



ADOPT A PRISONER PROFILE: AAFIA SIDDIQUI PREPARED: Dec 2009

AGE	37
NATIONALITY	Pakistani
COUNTRY HELD	United States
SENTENCE	Pending trial
PRISON	Brooklyn MDC

Personal Biography*

Aafia Siddiqui is a 37 year old Pakistani national who did her graduate and post-graduate work in the United States, graduating from MIT and Brandeis University, where she received her PhD. Those who knew her in Boston have had nothing but glowing things to say about her. Quiet, soft-spoken, focused; a devoted mother, excellent student, and committed Muslimah who was known for her charitable work in the Boston community, is how she is invariably described.

She was married to a Pakistani doctor, but they were divorced by the time of her abduction. The two youngest children from this marriage are still missing to this day. The oldest, a now 12 year old son, was returned to his family just this past summer and now resides with Aafia's sister, Fauzia.

What brought this young mother to the attention of U.S. authorities remains a mystery. Former U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft, in a press conference years ago, described her as an "al-Qaeda facilitator." And yet, now in custody awaiting trial, Aafia Siddiqui does not face even one terrorism related charge!

Brief Details about Her Case

Dr. Aafia has been indicted in NY and charged with: (1) attempting to kill US nationals outside the US; (2) attempting to kill US officers and employees; (3) armed assault of US officers and employees; (4) using and carrying a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence; and (5) three counts of assault of US officers and employees. Dr. Siddiqui and her three children (two of whom are American born) disappeared in March 2003 following their abduction from a taxicab in Karachi Pakistan. No one would know of their whereabouts for the next five years. As time passed, however, and tales began to spread about a mysterious woman being held at Bagram (Afghanistan), identified only as Prisoner 650, pressure began to build toward identifying who that mysterious woman was.

Investigative journalist and human rights activist Yvonne Ridley – who produced an excellent documentary on the subject ("In Search of Prisoner 650") – dubbed her "The Grey Lady of Bagram." Shortly after Ridley travelled to Pakistan to build mass support for an investigation into who the grey lady really was, a dishevelled and degraded Aafia Siddiqui reappeared on the streets of Ghazni, Afghanistan in July 2008, only to be drawn back into a deadly web of intrigue.

The FBI's Seeking Information Alert states; "although the FBI has no information indicating this individual is connected to specific terrorist activities, the FBI would like to locate and question this individual. Dr. Aafia was shot and survived surgery in the infamous prison in Bagram, Afghanistan. The affidavit filed in the U.S. district court is NOT from an eye witness, but from a third party account of the events in Ghazni. No one who was physically present at the incident has filed any sworn statement as to what actually happened in Ghazni. Dr. Aafia categorically denies ever handling a rifle or pointing one at anyone. To this day, Dr. Aafia has not been charged with terrorism.

Why Should I Adopt Aafia?

Aafia is your muslim sister who has been falsely accused of allegations. She did not commit any crime. She desperately needs letters from the Ummah to let her know that we are there supporting her in the difficulties she faces. She would really appreciate some mail reassuring her of this. She's been robbed of her freedom and her children have been taken away from her. Dr. Aafia is currently being held in the Brooklyn Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, New York. She is being held in 24-hour lockdown in a small cell with no windows and has no access to fresh air.

A Campaigners guide to writing letters and sending goods to the Prisoners:

http://globalvoiceforjustice.uma.hm/?page_id=124

She is permitted one hour of recreation a day outside of her cell, in a gymnasium, but has refused it thus far because of her deteriorating physical condition. She is only allotted one call to her lawyers every two weeks, and is limited to one family call every four weeks. As of September 22, 2008 her family has yet to receive any letters from her.

It has been reported and confirmed that Dr. Aafia's health is in very critical condition. While in US captivity she has suffered a near-fatal gunshot wound, had part of her intestines, a kidney, and some of her teeth removed. Dr. Aafia's nose was also broken and improperly reset back into place and she is now suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. She is physically unable to stand on her own accord and has a wound that extends from her collar bone to her navel. She has still not received proper medical treatment and has also not been offered proper psychiatric treatment. Dr. Aafia was escorted into court in a wheelchair on August 11, 2008 still bleeding from a gunshot wound that the US government reports she received in early July of 2008. Her lawyer Elizabeth Fink stated in court on that day, "She has been here, judge, for one week and she has not seen a doctor, even though they (U.S. authorities) know she has been shot."

The location of two of her children is still unknown and this is why many believe she is hesitant to expose all of the injustices she has endured. She has been suffering from auditory peripheral hallucinations of them since her detainment.

Please DO NOT DISCUSS HER LEGAL CASE OR SIMILAR ISSUES. Just notes of moral support. Also, note that past experience with the MDC has been that even though she is entitled to get letters, they tend to not deliver long personal letters. So, please send post cards or greeting cards. Post cards do not require a return address.

MAILING ADDRESS

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* Disclaimer: This biography is written through availability of primary, secondary and tertiary sources and though efforts have been made to ensure its accuracy, this does not mean that it is free from error. As such, this item should not be referred to in newspaper reports, publications or court documents.

** Mailing Address correct at time of publication however is subject to change. Please contact Global Voice for Justice Campaign team to ensure you have the correct address.