan, Jill [redacted]; Clark, Dusty L [redacted]
[redacted]; McEvoy, Erin B [redacted]; Beck, LaToya S [redacted]
[redacted]; Trinh, Kimberly B [redacted]; Lynn, Mallory L [redacted]
[redacted]; Kim, Alejandra [redacted]; Dominguez, Maria R [redacted]
[redacted]; Talamantes, Eudelia A [redacted]; Coto, Yolanda R [redacted]
[redacted]; Baj, Ewa [redacted]; Dragan, Mariusz [redacted]
Fouda, Lauren T [redacted]; Kumar, Vikram [redacted]; Lewis, Victoria E [redacted]
[redacted]; Swen, Oluremi A (Remi) [redacted]; Sundborg, Rachael S [redacted]
[redacted]; Krause, Paige M [redacted]; Vasquez, Arnoldo A [redacted]
Romano Ferreira, Nicole I [redacted]; Damron, Andrew T [redacted];
Totter, Stephen [redacted]; Satia, Kimberly I [redacted]
[redacted]; Lehman, Danielle E [redacted]
Cc: Whalen, Ellen A [redacted]; Metzger, Evelyn S [redacted]; Picciotto, Giacomo A [redacted]; Kirkland, Brooke A [redacted]
Subject: New FAQ on Attending Demonstrations & research paper on Movement for Solidarity and Democracy (Burundi)

(b)(6)

Hi TRIG POCs,

Just sending this email to notify you of a new FAQ on Attending Demonstrations, which posted to the TRIG ECN yesterday and discusses whether there are any TRIG implications relating to attending demonstration, shouting slogans at a demonstration, attending demonstrations organized by Tier III groups, attending demonstrations that turn violent, and providing support to demonstrators at a violent demonstration.

[RAIO TRIG FAQ on Attending Demonstrations](#)

(b)(7)(e)

Movement for Solidarity and Democracy

Thank you,
Ajai

Shirk, Georgette L

From: Kumar, Vikram
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2018 2:52 PM
To: #ZNK-Lyndhurst Everyone
Subject: [Redacted] (b)(7)(e)

Hey everyone,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Thanks so much.

Best,
Vikram

(b)(7)(e)

Vikram Kumar
Senior Asylum Officer
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Newark Asylum Office
1200 Wall Street West, 4th Floor
Lyndhurst, NJ 07071

RAIO / Asylum Five Step Analytical Framework for Credibility Determinations

- *Step One:* Identify the type of credibility concern
 - MUST be based on one of the following four factors: insufficient detail, inconsistency within testimony (internal), inconsistency between testimony and other evidence (external), or implausibility (use with caution other factors *after* these)
- *Step Two:* Determine if the concern is material (relevant) to the claim
- *Step Three:* Inform the applicant of your concern
- *Step Four:* Ask the applicant to explain
- *Step Five:* Assess the reasonableness of the explanation

Elements of a Credibility Determination Under Real ID

- Demeanor, Candor or Responsiveness
- Inherent Plausibility
- Consistency
 - *Within statement*
 - *Between statements*
 - *With country conditions*
- Inaccuracies or Falsehoods, Whether or not they go to the heart of the claim
- Other Relevant Factors

From RAIO Lesson on Credibility:

2. Is the Credibility Flaw Relevant?

- If any of the applicant's assertions or documents are found not credible, then the asylum officer must determine whether the false assertions or documents are relevant; that is, *whether they prove or disprove facts that are material to establishing eligibility for the benefit sought.*
- If false assertions are relevant, they must be considered as part of the totality of the circumstances in making a credibility determination. If they are irrelevant, and the applicant's claim is approvable on the true facts, then generally the claim should be granted.

Takeaways on Credibility

1. To determine credibility, RAIO's substantive focus on the totality of the circumstances requires fresh unbiased decisionmaking for each case.
2. Strongest negative credibility determinations combine multiple factors.
3. Officer must be able to articulate specific and cogent reasons based on these factors
4. Beware of *falsus in uno*.
5. Using these aids daily can increase accuracy and identify assumptions pervading your work.

RAIO's 5-Step Approach to Credibility Determinations

- ⊕ Step One: Identify the type of credibility concern
 - ⊕ MUST be based on one of the following four factors: insufficient detail, inconsistency within testimony (internal), inconsistency between testimony and other evidence (external), or implausibility
- ⊕ Step Two: Determine if the concern is material (relevant) to the claim
- ⊕ Step Three: Inform the applicant of your concern
- ⊕ Step Four: Ask the applicant to explain
- ⊕ Step Five: Assess the reasonableness of the explanation

Remember, other factors may affect candor:

❖ **Poor questioning** - A question may be poorly worded, confusing, or not understood.

❖ **Struggling to recall** - A witness who hesitates may be attempting truthfully to recount what she recalls.

❖ **Past trauma** – Trauma may cause an applicant to appear evasive or unresponsive due to memory loss, distortion, etc.

❖ **Translation problems** – There may be problems with the translation or interpreter incompetence.

DETERMINE EFFICIENT AREAS OF INQUIRY

- 21 year old Iranian woman
- Converted to Christianity last year while studying in the US
- Told friends and family in Iran about Christianity
- Wants to share Christianity with everyone
- Documents: has baptismal certificate from church in the US
- COI shows that Christians are arrested and mistreated, particularly if proselytize or perceived as proselytizing.

FOUO

EXAMPLE 1: VENEZUELA

(b)(7)(e)

~~FOUO~~

EXAMPLE 1: VENEZUELA

(b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

FOUO

EXAMPLE 1: VENEZUELA

(b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

FOUO

EXAMPLE 2: SYRIA

(b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

~~FOUO~~

EXAMPLE 2: SYRIA

(b)(7)(e)

~~FOUO~~

EXAMPLE 2: SYRIA

(b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

FOUO

EXAMPLE 3: INDIA

(b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

~~FOUO~~

EXAMPLE 3: INDIA

(b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

~~FOUO~~

EXAMPLE 4: CHINA

(b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

FOUO

EXAMPLE 5: RUSSIA

(b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

~~FOUO~~

EXAMPLE 5: RUSSIA

(b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

FOUO

Shirk, Georgette L

From: Swen, Oluremi A (Remi)
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2016 7:38 AM
To: Raufer, Susan
Subject: Credibility Training - assessments and notes
Attachments:

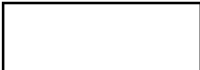



Hey Sue,

I totally forgot to send this yesterday. Here are some credibility referrals with varying degrees of accuracy. Some are completely off base, others just need a little fixing. Unfortunately, I do not have the notes for many of them because the officers are not in the office and their notes are not on the L Drive.

“Kindness Matters”

Best,
Remi

Oluremi A. Swen
Supervisory Asylum Officer/Training Coordinator
Boston Sub-Office/ Newark Asylum Office
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
JFK Federal Building
15 New Sudbury Street, 6th Floor
Boston, MA 02203
Office:  (b)(6)
Cell:  (b)(6)

(b)(6)

ASSESSMENT TO REFER

ALIEN NUMBERS: [REDACTED]

DATE: May 13, 2016

NAMES: [REDACTED]

ASYLUM OFFICER: F. Lipiner (ZNK 181)

COUNTRY: [REDACTED]

REVIEWING SAO:

LOCATION: Boston, MA (Boston Sub-Office of ZNK)

I. BIOGRAPHIC/ENTRY INFORMATION

The applicant indicated that she is a [REDACTED]-year-old female citizen and native of [REDACTED] who last entered the United States through Washington, D.C. on July 10, 2012 with [REDACTED]

II. BASIS OF CLAIM

The applicant fears that she will be harmed by [REDACTED] governmental and security authorities on account of her works in [REDACTED].

III. ANALYSIS OF PROHIBITIONS AGAINST FILING FOR ASYLUM

A. ONE-YEAR FILING DEADLINE

The applicant last entered the United States on July 10, 2012 and filed for asylum on March 19, 2013. Government records and extrinsic records, such as the applicant's passport and [REDACTED] corroborate both dates. Therefore the applicant has established that she filed for asylum within one year of her last entry to the United States.

IV. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The applicant testified that she [REDACTED]

The applicant testified that she [REDACTED]

She says she [REDACTED]

She also said she [REDACTED]

(b)(6)

USCIS005867

(b)(6)

[Redacted]

She goes on to say that in October 2011, [Redacted] (b)(6)

[Redacted]

The applicant went on to say that she received [Redacted] (b)(6)

She also says that in late [Redacted] (b)(6)

[Redacted]

V. CREDIBILITY

(b)(5) (b)(6)

The applicant's testimony was found [Redacted] for the following reasons:

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

(b)(5)

(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

[Redacted]

- The applicant maintains she [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

(b)(5) (b)(6)
(b)(7)(e)

[Redacted] (b)(5) (b)(6)

VI. FOCUSED ANALYSIS COMPONENT

A. MATERIALITY OF [Redacted] (b)(5) (b)(6)

As explained above, [Redacted]

[Redacted] (b)(5) (b)(6)

VII. DECISION

For the foregoing reasons, the applicant is [Redacted]

[Redacted] (b)(5) (b)(6)

(b)(5)

ASSESSMENT TO REFER

ALIEN NUMBERS: [redacted]

INT. DATE: February 24, 2016

NAMES: [redacted] (b)(6)

ASYLUM OFFICER: F. Lipiner (ZNK 181)

COUNTRY: [redacted] (b)(6)

REVIEWING SAO:

LOCATION: Boston, MA (Boston Sub-Office of ZNK)

I. BIOGRAPHIC/ENTRY INFORMATION

The applicant indicated that he is a [redacted] year-old male citizen and native of [redacted] who last entered the United States through Boston, MA on September 30, 2015 and was [redacted] [redacted] (b)(6)

II. BASIS OF CLAIM

The applicant fears that he [redacted] [redacted]

(b)(6)

III. ANALYSIS OF PROHIBITIONS AGAINST FILING FOR ASYLUM

A. ONE-YEAR FILING DEADLINE

The applicant last entered the United States on September 30, 2015 and filed for asylum on October 30, 2015. Government records and extrinsic records, such as the applicant's passport, corroborate both dates. Therefore the applicant has established that he filed for asylum within one year of his last entry to the United States.

IV. CREDIBILITY

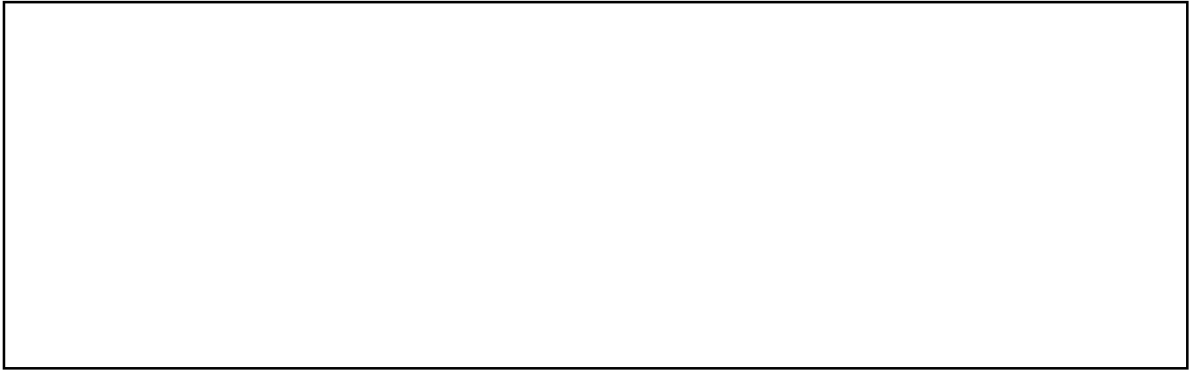
(b)(5) (b)(6)

The applicant's testimony was found [redacted] for the following reasons:

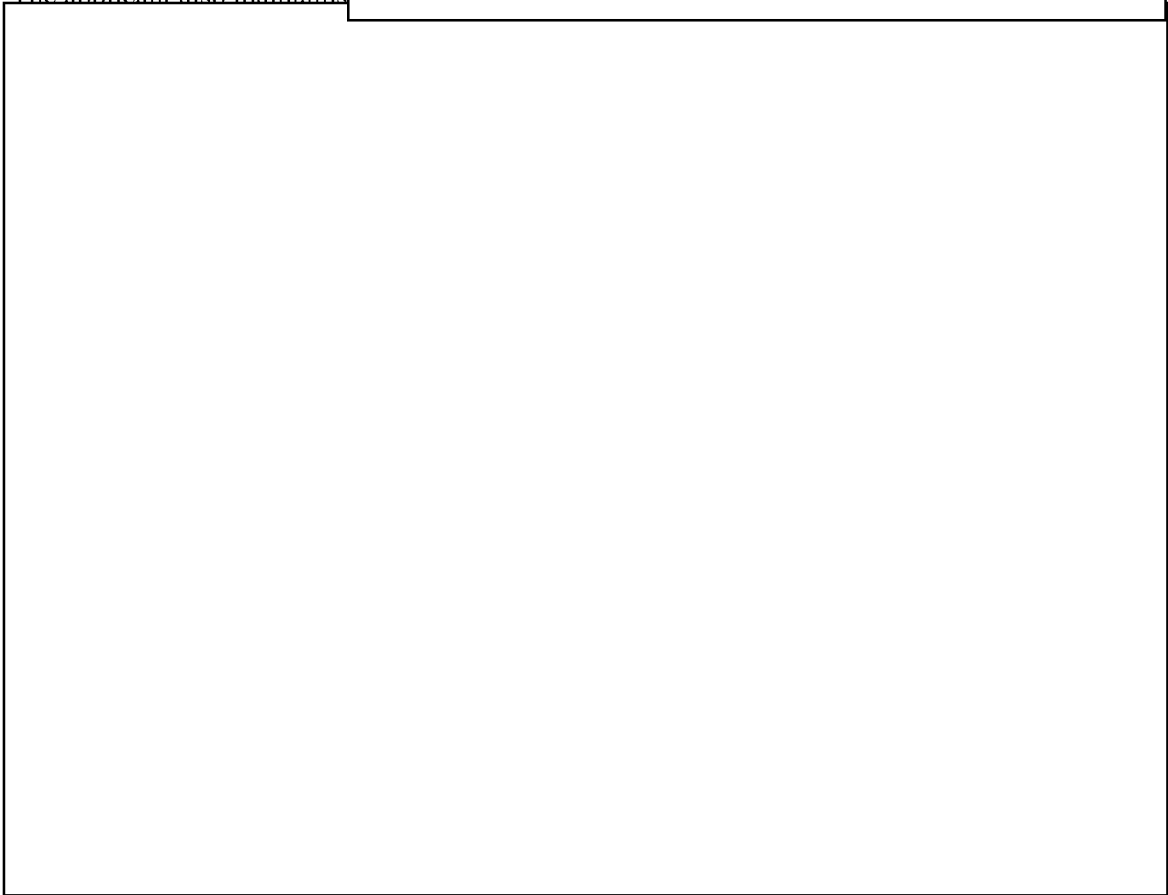
- [redacted]

(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

(b)(5) (b)(6)(b)(7)(e)



The applicant also maintains



- The applicant maintains he was



(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

[Redacted]

[Redacted] (b)(5) (b)(6)

V. FOCUSED ANALYSIS COMPONENT

(b)(5) (b)(6)

A. MATERIALITY OF [Redacted] ASSERTIONS

[Redacted] (b)(5) (b)(6)

VI. DECISION

For the foregoing reasons, the applicant is [Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b)(5) (b)(6)



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

ASSESSMENT TO REFER

ALIEN NUMBER: [redacted] DATE: September 28, 2015

NAME: [redacted] (b)(6) ASYLUM OFFICER: Bride; ZNK237

COUNTRY: [redacted] (b)(6) REVIEWING SAO: T. Catalanotto

LOCATION: ZNK (b)(6)

The applicant indicated that he is a [redacted] year-old male, native and citizen of [redacted] who last entered the United States through LAX on April 12, 2012 [redacted]

[redacted] (b)(6)

(b)(6)
The applicant claims past persecution and fears future persecution by the [redacted]
[redacted] (b)(6)
[redacted].

The applicant testified to the following:

[redacted] (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

The applicant's testimony was found [redacted] for the following reasons:
(b)(5) (b)(6)

- The applicant's testimony was [redacted]
[redacted]
(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

- The applicant's testimony [redacted]
[redacted]

(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

[Redacted]

- The applicant's testimony was [Redacted]
[Redacted]

- The applicant's testimony was [Redacted]
[Redacted]

The applicant claims that [Redacted]
[Redacted]

As the applicant's testimony was [Redacted]
[Redacted]

In addition, the applicant has [Redacted]
[Redacted]

(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

ASSESSMENT TO REFER

Alien No: [redacted] (b)(6) **Interview Date:** **January 27, 2016**
Name: [redacted] **Country:** [redacted] (b)(6)
Asylum Officer: **ZNK 208 (MN)** **Reviewing Officer:**
Location: **BOSTON, MA (ZNK)** (b)(6)

The applicant indicated that he is a [redacted]-year-old male born in [redacted]
[redacted] He entered the United States at Washington, DC on June 17, 2014 and was admitted [redacted]
[redacted] (b)(6)

The applicant fears that if he were to return to [redacted]
[redacted] (b)(6)

Applicant's passport and DHS database records show that he last arrived in the United States on June 17, 2014 and filed for asylum on September 9, 2014. Therefore, applicant has established by clear and convincing evidence that the application for asylum was timely filed within one year of his last date of arrival.

Applicant testified that he is single man that was born in [redacted]

[Large redacted area]

[Redacted] (b)(6)

Applicant is afraid to return to [Redacted] (b)(6)

[Redacted] (b)(6)

The applicant's testimony was found [Redacted] for the following reasons:
(b)(5) (b)(6)

[Redacted]

(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 24, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

Country: (b)(6)

DOB:

DOE: 9/30/2015

Immigration/Entry Status:
 (b)(6)

Attorney-of-Record: Robin N. Nice

Individuals Present in Interview:

1. Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner (ZNK181)
2. Applicant:
3. Attorney: (b)(6)
4. Interpreter: None (English-speaking)

-
- *Greeting*
 - *IDs – checked*
 - *G-28? –*
 - *Atty Waiver? – atty present*
 - *My duties -- explained*
 - *All info important to making decision*
 - *Take notes*
 - *Purpose -- explained*

Hi. I am Officer Lipiner. We are here today so that I can get some more information about why you have applied for asylum. To do that, I will be asking you questions about your background, your life before and after you came to the United States, and why you are applying for asylum. I know it is often difficult not to be nervous, but try your best to relax. Sometimes it helps to think of this just as a conversation.

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 24, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number (b)(6)

Before we get started with any questions, let me give you some information about the way the interview will work. If I ever ask you a question that you do not understand, please be sure to let me know. I will try to rephrase the question so that it is clearer.

During the interview, you will see me taking notes on my computer. That is so that later I can remember everything that you told me today.

You should know that everything you say here is confidential. What you say and even the fact that you have applied for asylum will not be shared with anyone outside of the U.S. Government.

I know that was a lot of information, do you have any questions about the way the interview will work or anything else right now? Feel free to ask me any questions you have during the interview or after, if you think of things later.

- *Confidentiality -- explained*
 - *Cell phones off, on desk*

You should know that everything you say here is confidential. What you say and even the fact that you have applied for asylum will not be shared with anyone outside of the U.S. Government.

- *Applicant's Duties -- explained*
 - *Truthful*

- *Oaths*

Have you read this Oath Form? Let me explain a few important points on the form. If you sign this form, you are promising to tell only the truth today. There can be legal penalties if you do not tell the truth. If your application contains deliberately false statements, you can be barred from receiving any immigration benefits in the United States and may receive a fine. If you understand this and agree to tell the truth, you can sign right here.

To applicant: I will now put you under oath. Please stand and raise your right hand.

- *Applicant - -administered*

**Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181**

Date of Interview: February 24, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

- *Do you swear or affirm that the statements you are about to make today are the whole truth and nothing but the truth?*
- *Sign Oath form – signed*

At the end of the interview, I will give you a chance to tell me anything that we have not talked about but that you would like for me to know.

- *Before we review your I-589 form I need to ask you a few yes/no questions..*

Testimony of Primary Applicant

**These notes were taken contemporaneously during the asylum interview by the Asylum Officer. They attempt to accurately reflect the questions and answers given in the asylum interview.*

<u>Questions</u>	<u>Answers</u>
Did anyone help you prepare this application? If yes, who?	My attorney
Have you had a chance to review it?	Yes
Are you aware of its contents? ; are the contents accurate to the best of your knowledge? Was it read back to you in your native language?	Yes
Is your application correct?	Yes
Do you have any changes you want to make to the application?	No
Have you ever used any other name or identity in any other country, at any time, including to facilitate your travel to the US?	No
Have you ever used a different date of birth?	No
Have you traveled back to your home country since your last arrival in the US?	No
What countries have you traveled to and lived in? Length of stay in each country (if recent travels)?	(b)(6)
Have you ever lied or said anything untrue in the	No

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 24, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Are there any changes you wish to bring to my attention now?	No
Are you a citizen of any other country?	No
Have you filed for permanent/asylum status in any country other than the US?	No

(b)(6)

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 24, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 24, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 24, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 24, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 24, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Mandatory Bar Questions

Bar Questions for Principal Applicant

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 24, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

1. Q: Has any government in the world other than your native country ever offered you citizenship, asylum status, refugee status, or the right to stay in that country permanently? A: No
2. Q: Have you ever in any way harmed or help to harm anyone else? A: No
3. Q: Have you ever committed any crime, anywhere in the world? A: No
4. Q: Have you ever been arrested or detained, anywhere in the world? A: No
5. Q: Have you ever been convicted of any crime in a court or by a judge, anywhere in the world? A: No
6. Q: Have you ever worked for or been employed by any government? A: No
7. Q: Have you ever served in a military or a security force? A: No
8. Q: Have you ever been a police officer? A: No
9. Q: Are you or have you ever been a member of an organization, club, political organization, or other group? A: No
10. Q: Have you ever been involved with or helped any organization that uses violence or supports the use of violence? A: No

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 23, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

Country:

DOB: (b)(6)

DOE: 7/10/2012

Immigration/Entry Status: (b)(6)

Attorney-of-Record: Marlee Cowan

Individuals Present in Interview:

1. Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner (ZNK181)
2. Applicant: (b)(6)
3. Attorney:

-
- *Greeting*
 - *IDs – checked*
 - *G-28? –*
 - *Atty Waiver? – atty present*
 - *My duties -- explained*
 - *All info important to making decision*
 - *Take notes*
 - *Purpose -- explained*

Hi. I am Officer Lipiner. We are here today so that I can get some more information about why you have applied for asylum. To do that, I will be asking you questions about your background, your life before and after you came to the United States, and why you are applying for asylum. I know it is often difficult not to be nervous, but try your best to relax. Sometimes it helps to think of this just as a conversation.

Before we get started with any questions, let me give you some information about the way the interview will work. If I ever ask you a question that you do not understand, please be sure to let me know. I will try to rephrase the question so that it is clearer.

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 23, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

During the interview, you will see me taking notes on my computer. That is so that later I can remember everything that you told me today.

You should know that everything you say here is confidential. What you say and even the fact that you have applied for asylum will not be shared with anyone outside of the U.S. Government.

I know that was a lot of information, do you have any questions about the way the interview will work or anything else right now? Feel free to ask me any questions you have during the interview or after, if you think of things later.

- *Confidentiality -- explained*
 - *Cell phones off, on desk*

You should know that everything you say here is confidential. What you say and even the fact that you have applied for asylum will not be shared with anyone outside of the U.S. Government.

- *Applicant's Duties -- explained*
 - *Truthful*

- *Oath*

Have you read this Oath Form? Let me explain a few important points on the form. If you sign this form, you are promising to tell only the truth today. There can be legal penalties if you do not tell the truth. If your application contains deliberately false statements, you can be barred from receiving any immigration benefits in the United States and may receive a fine. If you understand this and agree to tell the truth, you can sign right here. I will also have your interpreter sign that the interpreter promises to interpret as accurately as possible.

To applicant: I will now put you under oath. Please stand and raise your right hand.

- *Applicant - -administered*

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 23, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

- *Do you swear or affirm that the statements you are about to make today are the whole truth and nothing but the truth?*
- *Sign Oath form – signed*

At the end of the interview, I will give you a chance to tell me anything that we have not talked about but that you would like for me to know.

- *Before we review your I-589 form I need to ask you a few yes/no questions..*

Testimony of Primary Applicant

**These notes were taken contemporaneously during the asylum interview by the Asylum Officer. They attempt to accurately reflect the questions and answers given in the asylum interview.*

<u>Questions</u>	<u>Answers</u>
Did anyone help you prepare this application? If yes, who?	My lawyer
Have you had a chance to review it?	Yes
Are you aware of its contents? ; are the contents accurate to the best of your knowledge? Was it read back to you in your native language?	Yes
Is your application correct?	Yes
Do you have any changes you want to make to the application?	No
Have you ever used any other name or identity in any other country, at any time, including to facilitate your travel to the US?	No
Have you ever used a different date of birth?	No
Have you traveled back to your home country since your last arrival in the US?	No
What countries have you traveled to and lived in? Length of stay in each country (if recent travels)?	(b)(6)

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 23, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

Have you ever lied or said anything untrue in the visa application process?	No So, everything you said at your visa interview was correct? A: Yes
Are there any changes you wish to bring to my attention now?	No
Are you a citizen of any other country?	No
Have you filed for permanent/asylum status in any country other than the US?	No
Why are you seeking asylum in the US at this time? (b)(6)	

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 23, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 23, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant

Principal Alien Number (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 23, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 23, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 23, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 23, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

	(b)(6)

Mandatory Bar Questions

Bar Questions for Principal Applicant

1. Q: Has any government in the world other than your native country ever offered you citizenship, asylum status, refugee status, or the right to stay in that country permanently? A: No
2. Q: Have you ever in any way harmed or help to harm anyone else? A: No
3. Q: Have you ever committed any crime, anywhere in the world? A: No
4. Q: Have you ever been arrested or detained, anywhere in the world? A: No
5. Q: Have you ever been convicted of any crime in a court or by a judge, anywhere in the world? A: No
6. Q: Have you ever worked for or been employed by any government? A: Yes, I was employed as an elementary teacher in Uganda

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 23, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

7. Q: Have you ever served in a military or a security force? A: No
8. Q: Have you ever been a police officer? A: No
9. Q: Are you or have you ever been a member of an organization, club, political organization, or other group? A: No
10. Q: Have you ever been involved with or helped any organization that uses violence or supports the use of violence? A: No

ASSESSMENT TO REFER

ALIEN NUMBER: [redacted]

(b)(6)

DATE: August 4, 2015

NAME [redacted]

ASYLUM OFFICER: G.Nunes

DEPENDENT SPOUSE: [redacted]
[redacted]

ALIEN NUMBER: [redacted]

DEPENDENT CHILD: [redacted]

ALIEN NUMBER: [redacted]

COUNTRY: [redacted]

(b)(6)

REVIEWING SAO:

LOCATION: Boston Asylum Sub-Office (ZNK)

I. BIOGRAPHIC/ENTRY INFORMATION

The applicant testified that he is a [redacted] year-old male native and citizen of [redacted] who entered the United States at Washington, DC (IA) on November 22, 2010 and was admitted as a [redacted]

(b)(6)

[redacted] (b)(6)

II. BASIS OF CLAIM

(b)(6)

The applicant claims he was [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

III. ANALYSIS OF PROHIBITIONS AGAINST FILING FOR ASYLUM

The applicant filed his asylum application (Form I-589) on November 8, 2011. The applicant established by clear and convincing evidence that his application for asylum was filed within one year of his last entry to the United States.

IV. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY AND CREDIBILITY

During the asylum interview on August 29, 2014, the applicant testified that he is a [redacted]

[redacted]

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

V. CREDIBILITY

To receive asylum, an asylum-seeker must show past persecution or a well-founded fear of future persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

(b)(5) (b)(6)

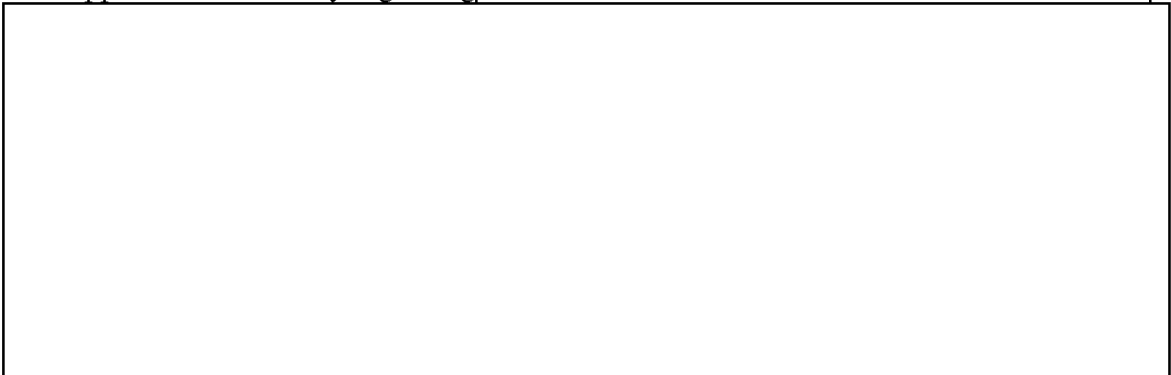
The applicant's testimony was found for the following reasons:

- The applicant's testimony during his first asylum interview was

(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

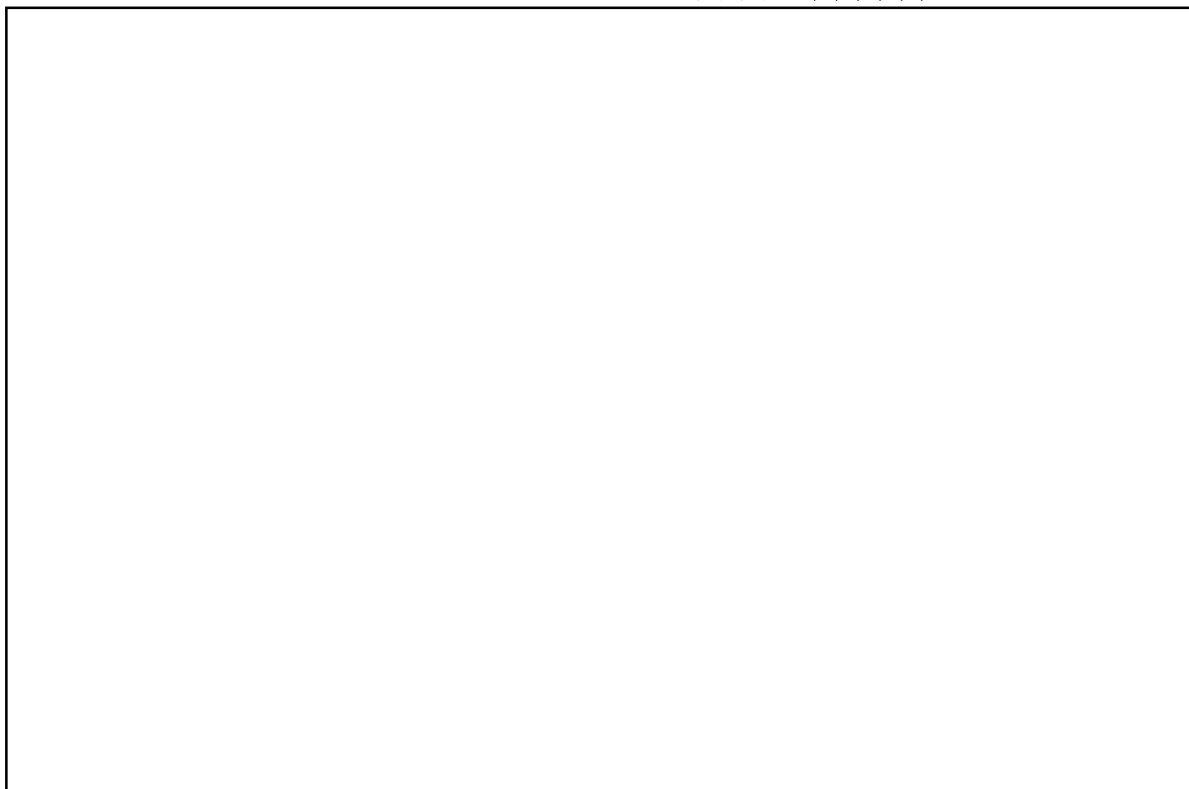


- The applicant's testimony regarding





(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)



(b)(5) (b)(6)

VII DECISION

For the foregoing reasons, the applicant is 


(b)(5) (b)(6)

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 24, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

Country:

DOB: (b)(6)

DOE: 9/30/2015

Immigration/Entry Status:
 (b)(6)

Attorney-of-Record: Robin N. Nice

Individuals Present in Interview:

1. Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner (ZNK181)
2. Applicant: (b)(6)
3. Attorney:
4. Interpreter: None (English-speaking)

-
- *Greeting*
 - *IDs – checked*
 - *G-28? –*
 - *Atty Waiver? – atty present*
 - *My duties -- explained*
 - *All info important to making decision*
 - *Take notes*
 - *Purpose -- explained*

Hi. I am Officer Lipiner. We are here today so that I can get some more information about why you have applied for asylum. To do that, I will be asking you questions about your background, your life before and after you came to the United States, and why you are applying for asylum. I know it is often difficult not to be nervous, but try your best to relax. Sometimes it helps to think of this just as a conversation.

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 24, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

Before we get started with any questions, let me give you some information about the way the interview will work. If I ever ask you a question that you do not understand, please be sure to let me know. I will try to rephrase the question so that it is clearer.

During the interview, you will see me taking notes on my computer. That is so that later I can remember everything that you told me today.

You should know that everything you say here is confidential. What you say and even the fact that you have applied for asylum will not be shared with anyone outside of the U.S. Government.

I know that was a lot of information, do you have any questions about the way the interview will work or anything else right now? Feel free to ask me any questions you have during the interview or after, if you think of things later.

- *Confidentiality -- explained*
 - *Cell phones off, on desk*

You should know that everything you say here is confidential. What you say and even the fact that you have applied for asylum will not be shared with anyone outside of the U.S. Government.

- *Applicant's Duties -- explained*
 - *Truthful*

- *Oaths*

Have you read this Oath Form? Let me explain a few important points on the form. If you sign this form, you are promising to tell only the truth today. There can be legal penalties if you do not tell the truth. If your application contains deliberately false statements, you can be barred from receiving any immigration benefits in the United States and may receive a fine. If you understand this and agree to tell the truth, you can sign right here.

To applicant: I will now put you under oath. Please stand and raise your right hand.

- *Applicant - -administered*

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 24, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

- *Do you swear or affirm that the statements you are about to make today are the whole truth and nothing but the truth?*
- *Sign Oath form – signed*

At the end of the interview, I will give you a chance to tell me anything that we have not talked about but that you would like for me to know.

- *Before we review your I-589 form I need to ask you a few yes/no questions..*

Testimony of Primary Applicant

**These notes were taken contemporaneously during the asylum interview by the Asylum Officer. They attempt to accurately reflect the questions and answers given in the asylum interview.*

<u>Questions</u>	<u>Answers</u>
Did anyone help you prepare this application? If yes, who?	My attorney
Have you had a chance to review it?	Yes
Are you aware of its contents? ; are the contents accurate to the best of your knowledge? Was it read back to you in your native language?	Yes
Is you application correct?	Yes
Do you have any changes you want to make to the application?	No
Have you ever used any other name or identity in any other country, at any time, including to facilitate your travel to the US?	No
Have you ever used a different date of birth?	No
Have you traveled back to your home country since your last arrival in the US?	No
What countries have you traveled to and lived in? Length of stay in each country (if recent travels)?	<input type="text"/> (b)(6)
Have you ever lied or said anything untrue in the	No

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 24, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

visa application process?	<p>Did you attend your visa interview? Yes</p> <p>Did you fill out your visa application? Yes</p> <p>Was everything you said at your visa interview and on your written application truthful? A; Yes. First three time I was rejected by the Embassy. I gave up but the fourth time I got a visa.</p>
Are there any changes you wish to bring to my attention now?	No
Are you a citizen of any other country?	No
Have you filed for permanent/asylum status in any country other than the US?	No
Why are you seeking asylum in the US at this time?	(b)(6)
Why are you applying for asylum?	
(b)(6)	

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 24, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 24, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 24, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 24, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 24, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Mandatory Bar Questions

Bar Questions for Principal Applicant

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 24, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

1. Q: Has any government in the world other than your native country ever offered you citizenship, asylum status, refugee status, or the right to stay in that country permanently? A: No
2. Q: Have you ever in any way harmed or help to harm anyone else? A: No
3. Q: Have you ever committed any crime, anywhere in the world? A: No
4. Q: Have you ever been arrested or detained, anywhere in the world? A: No
5. Q: Have you ever been convicted of any crime in a court or by a judge, anywhere in the world? A: No
6. Q: Have you ever worked for or been employed by any government? A: No
7. Q: Have you ever served in a military or a security force? A: No
8. Q: Have you ever been a police officer? A: No
9. Q: Are you or have you ever been a member of an organization, club, political organization, or other group? A: No
10. Q: Have you ever been involved with or helped any organization that uses violence or supports the use of violence? A: No

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 23, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

Country:

(b)(6)

DOB:

DOE: 7/10/2012

Immigration/Entry Status: (b)(6)

Attorney-of-Record: Marlee Cowan

Individuals Present in Interview:

1. Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner (ZNK181)
2. Applicant: (b)(6)
3. Attorney:

-
- *Greeting*
 - *IDs – checked*
 - *G-28? –*
 - *Atty Waiver? – atty present*
 - *My duties -- explained*
 - *All info important to making decision*
 - *Take notes*
 - *Purpose -- explained*

Hi. I am Officer Lipiner. We are here today so that I can get some more information about why you have applied for asylum. To do that, I will be asking you questions about your background, your life before and after you came to the United States, and why you are applying for asylum. I know it is often difficult not to be nervous, but try your best to relax. Sometimes it helps to think of this just as a conversation.

Before we get started with any questions, let me give you some information about the way the interview will work. If I ever ask you a question that you do not understand, please be sure to let me know. I will try to rephrase the question so that it is clearer.

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 23, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

During the interview, you will see me taking notes on my computer. That is so that later I can remember everything that you told me today.

You should know that everything you say here is confidential. What you say and even the fact that you have applied for asylum will not be shared with anyone outside of the U.S. Government.

I know that was a lot of information, do you have any questions about the way the interview will work or anything else right now? Feel free to ask me any questions you have during the interview or after, if you think of things later.

- *Confidentiality -- explained*
 - *Cell phones off, on desk*

You should know that everything you say here is confidential. What you say and even the fact that you have applied for asylum will not be shared with anyone outside of the U.S. Government.

- *Applicant's Duties -- explained*
 - *Truthful*

- *Oath*

Have you read this Oath Form? Let me explain a few important points on the form. If you sign this form, you are promising to tell only the truth today. There can be legal penalties if you do not tell the truth. If your application contains deliberately false statements, you can be barred from receiving any immigration benefits in the United States and may receive a fine. If you understand this and agree to tell the truth, you can sign right here. I will also have your interpreter sign that the interpreter promises to interpret as accurately as possible.

To applicant: I will now put you under oath. Please stand and raise your right hand.

- *Applicant - -administered*

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 23, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

- *Do you swear or affirm that the statements you are about to make today are the whole truth and nothing but the truth?*
- *Sign Oath form – signed*

At the end of the interview, I will give you a chance to tell me anything that we have not talked about but that you would like for me to know.

- *Before we review your I-589 form I need to ask you a few yes/no questions..*

Testimony of Primary Applicant

**These notes were taken contemporaneously during the asylum interview by the Asylum Officer. They attempt to accurately reflect the questions and answers given in the asylum interview.*

<u>Questions</u>	<u>Answers</u>
Did anyone help you prepare this application? If yes, who?	My lawyer
Have you had a chance to review it?	Yes
Are you aware of its contents? ; are the contents accurate to the best of your knowledge? Was it read back to you in your native language?	Yes
Is your application correct?	Yes
Do you have any changes you want to make to the application?	No
Have you ever used any other name or identity in any other country, at any time, including to facilitate your travel to the US?	No
Have you ever used a different date of birth?	No
Have you traveled back to your home country since your last arrival in the US?	No
What countries have you traveled to and lived in? Length of stay in each country (if recent travels)?	(b)(6)

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 23, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 23, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 23, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

(b)(6)

Principal Alien Number:

(b)(6)

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 23, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 23, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 23, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 23, 2016

Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

	(b)(6)

Mandatory Bar Questions

Bar Questions for Principal Applicant

1. Q: Has any government in the world other than your native country ever offered you citizenship, asylum status, refugee status, or the right to stay in that country permanently? A: No
2. Q: Have you ever in any way harmed or help to harm anyone else? A: No
3. Q: Have you ever committed any crime, anywhere in the world? A: No
4. Q: Have you ever been arrested or detained, anywhere in the world? A: No
5. Q: Have you ever been convicted of any crime in a court or by a judge, anywhere in the world? A: No
6. Q: Have you ever worked for or been employed by any government? A:

(b)(6)

Affirmative Asylum Interview Notes
Asylum Officer: Frank Lipiner – ZNK #181

Date of Interview: February 23, 2016

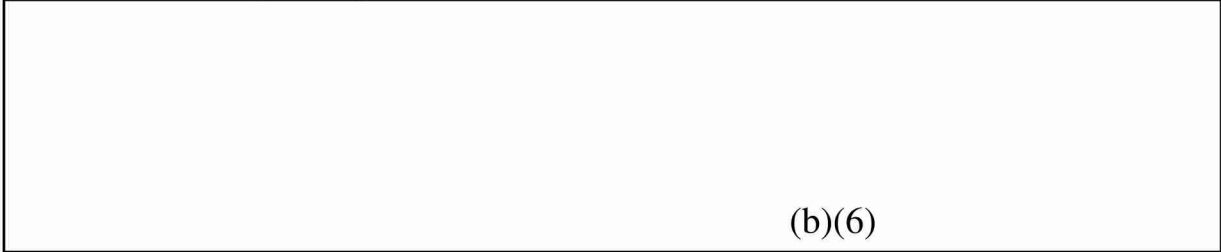
Name of Principal Applicant:

Principal Alien Number: (b)(6)

7. Q: Have you ever served in a military or a security force? A: No
8. Q: Have you ever been a police officer? A: No
9. Q: Are you or have you ever been a member of an organization, club, political organization, or other group? A: No
10. Q: Have you ever been involved with or helped any organization that uses violence or supports the use of violence? A: No

Shirk, Georgette L

From: Raufer, Susan
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2016 9:06 AM
To: Swen, Oluremi A (Remi)
Subject: FW: Boston Credibility training 103
Attachments:




From: Young, Noel L
Sent: Monday, October 03, 2016 4:44 PM
To: Raufer, Susan
Cc: Vitiello, Lauren M
Subject: RE: Boston Credibility training 103

Hi Sue,

I have attached some credibility referrals that I reviewed for new AOs that I found lacking. I have provided versions with the comments I sent back. I also attached their notes. I was also able to find a couple assessments in the L Drive from AOs I know struggled with credibility analyses. Unfortunately, these do not have notes. I hope this is helpful.

You want to do Credibility 103 here at ZNK, too??

Noël Young
Training Officer | Newark Asylum Office
☎  (b)(6)

From: Raufer, Susan
Sent: Monday, October 03, 2016 10:12 AM
To: Vitiello, Lauren M; #ZNK Supervisory Asylum Officers; Swen, Oluremi A (Remi); Boyle, Meghann W; Heinrich, Lorie R; Varghese, Sunil R; Young, Noel L
Subject: RE: Boston Credibility training 103

Thanks. You are right. I really was sort of thinking that I would have the interview notes. All the more reason to identify such cases as you are reviewing the file so that the notes can be captured. I don't want to hold production up, so if you get such a case and bring it to my attention, maybe I could get someone to make the copies of the documents I need.

From: Vitiello, Lauren M
Sent: Monday, October 03, 2016 9:56 AM
To: Raufer, Susan; #ZNK Supervisory Asylum Officers; Swen, Oluremi A (Remi); Boyle, Meghann W; Heinrich, Lorie R; Varghese, Sunil R; Young, Noel L
Subject: RE: Boston Credibility training 103

It may be good to work with the notes too. Sadly, most officers don't save notes in the L drive, but of course we could request them. I started looking at assessments in the L drive for you and it occurred to me that in many instances the

credibility paragraphs that address the issue of lacking detail would really work better in a training if the AOs had the relevant parts of the notes, too, eliciting testimony to probe credibility being a huge element in this kind of training.

Lauren Vitiello

Training Officer | DHS | USCIS | Newark Asylum Office

1200 Wall St. West, Lyndhurst, NJ 07071 | ☎ [REDACTED]

/ fax 201.531.1877 | ✉ [REDACTED]

“Kindness Matters”

(b)(6)

This communication, along with any attachments, is covered by federal and state law governing electronic communications and may contain confidential and legally privileged information. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, use or copying of this message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this in error, please reply immediately to the sender and delete this message. Thank you.

From: Raufer, Susan

Sent: Friday, September 30, 2016 3:06 PM

To: #ZNK Supervisory Asylum Officers; Swen, Oluremi A (Remi); Boyle, Meghann W; Heinrich, Lorie R; Varghese, Sunil R; Young, Noel L; Vitiello, Lauren M

Subject: Boston Credibility training 103

All,

In mid-October I am going to Boston for an AILA meeting (Oct 19 – 21). While I am there I promised Meghann that I would do a training for her AOs. We decided that I should do a training on Credibility. Since I do sort of a “Credibility 101” at RAIO training, we thought it would be a good idea to try to take it to the next level – addressing the fact that in applying the five-step methodology spelled out in the lesson plans (Identify/Determine relevance/Explain concern to applicant/Ask for explanation/Analyze) many AOs get in trouble by skipping some of the steps.

For example, an AO might identify the credibility concern, think through a possible explanation (employing parallel universe thinking, for example) then NOT go through the steps of actually engaging the applicant in the process, and write up a conclusion that the SAO will not want to sign off on because the applicant was not confronted, and the officer is speculating. I am calling this Credibility 103, because Jean Koh Peters did a Credibility 102 in our offices last year, that was a little bit different.

I think the best way to get this point across is to come up with examples of assessments where the credibility analysis has failed, and work through with the AOs why it failed. So this is where you come in... Could you please forward to me any examples of failed credibility analyses that you come across? I will be happy to redact them and creatively edit the facts so they are not easily recognizable. I just don't want to come up with the examples from scratch.

Thanks!

Sue

ASSESSMENT TO REFER

ALIEN NUMBERS: [redacted] INTERVIEWING DATE: August 30, 2016
DEPENDENT NUMBERS: [redacted]
NAME: [redacted] (b)(6) ASYLUM OFFICER: [redacted] (b)(6)
DEPENDENTS: [redacted]
COUNTRY: [redacted] (b)(6) REVIEWING SAO:
LOCATION: Lyndhurst, NJ/ ZNK ASSESSMENT DATE: September 2, 2016

I. BIOGRAPHIC/ENTRY INFORMATION

[redacted] (b)(5) (b)(6)

II. BASIS OF CLAIM

[redacted] (b)(5) (b)(6)

III. ANALYSIS OF PROHIBITIONS AGAINST FILING FOR ASYLUM

[redacted] (b)(5) (b)(6)

IV. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

[redacted]

(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

V. CREDIBILITY DETERMINATION

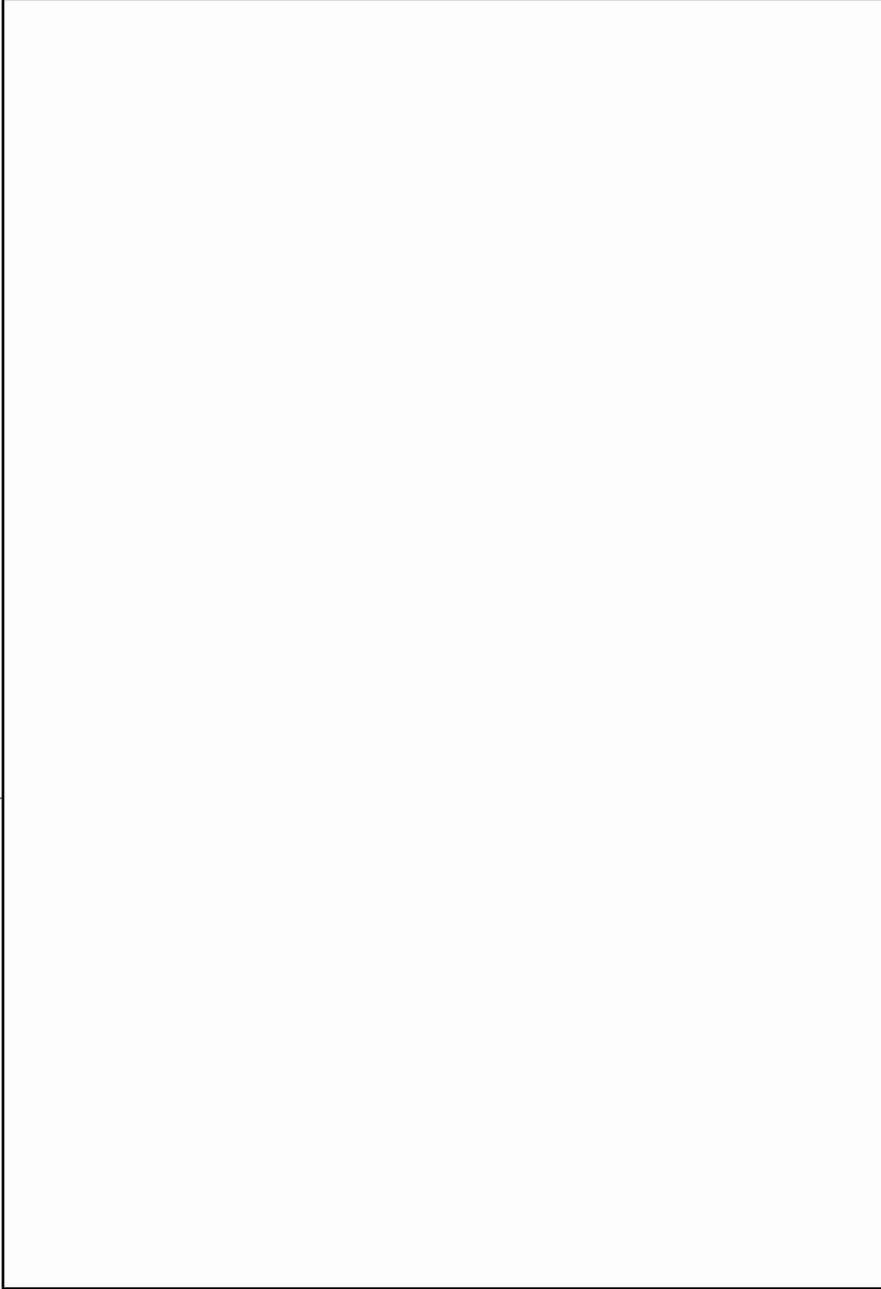
The applicant's testimony is found for the following reasons:

-

Page 2 of 5

(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)



(b)(5)

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(b)(5)

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(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

VII. BARS TO ASYLUM

(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

VIII. DECISION

(b)(5) (b)(6)

(b)(5)

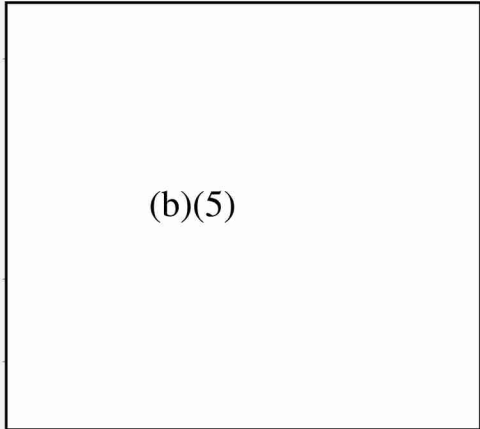
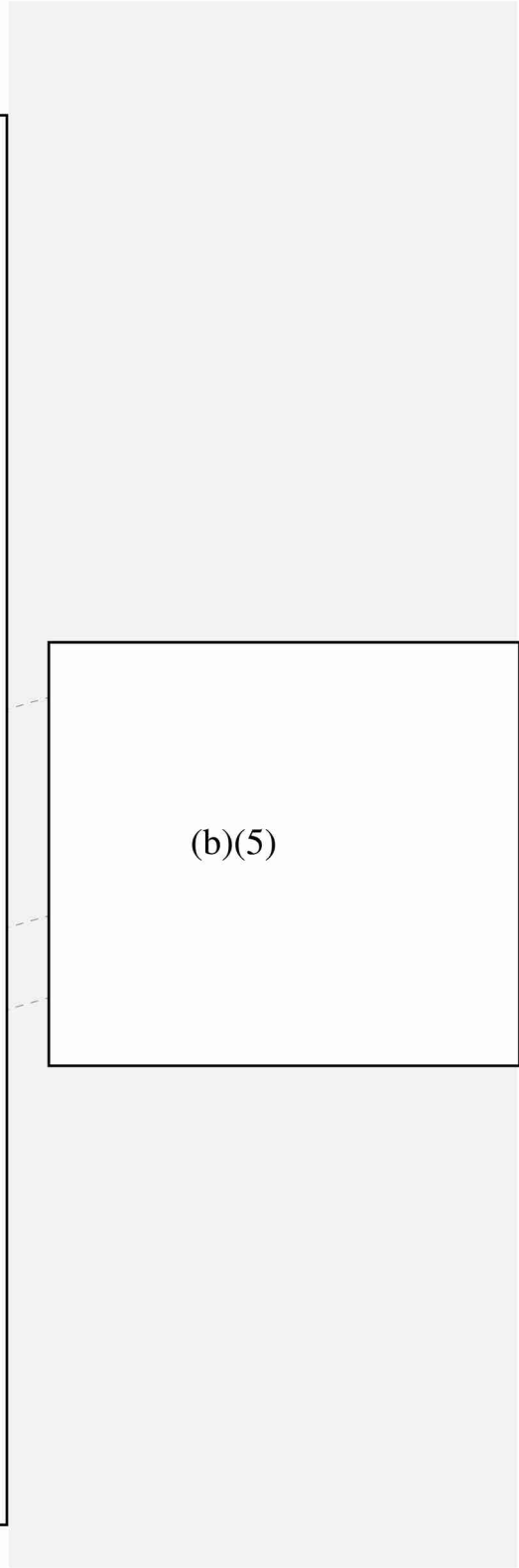
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V. CREDIBILITY

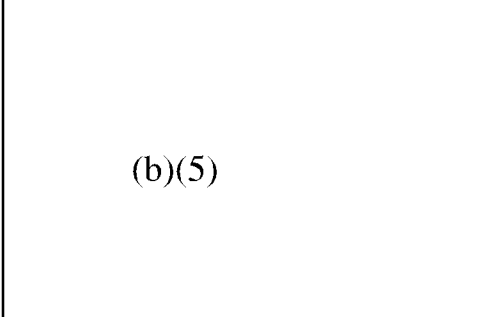
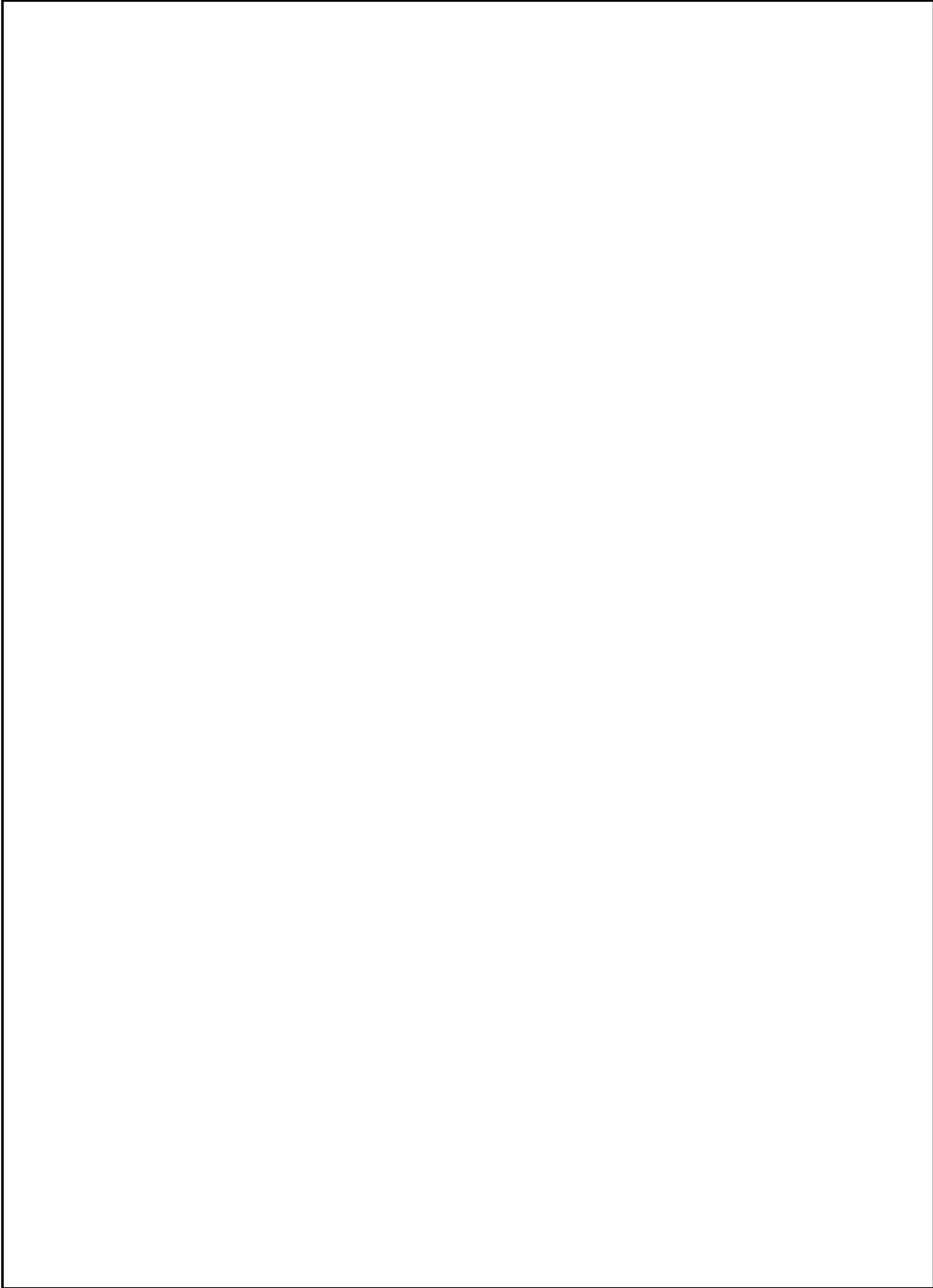
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(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

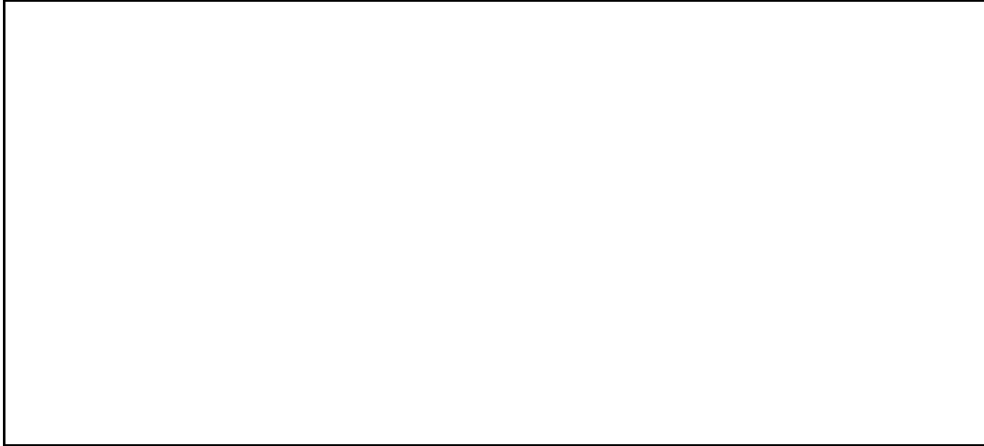


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(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)



(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)



(b)(5)



VII. DECISION



(b)(5) (b)(6)

ASSESSMENT TO REFER

ALIEN NUMBER: [REDACTED] INTERVIEWING DATE: June 08, 2016
NAME: KABORE, [REDACTED] (b)(6)
COUNTRY: [REDACTED] INTERVIEWING OFFICER: Anna Gamza ZNK250
LOCATION: ZNK ADJUDICATING OFFICER:
REVIEWING SAO: LEWIS ZNK167

I. BIOGRAPHIC/ENTRY /IMMIGRATION STATUS INFORMATION

[REDACTED]

II. BASIS OF CLAIM (b)(5) (b)(6)

[REDACTED]

III. ANALYSIS OF PROHIBITIONS AGAINST FILING FOR ASYLUM (b)(5) (b)(6)

[REDACTED]

IV. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

[REDACTED]

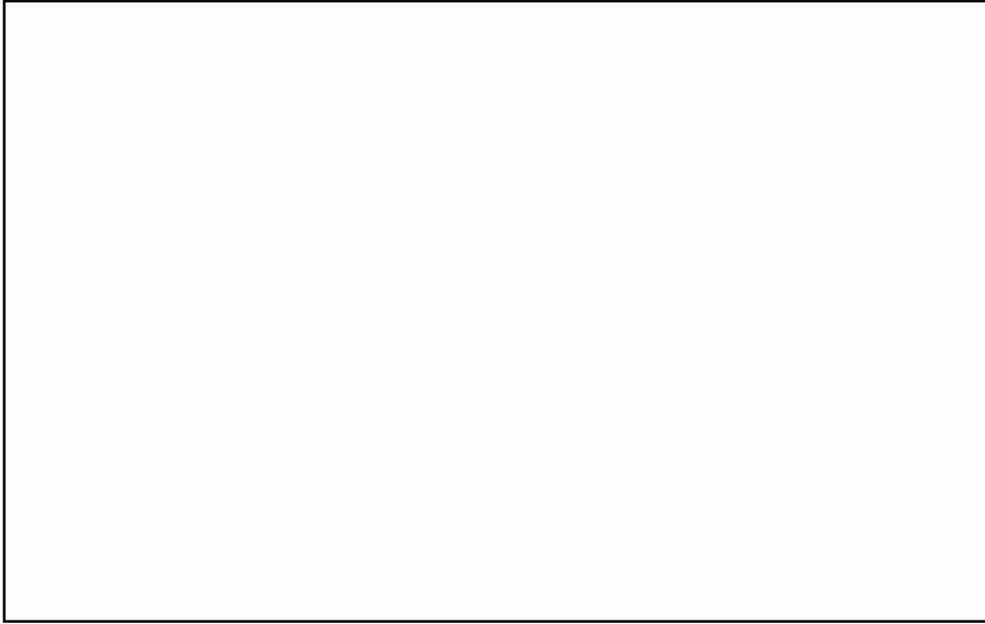
(b)(5) (b)(6)

(b)(5) (b)(6)

V. CREDIBILITY DETERMINATION

(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)



(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)



(b)(7)(e)

VI. DECISION



(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

ASSESSMENT TO REFER

ALIEN NUMBER: [redacted] INTERVIEWING DATE: April 13, 2016
NAME: [redacted] (b)(6) INTERVIEWING AO: M. Hagen, ZNK 243
COUNTRY: [redacted] WRITTEN BY AO: A. Gamza, ZNK 250
LOCATION: ZNK REVIEWING SAO:

I. BIOGRAPHIC/ENTRY INFORMATION

[redacted]

II. BASIS OF CLAIM (b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

[redacted]

III. ANALYSIS OF PROHIBITIONS AGAINST FILING FOR ASYLUM

[redacted]

IV. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY (b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

[redacted]

(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

(b)(5) (b)(6)
(b)(7)(e)

Commented [NLY4]: Active voice: They told him

(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

[Redacted]

Commented [NLY5]: Redundant with edits in prior sentence

Commented [NLY6]: Redundant with edits in prior sentence

Commented [NLY7]: Redundant with edits in prior sentence

V. CREDIBILITY DETERMINATION

[Redacted]

(b)(7)(e)
(b)(5) (b)(6)

(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

VII. BARS TO ASYLUM

(b)(5) (b)(6)

VIII. DECISION

(b)(5) (b)(6)

ASSESSMENT TO REFER

ALIEN NUMBER [REDACTED]

INTERVIEW DATE: April 13, 2015

NAME: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

ASYLUM OFFICER: S.Zeejah/ZNK 223

COUNTRY: [REDACTED]

REVIEWING SAO:

LOCATION: Lyndhurst, New Jersey

I. BIOGRAPHIC/ENTRY INFORMATION

The applicant indicated that she is a 26 -year-old female native and citizen of China who entered the United States on or about July 17, 2011. The applicant is not in lawful status.

II. BASIS OF CLAIM

The applicant claims past harm from the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

(b)(6)

III. ANALYSIS OF PROHIBITIONS AGAINST FILING FOR ASYLUM

The applicant filed for asylum on March 6, 2012. Further, government records indicated her arrival on July 17, 2011. Thus , the applicant established by clear and convincing evidence that her application was filed within one year of her last date of entry to the United States.

IV. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

[REDACTED]

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

V. CREDIBILITY DETERMINATION / EVIDENCE ASSESSMENT

The applicant's testimony was

(b)(5)(b)(6)

(b)(5)(b)(6)

1.

2.

3.

(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

VI. FOCUSED ANALYSIS COMPONENT

Considering the totality of the circumstances and all relevant factors,

[Redacted]

(b)(5)(b)(6)

[Redacted]

(b)(5) (b)(6)

VII. DECISION

[Redacted]

(b)(5) (b)(6)

ASSESSMENT TO REFER

ALIEN NUMBER: [redacted]

INTERVIEW DATE: March 18, 2015

NAME: [redacted] (b)(6)

ASYLUM OFFICER: S.Zeejah/ZNK 223

COUNTRY: [redacted]

REVIEWING SAO: E. Taubes

LOCATION: Lyndhurst, New Jersey

I. BIOGRAPHIC/ENTRY INFORMATION

(b)(6)

The applicant indicated that he is a [redacted]-year-old male native and citizen of [redacted] who last entered the United States at New York, NY on or about March 15, 2011 [redacted]

[redacted] (b)(6)

(b)(6)

II. BASIS OF CLAIM

The applicant fears future harm from the [redacted]

III. APPLICATION OF FILING DEADLINE

(b)(6)

[redacted]

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

IV. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

(b)(6)

V. CREDIBILITY DETERMINATION / EVIDENCE ASSESSMENT

(b)(5) (b)(6)

The applicant's testimony was

1.

2.

3.

(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

[Redacted]

VII. FOCUSED ANALYSIS COMPONENT

(b)(5) (b)(6)

VII. DECISION

[Redacted]

(b)(5) (b)(6)

INTERVIEW NOTES

Applicant's Name:

A#: (b)(6)

Derivative's Name and A#:

Interview Date: August 30, 2016

Asylum Officer: U. IKORO

AO's ID: ZNK 097

Location of Interview:	ZNK
Nationality:	<input type="text"/> (b)(6)
Native Language:	Mandarin
Gender:	Female
Date of Birth:	<input type="text"/> (b)(6)
Age:	44
Date of Entry:	September 19, 2013
Status of Entry:	<input type="text"/> (b)(6)
Status Expiration Date:	March 16, 2014
Filing Date:	November 13, 2013
Filing Deadline:	September 19, 2014
Attorney:	Yes
G-28 or Waiver:	Yes
Interpreter Name:	
Language of Interview:	<input type="text"/> (b)(6)

CALL APPLICANT

INTERVIEW START TIME: AM

INTRODUCTION

Good morning. My name is Officer Ikoro and I will be conducting your asylum interview today.

Please tell me your name. Applicant and interpreter, please provide me with an identification.

Individuals appearing at the interview:

- Officer
- Applicant
- Applicant's Interpreter
- Dependent Spouse - (b)(6)
- Dependent Child -

- Applicant's, and interpreter's identification verified

If not atty present, have sign waiver form.

VERIFY ID:	
Applicant -	
Interpreter -	
Attorney -	Not present
- Waiver (if G-28 but not here → below)	Signed by the applicant

Applicant's Name: A# (b)(6)

Derivative's Name and A#:

Interview Date: August 30, 2016

Asylum Officer: U. IKORO

AO's ID: ZNK 097

PURPOSE

Today we will talk about why you left your country and why you do not want to return. We both have jobs to do. My job is to provide you with information about the asylum process and to understand what happened to you in your country so that I can make a decision on your case. Your job is to provide me with as much information as you remember – even the little details. I know that today is a very important day for you. Please know that you have my full attention.

CONFIDENTIALITY

We are going to talk about very personal topics today, but please know that what you tell me today will be kept confidential. This means that what we will not tell anyone in your country including your country's government what you tell me today or what was in your application or supporting documents.

ANSWERING QUESTIONS

While we are talking today it is important that we understand each other. If you don't know the answer to a question, it is okay to tell me you do not know the answer. Please do not guess an answer or make up one you think I want to hear. There are no 'right' or 'wrong' answers. If you do not understand the question, please ask me to say the question in a different way or to explain it. I want you to understand what I am asking you.

NOTE TAKING

During the interview, I will be taking notes to help me to remember what we say. My notes are also confidential. You will hear me typing, but that does not mean that I am not listening to you.

OVERVIEW OF ASYLUM INTERVIEW

Today's interview will be conducted in three parts. First, we will go over the application you filed to make any changes or updates. After that, I will ask you questions about what happened to you in your country. At that point an interpreter monitor will join us on the phone to make sure your interpreter is translating what we say correctly. The monitor will also keep this interview confidential. Lastly, you or your representative will be given an opportunity to ask you questions or make a closing statement. I will then explain to you how you will receive your decision. I will carefully consider all the information gave you to me when I make deciding your case. Do you have any questions before we begin?

Do you understand your interpreter? Yes

INTERVIEW NOTES

Applicant's Name: [redacted]
 A#: [redacted] (b)(6)
 Derivative's Name and A#:
 Interview Date: August 30, 2016
 Asylum Officer: U. IKORO
 AO's ID: ZNK 097

- 1) Answer all questions in a loud and clear voice so that your interpreter and the monitor can hear you.
- 2) Do not talk at the same time as your interpreter and answer all questions verbally
- 3) Do not have any side conversations with your interpreter; direct all questions to me.
- 4) If you have a long answer, please break it up so the interpreter can keep up. Keep your responses to two or three sentences.
- 5) If at any time you can no longer hear or understand your interpreter, let me know immediately.

I am now going to speak to and swear in your interpreter.

Interpreter:

- It is important that you tell me exactly what the applicant is saying. Use first person.
 - "I went to the store" – not "She went to the store"

OFFICER:	INTERPRETER:
Interpreter, you should provide a word-for-word interpretation of our entire conversation today, including all questions and responses. If anything is too difficult to understand or is too long to translate, let me know. Please do not have any un-translated conversations with the applicant. Do you understand your role here today?	Yes.
Do you swear or affirm that you are competent to interpret from English to [redacted] and from [redacted] to English, and that you will truthfully, literally, and fully interpret from English to [redacted] and from [redacted] to English during this interview? (b)(6)	I do.

OATH

Have you read this form? Let me explain a few important things about the oath. This means that I will ask you to promise to tell the truth during this interview and as you read on this form, there can be consequences. Once you take the oath, everything you say will be considered evidence, and will become part of your asylum claim. Please sign here.

OFFICER:	APPLICANT:
Do you understand the explanation of the oath and the penalties for not testifying truthfully?	Yes
Do you swear or affirm that the testimony you are about to provide will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?	Yes
This form says that you have taken the oath and understand the penalties for	Yes

INTERVIEW NOTES

Applicant's Name:

A# (b)(6)

Derivative's Name and A#:

Interview Date: August 30, 2016

Asylum Officer: U. IKORO

AO's ID: ZNK 097

not testifying truthfully.	
----------------------------	--

SIGN OATH FORM

Before we go over your asylum application, did you have any other documents you wanted to provide to me? –Presented passports for the applicant, spouse and child.

I-589 REVIEW

OFFICER:	APPLICANT:
Did anyone help you prepare your asylum application?	Yes
Who?	My Attorney
Was the application read back to you in a language you understand to make sure it was correct?	Yes
Are you aware of the contents of your application, written statement, and documents submitted in support of your application?	Yes
Do you affirm that the application is accurate and complete to the best of your knowledge?	Yes
Everything you submitted true, complete and correct?	I wrote the statement myself in Mandarin and my attorney translated it in English. Yes
Are there any changes you wish to make at this time?	Yes. My sister and parents are here in the US.

REVIEW CONTENTS OF I-589 AND NUMBER CHANGES
REVIEW ORIGINALS

MONITOR

INTERVIEW NOTES

Applicant's Name: [redacted]

A# [redacted]

Derivative's Name and A#: (b)(6)

Interview Date: August 30, 2016

Asylum Officer: U. IKORO

AO's ID: ZNK 097

COMPLETE MONITOR OATH FORM (b)(6)

- MONITOR ID: [redacted]
- MONITOR SERVICE USED: Language Line
- MONITOR TIME STARTED: 10:16AM / PM

OFFICER:	MONITOR:
You are monitoring the interpretation of an affirmative asylum interview. Do you affirm that you will truthfully and fully report any mistranslations observed during the course of this asylum interview?	Yes
Do you affirm that you will immediately notify me if you become aware of your inability to monitor this interview in a neutral and impartial manner?	Yes
Do you affirm that you understand that all matters discussed in this interview are confidential and that you will not share what you hear today with any person?	Yes.

HAVE MONITOR, INTERPRETER, AND APPLICANT INTRODUCE EACH OTHER TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE CAN HEAR AND UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER

INTERVIEW

OFFICER:	APPLICANT:
Why are you applying for asylum?	[redacted]
(b)(6)	

INTERVIEW NOTES

Applicant's Name:

A#: (b)(6)

Derivative's Name and A#:

Interview Date: August 30, 2016

Asylum Officer: U. IKORO

AO's ID: ZNK 097

(b)(6)

INTERVIEW NOTES

Applicant's Name [redacted]

A#: [redacted] (b)(6)

Derivative's Name and A#:

Interview Date: August 30, 2016

Asylum Officer: U. IKORO

AO's ID: ZNK 097

(b)(6)

INTERVIEW NOTES

Applicant's Name [redacted]

A# [redacted] (b)(6)

Derivative's Name and A#:

Interview Date: August 30, 2016

Asylum Officer: U. IKORO

AO's ID: ZNK 097

(b)(6)

INTERVIEW NOTES

Applicant's Name:

A#:

(b)(6)

Derivative's Name and A#:

Interview Date: August 30, 2016

Asylum Officer: U. IKORO

AO's ID: ZNK 097

(b)(6)

INTERVIEW NOTES

Applicant's Name [redacted]

A#: [redacted] (b)(6)

Derivative's Name and A#:

Interview Date: August 30, 2016

Asylum Officer: U. IKORO

AO's ID: ZNK 097

(b)(6)

INTERVIEW NOTES

Applicant's Name: [redacted]

A#: [redacted] (b)(6)

Derivative's Name and A#:

Interview Date: August 30, 2016

Asylum Officer: U. IKORO

AO's ID: ZNK 097

(b)(6)

QUESTIONS FROM SAO ALI

(b)(6)

INTERVIEW NOTES

Applicant's Name [redacted]

A#: [redacted] (b)(6)

Derivative's Name and A#:

Interview Date: August 30, 2016

Asylum Officer: U. IKORO

AO's ID: ZNK 097

(b)(6)

INTERVIEW NOTES

Applicant's Name: [redacted]

A# [redacted] (b)(6)

Derivative's Name and A#:

Interview Date: August 30, 2016

Asylum Officer: U. IKORO

AO's ID: ZNK 097

(b)(6)

CHECKLIST

MANDATORY BAR QUESTIONNAIRE

There are a few more questions that I will be asking you today. Make sure you answer them truthfully.

INTERVIEW NOTES

Applicant's Name [redacted]
 A#: [redacted] (b)(6)
 Derivative's Name and A#:
 Interview Date: August 30, 2016
 Asylum Officer: U. IKORO
 AO's ID: ZNK 097

OFFICER:	APPLICANT:
Have you applied for an immigration status including refugee or asylum status in any other country at any time?	No
Have you ever been a citizen or national of any other country?	No
Did you ever travel to, travel through, or live in any other countries before you came to the US?	No
Did you travel through, travel to, or live in any other countries?	No
Other than what you told me today, have you ever visited any other countries for any other reason?	No.
Have you ever harmed anyone?	No
Have you ever helped someone to harm anyone for any reason?	No
Have you ever committed a crime anywhere in the world?	No
Have you ever been convicted of a crime in any country?	No
Have you ever been arrested or detained in any country?	No
Have you ever committed a crime that you have not been arrested for?	No
Have you ever served in a police force?	No
Have you ever served in the military or been a member of any other armed group? (If yes explore when, job, roles, location, training)	No (b)(6)
Have you ever worked for or been employed by any government?	[redacted]
Have you ever received military type training or been taught how to use guns or explosives?	No
Have you ever belonged or been associated with any groups or organizations?	No
Have you ever been a member or a representative of a group that advocated or used violence?	No
Terrorist activities may include using a weapon or explosive device, hijacking, kidnapping, assassination, or committing any act with the intent to endanger the safety of others or to cause substantial damage to property.	No
Have you ever done any of these things?	
Have you ever threatened, attempted, or planned to do any of these	No

INTERVIEW NOTES

Applicant's Name [redacted]

A#: [redacted] (b)(6)

Derivative's Name and A#:

Interview Date: August 30, 2016

Asylum Officer: U. IKORO

AO's ID: ZNK 097

things?	
Have you ever publically stated that you approved of terrorist activities?	No
Even if you didn't want to, have you ever helped a person who was involved in terrorist activities?	No
Even if you didn't want to, have you helped a group that advocated or used violence to achieve their goals, for example, by giving money or any type of support such as food, housing, or transportation?	No
Even if you didn't want to, have you ever tried to convince other people to join or to give things of value to a group that advocated or used violence?	No
Have you ever been falsely accused of being a member of a group that supports or uses violence?	No
Do you plan to engage in any activities that would be illegal in the U.S. or harmful to the US?	No
Have you ever given false information to the US government?	No

OTHER QUESTIONING

OFFICER:	APPLICANT:
Is there anything else you would like to say in support of your application today?	No
Have you understood all the questions asked today?	Yes

MONITOR

DISMISS MONITOR

- Monitor, do you have any final corrections or additions? No
- MONITOR TIME ENDED: 12:26 PM

CONCLUSION

- I am going to take a moment to review my notes.
- Reviewed changes to I-589
- Total Changes:

INTERVIEW NOTES

Applicant's Name

A# (b)(6)

Derivative's Name and A#:

Interview Date: August 30, 2016

Asylum Officer: U. IKORO

AO's ID: ZNK 097

- I reviewed the changes to I-589 with the applicant. The applicant signed the I-589, affirming that everything in the application, documents, and testimony is true and correct.

SIGN APPLICATION

OFFICER:	APPLICANT:
By signing, you affirm that everything in the application, all the corrections, and everything you told me is true and correct. Please sign to affirm the truth of your application.	

PICK UP (FOR OUT OF STATUS):

SIGN 2 PICK UP NOTICES

- You must return to the asylum office to pick up your decision on September 13, 2016, between 1-3pm with:
 - this appointment letter
 - your passport or other form of government ID
 - an interpreter (not required, but recommended)
 - Dependents (over 14) must come with you to pick up decision
 - A decision on your application will be made by this office. There are two possible decisions – either a grant or a referral. A referral is not considered a denial, but would be another chance for you to present your case, this time before an Immigration Judge.

OFFICER:	APPLICANT:
Do you understand?	Yes
That concludes the interview. Are there any other questions you have before you leave today?	No

INTERVIEW END TIME: 12:26 PM

DEPENDENTS

OATH

Let me explain a few important things about the oath. This means that I will ask you to promise to tell the truth during this interview and as you read on this form, there can be consequences. Once you take the oath, everything you say will be considered evidence, and will become part of your asylum claim.

OFFICER:	D	D	D
	1	2	3

INTERVIEW NOTES

Applicant's Name [redacted] (b)(6)
 A# [redacted]

Derivative's Name and A#:
 Interview Date: August 30, 2016
 Asylum Officer: U. IKORO
 AO's ID: ZNK 097

(b)(6)

Do you understand my explanation of the oath and the penalties for not testifying truthfully?	[redacted]
Do you swear or affirm that the testimony you are about to provide will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?	

CLAIMED RELATIONSHIP TO PRINCIPAL

OFFICER:	D 1	D 2	D 3
How are you related to the principal?	(b)(6)		
Do you have the original document to prove this relationship?			

MANDATORY BAR QUESTIONNAIRE

There are a few more questions that I will be asking you today. Make sure you answer them truthfully.

OFFICER:	D 1	D 2	D 3
Have you applied for an immigration status including refugee or asylum status in any other country at any time?	(b)(6)		
Have you ever been a citizen or national of any other country?			
Did you ever travel to, travel through, or live in any other countries before you came to the US?			
Have you ever harmed anyone?			
Have you ever helped someone to harm anyone for any reason?			
Have you ever committed a crime anywhere in the world?			
Have you ever been convicted of a crime in any country?			
Have you ever been arrested or detained in any country, aside from what we discussed today?			
Have you ever committed a crime that you have not been arrested for?			

INTERVIEW NOTES

Applicant's Name: [redacted]

A# [redacted] (b)(6)

Derivative's Name and A#:

Interview Date: August 30, 2016

Asylum Officer: U. IKORO

AO's ID: ZNK 097

Have you ever served in a police force?	(b)(6)
Have you ever served in the military or been a member of any other armed group? (If yes explore when, job, roles, location, training)	
Have you ever worked for or been employed by any government?	
Have you ever received military type training or been taught how to use guns or explosives?	
Have you ever belonged or been associated with any groups or organizations?	
Have you ever been a member or a representative of a group that advocated or used violence to achieve their goals?	
Terrorist activities that may include using a weapon or explosive device, hijacking, kidnapping, assassination, or committing any act with the intent to endanger the safety of others or to cause substantial damage to property.	
Have you ever done any of these things?	
Have you ever threatened, attempted, or planned to do any of these things?	
Have you ever publically stated that you approved of terrorist activities?	
Even if you didn't want to, have you ever helped a person who was involved in terrorist activities?	
Even if you didn't want to, have you helped a group that advocated or used violence to achieve their goals, for example, by giving money or any type of support such as food, housing, or transportation?	
Even if you didn't want to, have you ever tried to convince other people to join or to give things of value to a group that advocated or used violence to achieve their goals?	
Have you ever been falsely accused of being a member of a group that supports or uses violence?	
Do you plan to engage in any activities that would be illegal in the U.S. or harmful to the US?	
Have you ever given false information to the US government?	
Did anyone help you with your visa application to arrive in the U.S.?	

INTERVIEW NOTES

Applicant's Name [redacted]

A#: [redacted] (b)(6)

Derivative's Name and A#:

Interview Date: August 30, 2016

Asylum Officer: U. IKORO

AO's ID: ZNK 097

OTHER QUESTIONING

OFFICER:	D 1	D 2	D 3
Is there anything else you would like to say in support of your application today?	(b)(6)		
Have you understood all the questions asked today?			

End:12:26pm

(b)(6)

A#:

Applicant Name:

Country:

AO: Anna Gamza ZNK250

Date: 06/08/2016

Page 1 of 23

(b)(6)

DOB:		Status of Entry:	
Gender:	Male	Date of Entry:	1/12/2013
Nationality:		Status Expiration Date:	
Religion:		Filing Date:	8/12/2013
Attorney:	n/a	Filing Deadline:	1/12/2014
Interpreter:		Language of Interview:	French

Begin Time: ____ 10:20 am ____

Introduction

Good morning. My name is Anna Gamza, and I am the Asylum Officer who will be talking to you today about why you're applying for asylum in the United States.

(b)(6)

- Their presence has no bearing on your case; they are observing me, not you.
- They may also ask you some questions.

What is your native language?	
What language will you be speaking today?	
I see you have brought an interpreter. Do you and your interpreter understand each other?	yes (b)(6)
How do you know your interpreter?	

(b)(6)

A#

Applicant Name

Country:

AO: Anna Gamza ZNK250

Date: 06/08/2016

Page 2 of 23

(b)(6)	
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Do you have any ORIGINAL documents you would like to submit today?	no
---	----

[**VERIFY ID**]

Purpose

The purpose of today’s interview is for you to tell me why you are applying for asylum. I will be asking you some questions about your background and your life both before and after you came to the United States. I will use that information to help me determine whether you are eligible for asylum. The interview is also an opportunity for me to provide you some information about the asylum process.

Confidentiality

Everything we talk about today is confidential. This means I will not share anything you tell me with anyone in your country or in your government, including the mere fact that you applied for asylum.

During the interview, I will be taking notes on my computer. This should not make you nervous; it’s just to help me remember everything we talk about today so that I can make a fair decision regarding your application. These notes are also confidential. I will do my best to maintain eye contact with you while I am taking notes on my computer but if I am not able to do so please know I am still listening.

(b)(6)

Applicant Name:

A# [redacted]

Country:

[redacted]

AO: Anna Gamza ZNK250

Date: 06/08/2016

Page 3 of 23

Process

Today's interview will be divided into three parts:

1. First, we will review your application and make any necessary changes.
2. Second, we will talk about why you left your country and how you feel about returning.
3. Finally, I will ask you some important questions that I have to ask everyone applying for asylum.

At the end of the interview, you will have an opportunity to make any additional statements regarding your asylum application. So, if there is anything that we did not discuss during the interview that you think I should know in order to make a decision in your case you can tell me at that time.

You and I both have important roles today. In order for me to get the information I need to make a fair decision in your case, it is very important that you and I understand each other. To make sure that we do,

1. You must answer my questions truthfully and to the best of your knowledge.
 2. So, if you truly don't know the answer to a question, it better to say "I don't know" than to make something up.
 3. Similarly, if you don't understand a question or need clarification, please let me know.
- Do not ask your interpreter for clarification. His/her job is only to interpret word-for-word what each of us says.
 - Your interpreter has responsibilities for today:
 1. Your interpreter must translate my questions and your answers word-for-word to the best of their ability. They may not summarize or add anything.
 2. Your interpreter will use the first person pronoun – if you say "I", the interpreter will say "I," not "He/She said."
 3. You and your interpreter may not have side conversations, nor may your interpreter answer questions on your behalf. If you are confused, please ask me.
 4. If your answers are very long, try to break them down into short sentences, so your interpreter can remember everything you said.
 - I will also be calling a telephonic interpreter who will monitor the interview and make sure your interpreter is interpreting truthfully and accurately.

Interpreter, do you understand everything I just explained to the applicant about your role?	yes
--	-----

(b)(6)

Applicant Name

A#

Country:

AO: Anna Gamza ZNK250

Date: 06/08/2016

Page 4 of 23

<i>To Applicant:</i> Do you have any questions about what we have discussed so far?	no
---	----

Oath

I am going to place you under oath today. This means that I am going to ask you to promise to tell the truth. Once you are placed under oath, I will expect that everything you tell me will be the truth.

[If interpreter present:]

I will now place both of you under oath. Please stand and raise your right hand: Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?	yes
Interpreter, do you promise to interpret accurately from English to [redacted] and from [redacted] to English? (b)(6)	yes

Did your interpreter read this oath form to you already?	yes
Do you have any questions about the form?	no
By signing this form, do you understand that if you knowingly make a fraudulent application for asylum, you may be forever prohibited from receiving any immigration benefits in the United States? ***[SIGN OATH FORM]***	yes

Review pages 1-4 of I-589

I-589 Review

Now we are going to begin going over your application. Do you have any questions before we start?	no
Did anyone help you prepare your application?	Yes
Who?	(b)(6)
Where did you meet this individual?	
Are you aware of everything that is included in your application?	yes
Your I-589, did anyone read it back to you in a language you understand?	yes
Who wrote this statement?	(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Applicant Name:

Country:

AO: Anna Gamza ZNK250

Date: 06/08/2016

Page 5 of 23

Your statement, did anyone read it back to you in a language you understand?	yes
Is everything in your application true and correct to the best of your knowledge?	yes
Are there any changes or additions you'd like to make right now?	no

Monitor

I am now going to call an interpreter on the telephone who will monitor the interview and make sure you interpreter is interpreting truthfully and accurately. Like me, this monitor is obligated to keep confidential everything he or she hears today. *****CALL MONITOR*****

Monitor Begin Time: _____ 11:04 am _____

Hello Monitor. My name is Officer Gamza.

Go through monitor's oath

Please introduce yourself to the applicant and his/her interpreter.

Can you all hear and understand each other?	yes
---	-----

Is this your first time in the U.S.?	yes
[If entered on NIV]:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where did you enter the U.S.? When? Did you obtain your passport legally? How did you get your U.S. visa? Did you fill out the visa application yourself? Was everything you told the officer during your visa interview true and correct? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where did you enter the U.S.? 	JFK, NY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When? 	01/2013

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Applicant Name: [redacted] A#: [redacted]

Country: [redacted]

AO: Anna Gamza ZNK250

Date: 06/08/2016

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(b)(6)

Interview

Why are you applying for asylum?	
----------------------------------	--

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

A#

Applicant Name:

Country:

AO: Anna Gamza ZNK250

Date: 06/08/2016

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(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Applicant Name: [redacted] A#: [redacted]

Country: [redacted]

AO: Anna Gamza ZNK250

Date: 06/08/2016

Page 8 of 23

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Applicant Name: [redacted] A# [redacted]

Country: [redacted]

AO: Anna Gamza ZNK250

Date: 06/08/2016

Page 9 of 23

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Applicant Name: [redacted] A# [redacted]

Country: [redacted]

AO: Anna Gamza ZNK250

Date: 06/08/2016

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(b)(6)

(b)(6)

A#

Applicant Name:

Country:

AO: Anna Gamza ZNK250

Date: 06/08/2016

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(b)(6)

(b)(6)

A#:

Applicant Name:

Country:

AO: Anna Gamza ZNK250

Date: 06/08/2016

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(b)(6)

(b)(6)

A#:

Applicant Name:

Country:

AO: Anna Gamza ZNK250

Date: 06/08/2016

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(b)(6)

(b)(6)

A#:

Applicant Name:

Country:

AO: Anna Gamza ZNK250

Date: 06/08/2016

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(b)(6)

(b)(6)

A#:

Applicant Name:

Country:

AO: Anna Gamza ZNK250

Date: 06/08/2016

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(b)(6)

WFF

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

A#:

Applicant Name:

Country:

AO: Anna Gamza ZNK250

Date: 06/08/2016

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(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Applicant Name [redacted] A# [redacted]

Country: [redacted]

AO: Anna Gamza ZNK250

Date: 06/08/2016

Page 17 of 23

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

A#

Applicant Name:

Country

AO: Anna Gamza ZNK250

Date: 06/08/2016

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(b)(6)

(b)(6)

A#:

Applicant Name:

Country:

AO: Anna Gamza ZNK250

Date: 06/08/2016

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(b)(6)

Internal Relo

Is there anywhere in your country where you would be safe?

Why?

LAUREN:

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

A#:

Applicant Name

Country:

AO: Anna Gamza ZNK250

Date: 06/08/2016

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(b)(6)

[Redacted area]

Mandatory Bars

Now I have to ask you some questions that I have to ask every person who applies for asylum, even if you think they may not apply to you.

Have you ever travelled to any countries other than the ones you mentioned today?	(b)(6)
Has any country in the world, other than your native country, ever offered you citizenship, asylum or refugee status?	
Have you ever had the right to work or stay permanently in any other country?	
Have you ever harmed anyone?	
Have you ever helped anyone else harm someone?	
have you ever been convicted of a crime in a court anywhere in the word?	
have you ever been arrested or detained in any country?	
have you ever been accused of committing a crime anywhere in the world?	
have you ever committed a crime, anywhere in the world, even if you were not arrested or convicted for it?	
For something else?	
Have you ever held an official position within a government?	
Have you ever served in a military, police or security forces?	
Have you ever received training in fighting or use of a weapon	
Have you ever committed or threatened or attempted to commit a violent act that could be considered an act of terrorism, such as using a weapon or explosive device?	

(b)(6)

Applicant Name

A#

Country:

AO: Anna Gamza ZNK250

Date: 06/08/2016

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[Redacted]

(b)(6)

Do you have any questions for me, or anything else you would like to say?	No
<p>Lauren-</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>	(b)(6)
Anything else you would like to discuss?	no

SIGN APPLICATION

As you remember, we made some changes to your application earlier in the interview. I am going to go over those changes with you now.

Do you have any questions about the changes?	No
Do you agree with these changes?	Yes
Are there any additional changes you'd like to make to your application?	no

I would now like you to sign your application. By signing, that means you agree with everything in the application, including the corrections we made.

*****SIGN I-589*****

(b)(6)

Applicant Name: [redacted] A#: [redacted]

Country: [redacted]

AO: Anna Gamza ZNK250

Date: 06/08/2016

Page 22 of 23

[If there are dependents, bring in now and take notes on new Dependent Script and Notes Template]

****DISMISS MONITOR****

Monitor, before I let you go, do you have any comments about the accuracy of the interpretation today?	No, nothing
--	-------------

Monitor End Time: _____ 1:07 pm _____

CONCLUSION

I would now like to take a moment to explain how and when you will receive a decision in your case. No decision will be made today. I will **carefully consider everything in your application and everything we discussed today** when making a decision.

There are two possible outcomes for your application. Either your case will be granted, in which case you will have the right to remain in the United States [and bring your spouse/children here]. You will also have the right to apply for your green card one year after being granted asylum.

If your case is not granted, [your case will be referred to immigration court. This does not mean that your case is being denied. It means you will have a second chance to request asylum, this time before an immigration judge] [you will receive a notice indicating that this office intends to deny your case. You will have an opportunity to respond to that notice within a certain amount of time before a final decision is made].

[If pick-up:]

- The decision on your case will be ready for pick-up in two weeks. You must return to this office on [DATE] at [TIME] to pick up your decision. When you come on that day, bring this notice and a form of identification with you. The decision will be in English so you may bring an interpreter with you. *[If there are dependents:]* Your spouse and children over 14 must come with you. They must also bring ID.
- Do you have any questions about this form?

*****[SIGN PICK-UP NOTICE]*****

[If mail-out:]

- Your decision will be mailed to you.
- Do you have any questions about this form?

*****[SIGN MAIL-OUT NOTICE]*****

(b)(6)

A#:

Applicant Name:

Country:

AO: Anna Gamza ZNK250

Date: 06/08/2016

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Any final questions? no

End Time: ___ 1:12 pm ___

A# [redacted]
 Name [redacted]
 AO: ZNK243/HAGEN
 Date: 04/13/2016

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Applicant:	[redacted]	A-Number:	[redacted]
Date:	April 13, 2016		
Confidentiality Discussed:	X	Oath Administered & oath form signed:	X
Interview Process Discussed:	X (b)(6)	Additional Documents Requested:	None
Nationality:	[redacted]	Native Language:	[redacted]
Gender:	Male	Date of Birth:	09/12/1983
Date of Entry:	June 22, 2015, NYC	Age:	32
Status of Entry:	[redacted]	Status Expiration Date:	12/21/2015
Filing Date:	09/16/2015	Filing Deadline:	06/22/2016
Attorney:	[redacted] (b)(6)	G-28 or Waiver:	G-28
Interpreter Name:	n/a	Language of Interview:	English

INTERVIEW START TIME: 9:27 AM

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

CONFIDENTIALITY

INTERVIEW OVERVIEW

APPLICANT OATH

I-589 REVIEW

/

OFFICER:	APPLICANT:
Did anyone help you prepare your application/statement?	This attorney.
Did you review the application to make sure it was correct?	Yes I did.
Your attorney mentioned a couple changes that needed to be made, was there anything big about the application that you wanted to change?	No- just those things.

INTERVIEW

OFFICER:	APPLICANT:
Why are you afraid to go back to your country?	[redacted]

(b)(6)

A#: [redacted] (b)(6)

Name: [redacted]

AO: ZNK243/HAGEN

Date: 04/13/2016

(b)(6)

A# [redacted] (b)(6)
Name: [redacted]
AO: ZNK243/HAGEN
Date: 04/13/2016

(b)(6)

A#: [redacted] (b)(6)

Name: [redacted]

AO: ZNK243/HAGEN

Date: 04/13/2016

(b)(6)

A#: [redacted] (b)(6)

Name: [redacted]

AO: ZNK243/HAGEN

Date: 04/13/2016

(b)(6)

A#: [redacted] (b)(6)
Name: [redacted]
AO: ZNK243/HAGEN
Date: 04/13/2016

(b)(6)

A#: [redacted] (b)(6)
Name: [redacted]
AO: ZNK243/HAGEN
Date: 04/13/2016

(b)(6)

A#: [redacted] (b)(6)
Name [redacted]
AO: ZNK243/HAGEN
Date: 04/13/2016

(b)(6)

MANDATORY BAR QUESTIONNAIRE

OFFICER:	APPLICANT:
(b)(6)	

A#: [redacted] (b)(6)
Name: [redacted]
AO: ZNK243/HAGEN
Date: 04/13/2016

(b)(6)

ATTORNEY:

APPLICANT:

(b)(6)

A#: [redacted] (b)(6)

Name: [redacted]

AO: ZNK243/HAGEN

Date: 04/13/2016

(b)(6)

CONCLUSION

INTERVIEW END TIME: 10:47 AM

Officer Name: TAKOUEZIM/ZNK264

Applicant Name: [redacted]

A # [redacted]

Date: 08/30/ 2016

CALL APPLICANT

Introduction

Good [morning/afternoon]. My name is Officer Takouezim], and I am the Asylum Officer who will be talking to you today about why you're applying for asylum in the United States.

[Introduce observer if present:]

- Their presence has no bearing on your case; they are observing me, not you.
- They may also ask you some questions.

[Note all parties present at interview]

What is your native language?	Mandarin
What language will you be speaking today?	Mandarin
<i>[If speaking English but not native language:]</i> You have the right to have an interpreter. Are you comfortable proceeding in English?	Interpreter present
I see you have brought an interpreter. Do you and your interpreter understand each other?	Yes
How do you know your interpreter?	Through the law officer
<i>[If no attorney:]</i> You have the right to have an attorney present with you at the interview. Are you comfortable proceeding without one?	Yes, signed the waiver of rep
<i>[If G-28 in file but attorney not present:]</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I see that your attorney is not here with you today. Is that attorney still representing you? • You have the right to have your attorney present at the interview. Would you like to proceed with the interview without your attorney? ***[SIGN WAIVER]***	Signed the waiver
Do you have any ORIGINAL documents you would like to submit today?	no

*****[VERIFY ID]*****

Purpose

The purpose of today's interview is for you to tell me why you are applying for asylum. I will be asking you some questions about your background and your life both before and after you came to the United States. I will use that information to help me determine whether you are eligible

for asylum. The interview is also an opportunity for me to provide you some information about the asylum process.

Confidentiality

Everything we talk about today is confidential. This means I will not share anything you tell me with anyone in your country or in your government, including the mere fact that you applied for asylum.

During the interview, I will be taking notes on my computer. This should not make you nervous; it's just to help me remember everything we talk about today so that I can make a fair decision regarding your application. These notes are also confidential. I will do my best to maintain eye contact with you while I am taking notes on my computer but if I am not able to do so please know I am still listening.

Process

Today's interview will be divided into three parts:

1. First, we will review your application and make any necessary changes.
2. Second, we will talk about why you left your country and how you feel about returning.
3. Finally, I will ask you some important questions that I have to ask everyone applying for asylum.

At the end of the interview, you will have an opportunity to make any additional statements regarding your asylum application. So, if there is anything that we did not discuss during the interview that you think I should know in order to make a decision in your case you can tell me at that time.

You and I both have important roles today. In order for me to get the information I need to make a fair decision in your case, it is very important that you and I understand each other. To make sure that we do,

1. You must answer my questions truthfully and to the best of your knowledge.
2. So, if you truly don't know the answer to a question, it better to say "I don't know" than to make something up.
3. Similarly, if you don't understand a question or need clarification, please let me know.

[If an interpreter is present:]

- Do not ask your interpreter for clarification. His/her job is only to interpret word-for-word what each of us says.
- Your interpreter has responsibilities for today:

1. Your interpreter must translate my questions and your answers word-for-word to the best of their ability. They may not summarize or add anything.
2. Your interpreter will use the first person pronoun – if you say “I”, the interpreter will say “I,” not “He/She said.”
3. You and your interpreter may not have side conversations, nor may your interpreter answer questions on your behalf. If you are confused, please ask me.
4. If your answers are very long, try to break them down into short sentences, so your interpreter can remember everything you said.

- I will also be calling a telephonic interpreter who will monitor the interview and make sure your interpreter is interpreting truthfully and accurately.

Interpreter, do you understand everything I just explained to the applicant about your role?	Yes
<i>To Applicant:</i> Do you have any questions about what we have discussed so far?	No

Oath

I am going to place you under oath today. This means that I am going to ask you to promise to tell the truth. Once you are placed under oath, I will expect that everything you tell me will be the truth.

[If interpreter present:]

I will now place both of you under oath. Please stand and raise your right hand: Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?	Yes
Interpreter, do you promise to interpret accurately from English to <input type="text"/> and from <input type="text"/> to English?	yes

(b)(6)

Did your interpreter read this oath form to you already?	yes
Do you have any questions about the form?	No
By signing this form, do you understand that if you knowingly make a fraudulent application for asylum, you may be forever prohibited from receiving any immigration benefits in the United States? ***[SIGN OATH FORM]***	signed

I-589 Review

Now we are going to begin going over your application. Do you have any questions before we start?	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------

(b)(6)

Officer Name: TAKOUEZIM/ZNK264

Applicant Name: [redacted]

A # [redacted]

Date: 08/30/ 2016

(b)(6)

Did anyone help you prepare your application?	Yes
Who?	My lawyer
Are you aware of everything that is included in your application?	Yes
<i>[If not fluent in English:]</i> Your I-589, did anyone read it back to you in a language you understand?	Yes
<i>[If there is a written statement in a language other than English:]</i> Who wrote this statement?	Myself and the attorney
<i>If not fluent in English but submitted an English statement:]</i> Your statement, did anyone read it back to you in a language you understand?	yes

MONITOR

COMPLETE MONITOR OATH FORM

- MONITOR ID:
- MONITOR SERVICE USED: Language Line
- MONITOR TIME STARTED: AM / PM

OFFICER:	MONITOR:
You are monitoring the interpretation of an affirmative asylum interview. Do you affirm that you will truthfully and fully report any mistranslations observed during the course of this asylum interview?	Yes
Do you affirm that you will immediately notify me if you become aware of your inability to monitor this interview in a neutral and impartial manner?	Yes
Do you affirm that you understand that all matters discussed in this interview are confidential and that you will not share what you hear today with any person?	Yes

Preliminary Questions

(b)(6)

Officer Name: TAKOUEZIM/ZNK264

Applicant Name: [REDACTED]

A # [REDACTED]

Date: 08/30/2016

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Officer Name: TAKOUEZIM/ZNK264

Applicant Name:

A #

Date: 08/30/ 2016

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Officer Name: TAKOUEZIM/ZNK264

Applicant Name:

A #:

Date: 08/30/ 2016

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Officer Name: TAKOUEZIM/ZNK264

Applicant Name:

A #

Date: 08/30/ 2016

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Officer Name: TAKOUEZIM/ZNK264

Applicant Name:

A #

Date: 08/30/ 2016

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

BARS:

1. Has any government in the world other than your native country ever offered you citizenship, asylum status, refugee status, the legal right to work, or any type of legal status that would allow you to permanently remain in that country?	No
2. Have you ever in any way aided, assisted or otherwise participated in harming other persons, groups, religions, or governments?	No
3. Other than the events you described in your testimony today, have you ever been convicted of any crime in any court of law? Other than the events you described in your testimony today, have you ever been arrested or detained in any country? (What were the dates and locations of detention? What were the charges?)	No
4. Other than the events you described in your testimony today, have you ever committed any crime either inside or outside the United States?	No
5. Have you ever held an official position within a government; this includes positions in the military, police, and/or internal security forces?	no
6. Have you ever participated in terrorist activity, represented a terrorist organization, or aided, assisted or otherwise participated in the activities of a terrorist organization? Have you ever provided any form of support for a terrorist or terrorist organization?	No

MONITOR**DISMISS MONITOR**

- Monitor, do you have any final corrections or additions? Corrected the amount paid to the broker.
- MONITOR TIME ENDED: AM/ PM

CONCLUSION

- I am going to take a moment to review my notes.
- Reviewed changes to I-589
- Total Changes:
- I reviewed the changes to I-589 with the applicant. The applicant signed the I-589, affirming that everything in the application, documents, and testimony is true and correct.

Officer Name: TAKOUEZIM/ZNK264

Applicant Name: [REDACTED]

A # [REDACTED]

Date: 08/30/ 2016

(b)(6)

SIGN APPLICATION

OFFICER:	APPLICANT:
By signing, you affirm that everything in the application, all the corrections, and everything you told me is true and correct. Please sign to affirm the truth of your application.	

PICK UP (FOR OUT OF STATUS):

SIGN 2 PICK UP NOTICES

- You must return to the asylum office to pick up your decision on DATE at TIME with:
 - this appointment letter
 - your passport or other form of government ID
 - an interpreter (not required, but recommended)
 - Dependents (over 14) must come with you to pick up decision
 - OUT OF STATUS: A decision on your application will be made by this office. There are two possible decisions – either a grant or a referral. A referral is not considered a denial, but would be another chance for you to present your case, this time before an Immigration Judge.

MAIL OUT (FOR IN STATUS)

SIGN 2 COPIES OF MAIL OUT NOTICE

- When you receive your decision, you will also receive an explanation of the process you will need to follow. You can also consult with your attorney if you have any questions regarding the decision.
- Two possible outcomes grant or NOID – applicant given opportunity to provide rebuttal and/or present new evidence. Has 16 days to respond.

OFFICER:	APPLICANT:
Do you understand?	
That concludes the interview. Are there any other questions you have before you leave today?	

GET INTERPRETER NOTES

GET DOCUMENTS - IF ANY

REQUEST ADDITIONAL DOCS if necessary (i.e. extension to provide)

INTERVIEW END TIME: AM/ PM

Officer Name: TAKOUEZIM/ZNK264

Applicant Name: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

A # [REDACTED]

Date: 08/30/ 2016

Interview end time	9:41
--------------------	------

Shirk, Georgette L

From: Raufer, Susan
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2016 9:05 AM
To: Swen, Oluremi A (Remi)
Subject: FW: Your credibility training
Attachments: China_refer cred.doc; China_refer cred notes.docx; COTE D'IVOIRE POL OP CRED ASSESSMENT TO REFER.docx; COTE D'IVOIRE notes.docx

From: Vitiello, Lauren M
Sent: Monday, October 03, 2016 11:38 AM
To: Raufer, Susan
Subject: Your credibility training

I did nothing more than scrub all PII from the assessments and notes for these two cases that are credibility referrals. I did not vet much for utility, but from what I did vet it seems there is a lot to work with.

Hope this helps.

Lauren Vitiello

Training Officer | DHS | USCIS | Newark Asylum Office

1200 Wall St. West, Lyndhurst, NJ 07071 | ☎

[REDACTED] fax 201.531.1877 | ✉ [REDACTED]

“Kindness Matters”

(b)(6)

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ASSESSMENT TO REFER

ALIEN NUMBER: XXX XXX XXX DATE: June 28, 2016

NAME: (b)(6) ASYLUM OFFICER:

COUNTRY: [] REVIEWING SAO:

LOCATION: ZNK

I. BIOGRAPHIC/ENTRY INFORMATION AND BARS RELATED TO FILING

The applicant indicated that she is a (b)(6) year-old male native and citizen of (b)(6) who entered the United States at Newark International Airport, New Jersey on August 17, 2013, and was []
[]

II. BASIS OF CLAIM

The applicant fears that he will be harmed by the []
[]
[] (b)(6)

III. ANALYSIS OF PROHIBITIONS AGAINST FILING FOR ASYLUM

The applicant last entered the US on August 17, 2013 and filed his asylum application on March 25, 2014. The applicant established by clear and convincing evidence that the application was filed within one year after the last date of arrival to the United States.

IV. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The applicant testified to the following:

(b)(6)

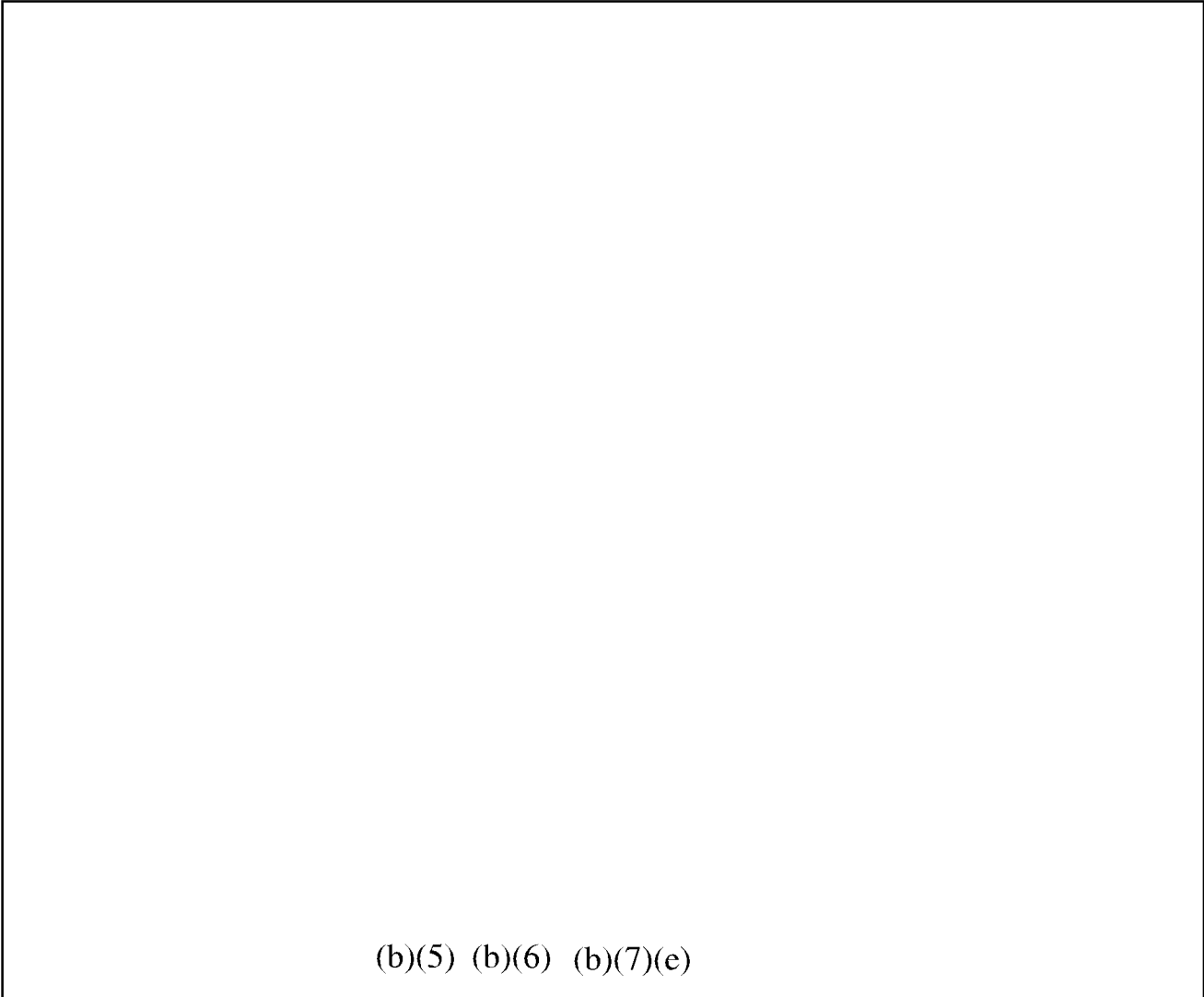


V. CREDIBILITY

ESTABLISHING IDENTITY

(b)(5) (b)(6)

The applicant's testimony was found for the following reason:



(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)



VI. DECISION



(b)(5) (b)(6)

Officer Name: Applicant Name:
A #: XXX XXX XXX
Date: 06/28/ 2016
CALL APPLICANT

Introduction

Good morning. My name is ...

... *[Introductory and much of the housekeeping details which were originally part of the notes were intentionally deleted.]*

I-589 Review

Now we are going to begin going over your application. Do you have any questions before we start?	no
Did anyone help you prepare your application?	yes
Who?	My attorney
Are you aware of everything that is included in your application?	
<i>[If not fluent in English:]</i> Your I-589, did anyone read it back to you in a language you understand?	yes
<i>[If there is a written statement in a language other than English:]</i> Who wrote this statement?	myself
<i>[If not fluent in English but submitted an English statement:]</i> Your statement, did anyone read it back to you in a language you understand?	No, ,my lawyer translated it for me

How did you come to the US?	
-----------------------------	--

(b)(6)

Officer Name: Applicant Name:

A #: XXX XXX XXX

Date: 06/28/2016

(b)(6)

Officer Name: Applicant Name:

A #: XXX XXX XXX

Date: 06/28/ 2016

(b)(6)

Officer Name: Applicant Name:

A #: XXX XXX XXX

Date: 06/28/2016

(b)(6)

Officer Name: Applicant Name:

A #: XXX XXX XXX

Date: 06/28/ 2016

(b)(6)

Officer Name: Applicant Name:

A #: XXX XXX XXX

Date: 06/28/2016

(b)(6)

Officer Name: Applicant Name:

A #: XXX XXX XXX

Date: 06/28/ 2016

(b)(6)

BARS:

1. Has any government in the world other than your native country ever offered you citizenship, asylum status, refugee status, the legal right to work, or any type of legal status that would allow you to permanently remain in that country?	No
2. Have you ever in any way aided, assisted or otherwise participated in harming other persons, groups, religions, or governments?	No
3. Other than the events you described in your testimony today, have you ever been convicted of any crime in any court of law? Other than the events you described in your testimony today, have you ever been arrested or detained in any country? (What were the dates and locations of detention? What were the charges?)	No
4. Other than the events you described in your testimony today, have you ever committed any crime either inside or outside the United States?	No
5. Have you ever held an official position within a government; this includes positions in the military, police, and/or internal security forces? Department of Education.	no
6. Have you ever participated in terrorist activity, represented a terrorist organization, or aided, assisted or otherwise participated in the activities of a terrorist organization? Have you ever provided any form of support for a terrorist or terrorist organization?	No

Officer Name: Applicant Name:

A #: XXX XXX XXX

Date: 06/28/ 2016

■

OFFICER:	APPLICANT:
Do you understand?	Yes
That concludes the interview. Are there any other questions you have before you leave today?	no

ASSESSMENT TO REFER

ALIEN NUMBER: XXX XXX XXX

ASSESSMENT DATE: August 19, 2016

NAME:

ASYLUM OFFICER:

COUNTRY: [redacted] (b)(6)

REVIEWING SAO:

LOCATION: ZNK

I. BIOGRAPHIC/ENTRY INFORMATION

(b)(6)

The applicant indicated that he is a [redacted]-old male native and citizen of [redacted] who last entered the United States at New York, New York on January February 18, 2013 and was admitted on a B-2 with authorization to remain till October 10, 2013. Applicant is not in lawful status.

II. BASIS OF CLAIM

The applicant fears that he will be harmed by the [redacted] (b)(6)

[redacted]
[redacted]

III. ANALYSIS OF PROHIBITIONS AGAINST FILING FOR ASYLUM

Government records indicate that the applicant last entered the United States on April 24, 2013 and he filed his I-589 on October 16, 2013. He has thus established by clear and convincing evidence that he is in compliance with the one-year filing deadline.

IV. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

Applicant testified as follows: He was born in [redacted]

[redacted] (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

V. CREDIBILITY

The applicant's testimony about

(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

VI. FOCUSED ANALYSIS

(b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(e)

VII. DECISION

(b)(5) (b)(6)

CALL APPLICANT

Introduction

Good morning. My name is ...

... [Introductory and much of the housekeeping details which were originally part of these notes were intentionally deleted.]

I-589 Review

(b)(6)

Preliminary Questions

When did you come to the US	In April 24, 2013
Why did you come	I came here for to try out on a soccer team

(b)(6)

Name:
Applicant Name:
A #: XXX XXX XXX
Date: 08/18/2016

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

BARS:

1. Has any government in the world other than your native country ever offered you citizenship, asylum status, refugee status, the legal right to work, or any type of legal status that would allow you to permanently remain in that country?	No
2. Have you ever in any way aided, assisted or otherwise participated in harming other persons, groups, religions, or governments?	No
3. Other than the events you described in your testimony today, have you ever been convicted of any crime in any court of law? Other than the events you described in your testimony today, have you ever been arrested or detained in any country? (What were the dates and locations of detention? What were the charges?)	No
4. Other than the events you described in your testimony today, have you ever committed any crime either inside or outside the United States?	No
5. Have you ever held an official position within a government; this includes positions in the military, police, and/or internal security forces?	NO
6. Have you ever participated in terrorist activity, represented a terrorist organization, or aided, assisted or otherwise participated in the activities of a terrorist organization? Have you ever provided any form of support for a terrorist or terrorist organization?	No

OFFICER:	APPLICANT:
Do you understand?	yes
That concludes the interview. Are there any other questions you have before you leave today?	yes

Name:
Applicant Name:
A #: XXX XXX XXX
Date: 08/18/2016

Shirk, Georgette L

From: Shaw, Katerina
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2019 10:20 AM
To: Kumar, Vikram
Subject: RE: New FAQ on Attending Demonstrations & research paper on Movement for Solidarity and Democracy (Burundi) - TRIG



From: Kumar, Vikram [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2019 11:14 AM
To: Shaw, Katerina [redacted]
Cc: Fouda, Lauren T [redacted]
Subject: FW: New FAQ on Attending Demonstrations & research paper on Movement for Solidarity and Democracy (Burundi) - TRIG

Nice work Katerina. ☺

From: Kumar, Vikram
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2019 11:13 AM (b)(6)
To: #ZNK Asylum Officers [redacted]
Subject: FW: New FAQ on Attending Demonstrations & research paper on Movement for Solidarity and Democracy (Burundi) - TRIG

Hi all,

See below for an FAQ regarding the TRIG implications of attending protests.

[redacted] (b)(7)(e)

Vikram Kumar
Senior Asylum Officer
U.S. Department of Homeland Security- Newark Asylum Office

From: Mathew, Ajai [redacted] (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2019 11:09 AM
To: Knowlton, Nicholas D [redacted]; Berman-vaporis, Rachel P [redacted]
[redacted]; Sullivan, Laura C [redacted]; Cleary, Heather M [redacted]
[redacted]; McMillan, Jill [redacted]; Clark, Dusty L [redacted]
[redacted]; McEvoy, Erin B [redacted]; Beck, LaToya S [redacted]
[redacted]; Trinh, Kimberly B [redacted]; Lynn, Mallory L [redacted]
[redacted]; Kim, Alejandra [redacted]; Dominguez, Maria R [redacted]
[redacted]; Talamantes, Eudelia A [redacted]; Coto, Yolanda R [redacted]
[redacted]; Baj, Ewa [redacted]; Dragan, Mariusz [redacted]
Fouda, Lauren T [redacted]; Kumar, Vikram [redacted]; Lewis, Victoria E [redacted]
[redacted]; Swen, Oluremi A (Remi) [redacted]; Sundborg, Rachael S [redacted]

(b)(6)

[redacted]; Krause, Paige M [redacted]; Vasquez, Arnoldo A
Romano Ferreira, Nicole I [redacted]; Damron,
Andrew T [redacted]; Totter, Stephen [redacted]; Satia, Kimberly I
[redacted]; Lehman, Danielle E [redacted]
Cc: Whalen, Ellen A [redacted]; Metzger, Evelyn S [redacted]; Picciotto,
Giacomo A [redacted]; Kirkland, Brooke A [redacted]
Subject: New FAQ on Attending Demonstrations & research paper on Movement for Solidarity and Democracy (Burundi)

Hi TRIG POCs,

Just sending this email to notify you of a new FAQ on Attending Demonstrations, which posted to the TRIG ECN yesterday and discusses whether there are any TRIG implications relating to attending demonstration, shouting slogans at a demonstration, attending demonstrations organized by Tier III groups, attending demonstrations that turn violent, and providing support to demonstrators at a violent demonstration.

[RAIO TRIG FAQ on Attending Demonstrations](#)

[redacted] (b)(7)(e)

[Movement for Solidarity and Democracy](#)

Thank you,
Ajai