
Judge says immigrant can stay BY:BY ROBERT POLNER. STAFF WRITER

More than 6 feet tall and broad-shouldered, Faisal Ulvie was a minor sensation as a kickboxer in Pakistan in the late 1990s. So when a national team was assembled to compete in Atlanta, Ulvie was on it.

None of that mattered, though, when federal agents knocked down the door to the three-story Brooklyn building in which Ulvie lived in an apartment with his wife and three children early on a chilly November morning in 2002.

Having resolved to live in America, but carrying a long-expired visa, he was carted off to a New Jersey jail. He learned much later that he had been ordered to appear for a deportation hearing, a letter he says must have been sent to an old address because he never got it.

Three weeks after he was taken out of his Bushwick home, a white bus carted Ulvie to a jet scheduled to take him and 150 other Pakistani detainees back to their homeland. Ulvie had not been allowed to see a judge or lawyer, and did not know why he was being deported. He called his wife, Nadine Young-Ulvie, a Brooklyn-born U.S. citizen, and pleaded for her to get immediate help.

"I thought I would never see my children again," he said.

In the end, Ulvie, 28, was lucky compared to thousands of Muslims who were detained, deported or who otherwise left the United States during the Bush administration's terrorism-related immigration dragnet in Muslim-infused neighborhoods.

With a half-hour to spare before the plane left, Ulvie's lawyer, Elizabeth OuYang, persuaded an immigration judge in Manhattan to make a cell phone call resulting in the prisoner's return to jail. OuYang got him released, conditionally, a month later.

Yesterday, in a brief hearing at 26 Federal Plaza, Ulvie was permitted by the same judge, Patricia A. Rohan, to remain in this country legally to apply for permanent residency. The government prosecutor raised no objections at the hearing.

When Rohan issued her decision, Ulvie's relatives and friends applauded, and OuYang wiped her tears. Ulvie's wife wept. "Thank you, your honor, thank you," she said, corraling her children, Shaheen, 3, Brittanie, 8, and Devon, 11.

Also on hand was Ahsanullah "Bobby" Khan of the Coney Island Avenue Project, a group formed after Sept. 11, 2001, to help Pakistani detainees.

"This is a typical case," said Khan, referring to Ulvie's ordeal. "Thousands have been arrested and deported without even knowing why. Unlike Faisal, they had no attorney."

The federal clampdown continues, but it has slowed down, Khan said.

Ulvie works as a salesman for a Jimmy Jazz clothing store in Harlem. His wife is employed by KeySpan. Neither could get much sleep the night before his fate was determined by the court, said Ulvie. "It was a very heavy night," he said.