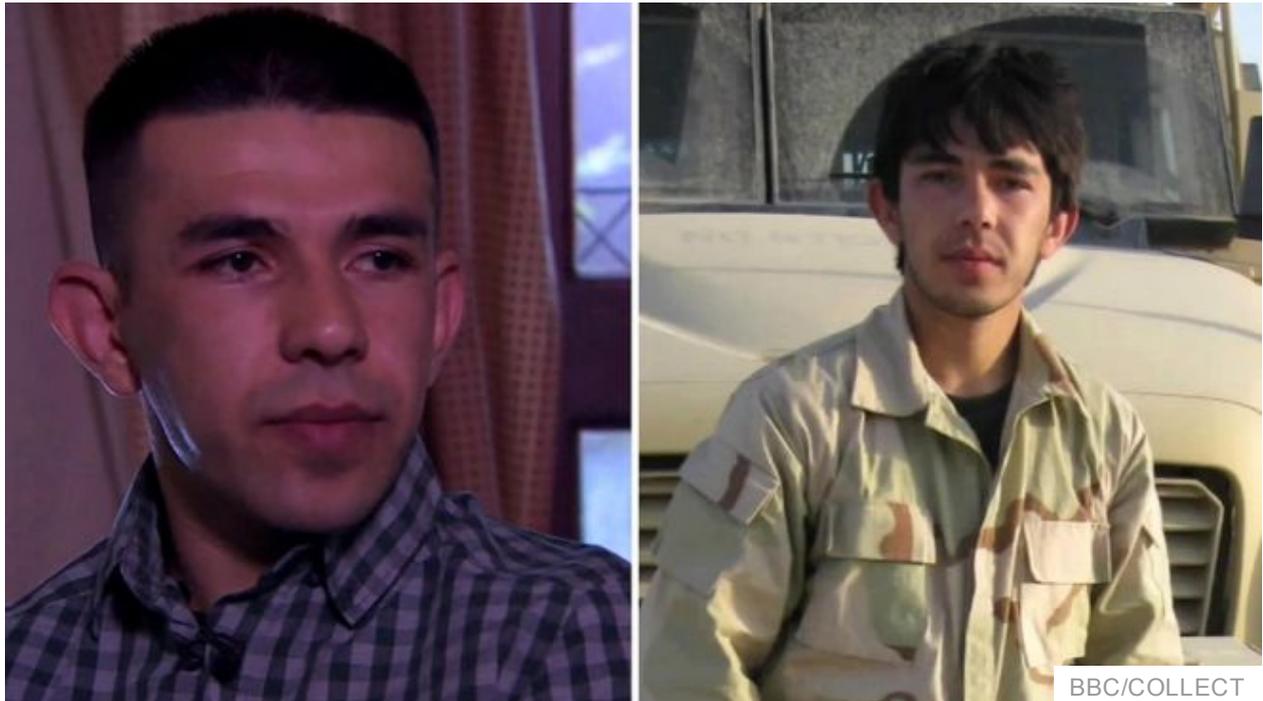


Afghanistan: Army interpreter 'will die if deported'

26 April 2018



An interpreter who "risked his life" to help British troops in Afghanistan has said he will be killed by the Taliban if he is deported.

Abdul Bari, who fled from his home country to Manchester, has accused the government of deserting him by denying him asylum.

His lawyer Lewis Kett said he is seeking a judicial review challenging the rejection of his application.

A Home Office spokesman said it did not comment on individual cases.

Mr Bari, who acted as an interpreter for the Army in Helmand for two years, said: "They came to my country to help us so I have to help them."

"I helped the British forces at a very risky, very unsafe time but now I'm at risk so I wanted the British Government to look after me."

Mr Bari, who received death threats while he was working in Afghanistan, said: "Interpreters who have been deported to Afghanistan are all in danger.

"If I go back I will be killed."

The Home Office has allowed some interpreters to stay but only those employed on a specific date in 2012 - Mr Bari worked prior to that period.

But his asylum application and appeals have been refused and he's been told he must go back to Kabul.

Lewis Kett, of Duncan Lewis Solicitors, said: "The Home Office has accepted that he was an interpreter, they have accepted he was originally threatened but they have not accepted he is at risk in Kabul."

The case of interpreters seeking asylum has been backed by Lord Dannatt, Former Chief of General Staff for the British army, who said: "If they genuinely feel there is a threat to their safety then we have a moral obligation to look after them and that probably means giving them an opportunity to come to this country."

The Home Office spokesman said each asylum claim was carefully considered on its own merits.

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British Army interpreter who 'risked his life' to help our troops fears he'll be killed by the Taliban if he's denied asylum and deported to Afghanistan

- Abdul Bari, 26, fled the Taliban and worked for British troops from 2008 to 2010
- The Afghan man came to the UK illegally via Calais and has been rejected asylum
- Mr Bari claims he will be killed on return to Kabul for helping western troops

By [ZOE O'BRIEN FOR MAILONLINE](#)

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An interpreter who 'risked his life' to help British troops in [Afghanistan](#) says he will be killed by the Taliban if he is deported.

Abdul Bari, 26, fled the terror group in his home country after they issued him with death threats and attacked his family for working with UK troops from 2008 to 2010.

The Taliban is known to hunt down interpreters who have worked with the Army with the intent of recruiting them for terror attacks and intelligence - if they refuse, they are often killed.

Now, living in Manchester unable to earn a living, he claims the British Government are deserting him by denying him asylum - and could be sending him to his death.

On Friday his lawyer Lewis Kett said he is seeking a judicial review to challenge the rejection of his asylum application.

Mr Bari, who acted as an interpreter for the Army in Helmand, said: 'It is unfair. It is injustice.'



Abdul Bari, 26, is living off £35 per week and is unable to work despite 'risking his life' for the UK

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Abdul Bari, 26, worked with British troops for two years but has been refused asylum in the UK after travelling to the UK from Calais

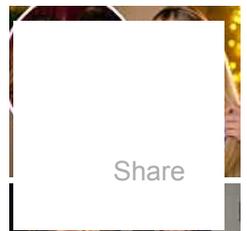


Abdul Bari (right) says he will be killed by the Taliban whose thugs have already attacked his mother and father because he helped UK forces in Helmand



Abdul Bari was a professional boxer in his home country but he cannot compete until he is given asylum in the UK

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He said: 'When I worked I helped the British forces in a very risky time. But at the moment I am at risk, and I need help. But they are still ignoring me.'

Explaining why he helped the British Army he said: 'I knew that if I joined the British forces it would be a great choice for me.'

'The situation in our country was very bad. So I had to help the international forces to protect our country.'

'They came to my country to help us so I had to help them.'

'I helped the British forces at a very risky, very unsafe time but now I'm at risk so I want the British Government to look after me.'

But working with British troops made Mr Bari a target for Taliban forces.

He explained: 'There was a phone call for my father and a letter put through my door that says 'You know your son is working for the infidels. So tell him to leave the job, otherwise he will be slaughtered'.'

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The threats soon turned to violence when the Taliban came to his home and beat up his mother and father.

With his and his family's life in danger, Mr Bari was forced to flee, adding: 'I did not have enough time to stay there and go and seek the authorities for protection or something like that.'

'The only choice for me was one choice - to leave the country.'

Mr Bari came to Britain illegally through Calais in 2015 and applied for asylum on arrival.

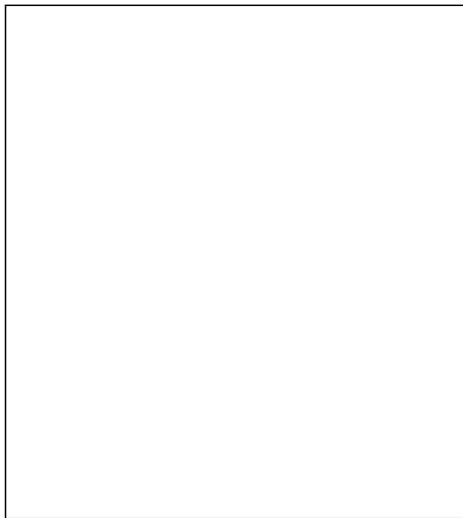
Since then the Home Office has rejected both his initial application and his appeal.

The government says it is safe for Bari to return to Kabul, where he says his life is in danger.

However, interpreters who worked for the army in 2012 are allowed asylum.

Mr Bari says he is becoming increasingly depressed.

In his homeland he was a professional boxer - but he cannot compete in the UK due to the lack of a work permit.



Abdul Bari, 26, worked alongside British troops in Helmand, Afghanistan

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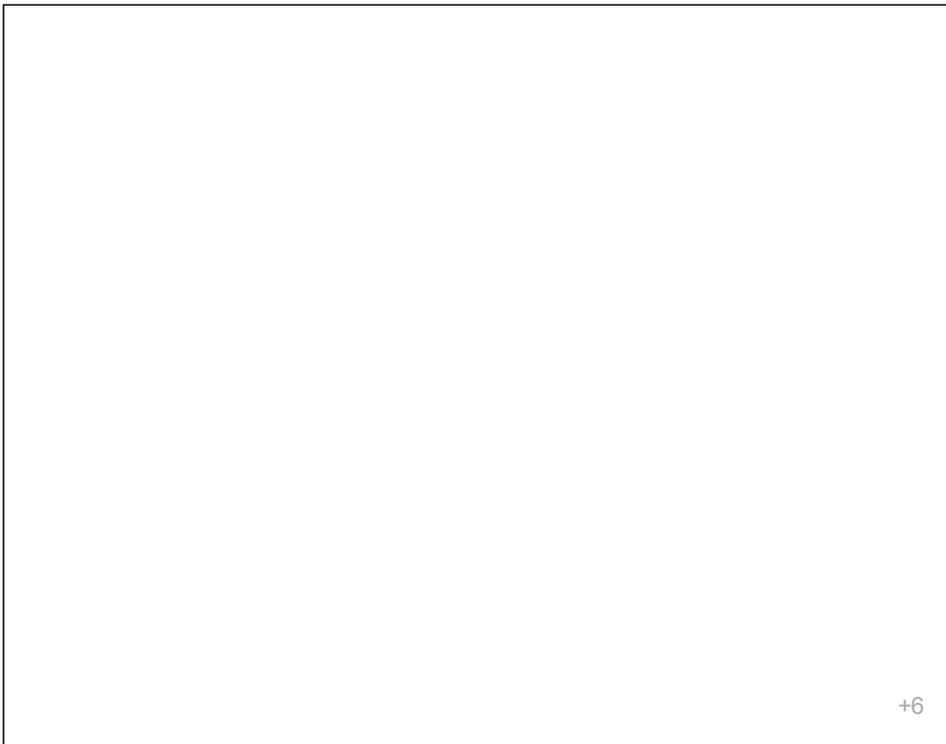
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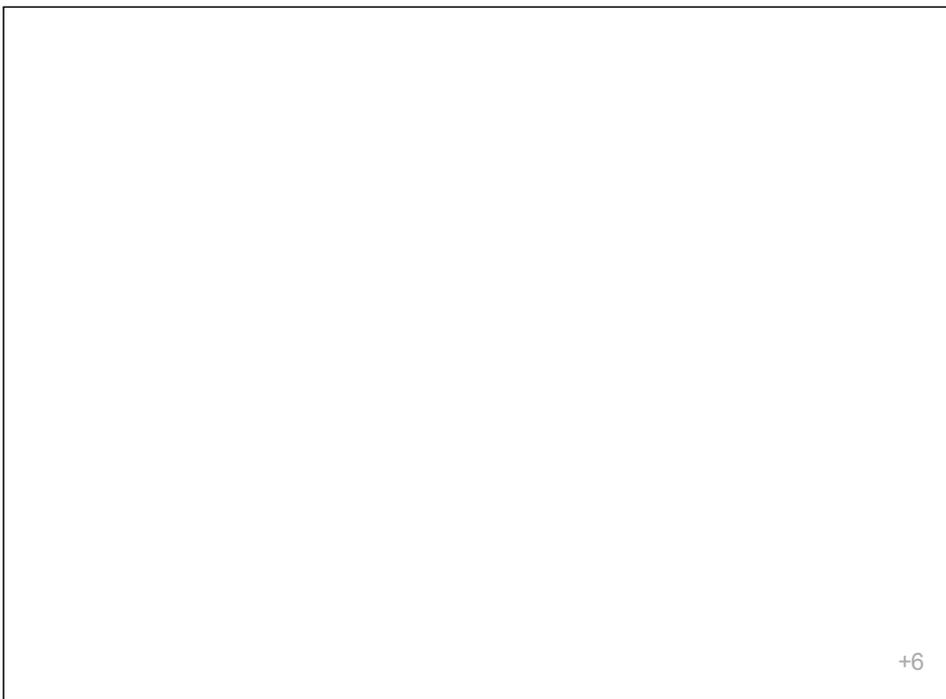
Amir Khan's childhood trainer Mick Jelley says Abdul (right) should be granted asylum to live in the UK. Pictured with UK troops in Afghanistan

So he busies himself by training everyday instead with Amir Khan's famous former childhood trainer, Mick Jelley.

Mr Jelley, who runs a gym in Bury, Greater Manchester, said of Mr Bari: 'He's a good lad, a smashing lad.

'He's a human being and all human beings should have a chance in life and the work the lad's done should be honoured by our country.

'We should look after people who have looked after us and if we don't we are in a very bad situation.'



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Abdul Bari, 26, has been denied asylum despite helping UK troops in Afghanistan between 2008 and 2010

Mr Bari is allowed £35-a-week living expenses from his local council but has the constant threat of deportation living over him.

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Mr Bari, originally from Kabul, in Afghanistan, added: 'Since I came here I can't do anything. Just staying in or keeping busy with my training.

'Since I have come here my depression is getting worse because of this.'

The Afghani says returning is a death sentence.

He said : 'Interpreters who have been deported to Afghanistan are all in danger. If I go back I will be killed.

'The UK already gave me the notice for deportation. They told me that you have to leave the country.

'So they will send me where I will definitely be killed.'

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