



Nur zur dienstlichen Verwendung

**Stenografisches Protokoll**  
der 20. Sitzung  
(öffentliche Sitzung - Teil 1)  
- endgültige Fassung -

**1. Untersuchungsausschuss**

Berlin, den 19. Januar 2023, 12.00 Uhr  
Paul-Löbe-Haus, Saal 4.900 (Europasaal)  
Konrad-Adenauer-Straße 1, 10557 Berlin

Vorsitz: Dr. Ralf Stegner, MdB

**Tagesordnung - Öffentliche Beweisaufnahme**

**Einziger Tagesordnungspunkt**

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*Zeugenvernehmung*

**Abdul Wafi Walim**

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Ortskraft der GIZ  
(Beweisbeschluss Z-14)

**Najia Najafi**

siehe Stenogr. Protokoll 20/20 I - Teil 2

Ortskraft des Goethe-Instituts  
(Beweisbeschluss Z-16)

**H. H.**

siehe Stenogr. Protokolle 20/20 II und III

Leiter des Referats „Beschaffung Afghanistan/  
Pakistan“ des BND  
(Beweisbeschluss Z-17)



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(Beginn: 12.35 Uhr)

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Liebe Kolleginnen und Kollegen! Meine sehr verehrten Damen und Herren! Ich eröffne die 20. Sitzung des 1. Untersuchungsausschusses der 20. Wahlperiode, die zugleich unsere 8. Beweisaufnahmesitzung ist.

Ich wünsche dann vermutlich doch zum allerletzten Mal allen, die vorher noch nicht dabei gewesen sind, ein gutes neues Jahr. Möge es ein besseres sein als das letzte, und möge es vor allen Dingen Gesundheit für Sie bringen und im Privaten das, was Sie sich wünschen.

Ich stelle fest, dass die Öffentlichkeit hergestellt ist, und begrüße ganz herzlich die Zuschauerinnen und Zuschauer sowie die Vertreterinnen und Vertreter der Presse.

Ich gehe davon aus, dass sich keine Personen als Zuschauerinnen und Zuschauer hier im Raum aufhalten, die später als Zeugen in Betracht kommen.

An dieser Stelle möchte ich den Damen und Herren von der Presse noch einen Hinweis geben. Der Ausschuss hat sich aus Gründen des Persönlichkeitsschutzes dafür entschieden, Namen von Zeuginnen und Zeugen nicht in der Tagesordnung zu veröffentlichen, soweit diese nicht aufgrund ihrer Funktion öffentlich bekannt sind. Bei den Angaben zur Person werden die Namen zwar in öffentlicher Sitzung genannt; das bedeutet jedoch nicht, dass der Persönlichkeitsschutz der Zeugen damit aufgehoben würde. Ich bitte daher darum, in der Berichterstattung über die Beweisaufnahme des Untersuchungsausschusses nach den Regelungen im Pressekodex die Namen der Zeugen nicht zu veröffentlichen, soweit sie nicht in der Tagesordnung genannt sind.

Bevor ich nun zum eigentlichen Gegenstand der heutigen Sitzung komme, gestatten Sie mir einige wenige Vorbemerkungen.

Ton- und Bildaufnahmen sind während der öffentlichen Beweisaufnahme nicht zulässig. Ein Verstoß gegen dieses Gebot kann nach dem Haus-

recht des Deutschen Bundestages nicht nur zu einem dauernden Ausschluss von den Sitzungen dieses Ausschusses sowie des ganzen Hauses führen, sondern gegebenenfalls strafrechtliche Konsequenzen nach sich ziehen.

Nach diesen einleitenden Hinweisen rufe ich nunmehr unseren **einzigsten Tagesordnungspunkt** auf:

### *Zeugenvernehmung*

#### **Abdul Wafi Walim**

Ortskraft der GIZ  
(Beweisbeschluss Z-14)

#### **Najia Najafi**

Ortskraft des Goethe-Instituts  
(Beweisbeschluss Z-16)

#### **H. H.**

Leiter des Referats „Beschaffung Afghanistan/Pakistan“ des BND  
(Beweisbeschluss Z-17)

Der Zeuge H. H. heißt anders, aber zum Persönlichkeitsschutz verwenden wir hier das Kürzel.

Wir werden die Zeugen in dieser Reihenfolge vernehmen.

Die Befragung von Herrn Walim wird in englischer Sprache stattfinden. Dafür werden Fragen und Antworten simultan gedolmetscht. Um die eine oder andere Sprache durchgehend hören zu können, stehen Ihnen die am Eingang bereitgestellten Kopfhörer zur Verfügung, wenn Sie das wünschen.

Frau Najafi wird auf unsere Fragen in ihrer Muttersprache Dari antworten. Diese Befragung werden wir konsekutiv dolmetschen lassen. Das bedeutet, dass sowohl wir als auch die Zeugin nach ein paar Sätzen immer eine Pause einlegen werden, damit die Dolmetscher übersetzen können.

Ferner hat der Ausschuss in der Beratungssitzung vorhin beschlossen, dass wir für die Vernehmung des Zeugen H. H. am heutigen Tage die Öffentlichkeit gemäß § 14 Absatz 1 Nummer 2 und 4 des Untersuchungsgesetzes ausschließen, weil besondere Gründe des Wohls des Bundes entgegenstehen und weil eine Gefährdung des



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Zeugen zu besorgen ist. Insbesondere Letzteres spielt da eine Rolle. Wenn jemand im operativen Geschäft tätig ist, muss seine Identität besonders geschützt werden. Dem tragen wir so Rechnung. Wir werden das allerdings auch evaluieren im Nachhinein, wie wir künftig damit umgehen.

Und nun noch ein letzter Hinweis - die, die hier schon häufiger waren, wissen das -: Der Deutsche Bundestag tagt ja weiterhin. Insofern müssen wir gelegentlich unsere Sitzung unterbrechen, weil Abstimmungen es erforderlich machen. Nach dem Plan wird heute wegen der Wahlen zu Gremien um circa 14.35 Uhr die Sitzung unterbrochen. Wir verfolgen das Geschehen hier laufend und unterbrechen dann so, dass das möglichst wenig stört und die Teilnehmer hin- und zurückgelangen können. Da wir ja in diesem schönen Europasaal sind, der jetzt künftig unser Zuhause sein wird für die nächsten zwei Jahre, haben wir es nicht mehr ganz so weit. Aber ein bisschen Bewegung tut uns ja allen gut.

### Vernehmung des Zeugen Abdul Wafi Walim

Dann begrüße ich nun unseren ersten Zeugen, Herrn Walim, der bereits Platz genommen hat.

Ich stelle fest, dass der Zeuge ordnungsgemäß geladen ist. Herr Walim, Sie haben den Erhalt der Ladung am 5. Januar 2023 bestätigt.

Ich heiße Sie sehr herzlich willkommen und danke Ihnen, dass Sie dem Ausschuss als Zeuge zur Verfügung stehen.

Herr Walim, zunächst bin ich gehalten, Sie über Ihre Rechte und Pflichten als Zeuge aufzuklären. Diese Belehrung schreibt mir das Gesetz für jeden Zeugen vor. Insofern mache ich das auch bei Ihnen so.

Sie sind als Zeuge geladen worden. Als Zeuge vor dem Untersuchungsausschuss sind Sie verpflichtet, die Wahrheit zu sagen. Das heißt, Sie müssen richtige und vollständige Angaben machen. Sie dürfen nichts weglassen, was zur Sache gehört, und nichts hinzufügen, was der Wahrheit widerspricht.

Wer vor einem Untersuchungsausschuss vorsätzlich falsche Angaben macht, kann sich nach § 162 in Verbindung mit § 153 des Strafgesetzbuches strafbar machen. Solch eine uneidliche Falschaussage kann eine Geldstrafe oder eine Freiheitsstrafe von drei Monaten bis zu fünf Jahren nach sich ziehen.

Auf bestimmte Fragen dürfen Sie allerdings die Auskunft verweigern. Das gilt zum einen für Fragen, deren Beantwortung Sie oder einen Ihrer Angehörigen der Gefahr zuziehen würde, einer Untersuchung nach einem gesetzlich geordneten Verfahren ausgesetzt zu werden. Das können Verfahren wegen einer Straftat oder Ordnungswidrigkeit sein, aber auch Disziplinar- oder berufsgerichtliche Verfahren. Zivilgerichtliche Verfahren gehören nicht dazu. Ebenfalls nicht dazu gehören Verfahren, die Ihren Aufenthaltsstatus betreffen.

Darf ich die Dolmetscher mal fragen, ob das mit der Geschwindigkeit so geht?

(Ein Dolmetscher macht  
eine zustimmende Hand-  
bewegung)

- Der Daumen geht nach oben. Dann machen wir das weiter so.

Darüber hinaus dürfen sogenannte Berufsgeheimnisträger und ihre Gehilfen grundsätzlich die Auskunft in Bezug auf Dinge verweigern, die ihnen in dieser Eigenschaft anvertraut oder bekannt geworden sind.

Haben Sie dazu noch Fragen?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** No, thank you, I have no question.

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Danke sehr. - Ich bedanke mich übrigens an dieser Stelle auch bei den Dolmetschern, die ja dann heute eine ganze Weile für uns arbeiten werden.

Dann möchte ich Sie darauf hinweisen, dass eine Tonaufnahme gefertigt wird, um die Protokollierung der Sitzung zu erleichtern. Deshalb ist es sehr wichtig, dass Sie Ihr Mikrofon einschalten



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und sich auch in der Nähe aufhalten, sodass man Sie gut hören kann. Die Aufnahme wird nach Abschluss der Protokollerstellung gelöscht. Das Protokoll wird Ihnen vor der endgültigen Fertigstellung übersandt.

Nun mein letzter Hinweis an den Zeugen: Sollten Sie während Ihrer Vernehmung zu der Auffassung gelangen, dass Sie Dinge zur Sprache bringen müssen, deren öffentliche Erörterung überwiegende schutzwürdige Interessen verletzen würde, zum Beispiel Dinge aus Ihrem persönlichen Lebensbereich, aber auch vertrauliche Informationen Ihres ehemaligen Arbeitgebers, bitte ich um einen Hinweis. Der Ausschuss hätte dann über den Ausschluss der Öffentlichkeit sowie den Geheimhaltungsgrad der Sitzung zu beschließen.

Alle Beteiligten weise ich aber noch mal ausdrücklich darauf hin, dass es ein Regel-Ausnahme-Verhältnis ist. Der Öffentlichkeitsgrundsatz für Beweiserhebungen in Untersuchungsausschüssen hat nach Artikel 44 des Grundgesetzes Verfassungsrang. Die Gründe für die Ausnahme müssen daher von besonderem Gewicht sein. Und deswegen entscheidet übrigens auch der Ausschuss selbst darüber, ob das der Fall ist oder nicht.

Haben Sie zu diesen Hinweisen Fragen?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** No, thank you, I have no question.

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Nach diesen Vorbemerkungen komme ich nun zum Ablauf der Vernehmung. Eingangs werde ich Sie kurz zu Ihrer Person befragen. Zu Beginn der Vernehmung zur Sache haben Sie nach § 24 Absatz 4 des Untersuchungsausschussgesetzes Gelegenheit, zum Beweisthema im Zusammenhang vorzutragen, wenn Sie das wünschen. Anschließend werden Sie von den Mitgliedern des Ausschusses befragt. Dies geschieht nach dem Stärkeverhältnis der Fraktionen; also die Länge der Fragezeit richtet sich nach dem Stärkeverhältnis der Fraktionen. - Gibt es Fragen zum Ablauf?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** No, I have no question. Thank you.

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Dann darf ich Sie nun bitten, mir zunächst zu bestätigen, dass Sie weiterhin unter der gleichen Adresse wie bisher erreichbar sind, und sich dem Ausschuss zu Beginn Ihrer Ausführungen mit Ihrem Namen, Ihrem Alter und Ihrem Beruf vorzustellen.

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** Thank you very much. It is my great honour to be here among these people and present the situation that I went through. My name is Wafi Walim and I'm living in [REDACTED], house number [REDACTED] in Berlin, and I am 47 years old, and I am living in Berlin.

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** And your profession?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** I have studied literature, but I have worked in social organizations, for different organizations, as a developmental worker.

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Vielen Dank. - Sie können nun, wenn Sie das wünschen, Herr Walim, im Zusammenhang darlegen, was Ihnen über den Gegenstand der Vernehmung bekannt ist.

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** Again, I would like to thank everybody for giving me this opportunity to be here and I would start with introducing myself. My name is Wafi Walim and I graduated from literature faculty in Kabul University in 1996. Right after my graduation, I joined one of the German organizations, in that time the name was GTZ and later on became GIZ. For almost 24 years I was working on different projects with GIZ. This is where I started my career, with GIZ in Pakistan, working for the Afghan refugees in Afghanistan.

Later on, in 2001, when the democratic government in Afghanistan was established, I moved to Afghanistan and I again joined GIZ as a regional manager for Afghanistan and Pakistan and GIZ International Services.



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**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Entschuldigen Sie, dass ich Sie unterbreche. Ich will nur fragen, ob alle das akustisch gut verstehen können von der Lautstärke und von der Übersetzung her. Ist das so? - Gut. Dann fahren Sie bitte fort.

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** As for my work experience, when I re-joined GIZ again in 2002, I was working on different projects in Afghanistan up to 2014, directly under a contract with GIZ. I started as the regional manager for Afghanistan and Pakistan. In 2005, I became the policy adviser for two important ministries in Afghanistan, the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and the Ministry of Counter-Narcotics, where the good work and the result of different GIZ projects were discussed and policy advice was provided for the Afghan ministries to take into consideration in their policymaking and in future development activities in Afghanistan.

In 2010, I moved to the south of Afghanistan, where the German troops were not present, but where German development work should be there. I was the project manager or program manager for one very important program, which was funded by Australia and implemented by GIZ. Up to 2014, I was the program manager for this program.

From 2014 till August 2021, when my direct work was stopped. Under different categories: I was involved in different German organizations as consultant, as surveyor and analyst and I was providing services to GIZ, KfW, to different projects in focus in North and Northeast Afghanistan, where Mazar-i-Sharif, Kunduz, Badakhshan and other provinces were covered.

Is there any question concerning the work experience I have? Shall I move further?

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Tragen Sie einfach im Zusammenhang vor, was Sie darstellen möchten. Die Fragen werden sich dann sicher auf unterschiedliche Bereiche dessen beziehen, was Sie gesagt haben. Machen Sie es einfach in der Reihenfolge, wie Sie das wünschen. Wir unterbrechen Sie jetzt nicht, sondern Sie tragen einfach im Zusammenhang vor.

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** Okay. Thank you very much. - So, between 2014 and 2021, I was head of programs and director for the company Vision Supply, where, in between, I was working with different German organizations like GIZ and KfW in Afghanistan and I was doing surveys and studies in different parts of the country, focused on the North and Northeast of Afghanistan, Mazar-i-Sharif, Kunduz, Badakhshan and all these provinces. This is where I was always in contact with the German organizations working in Afghanistan. Thus, I was part of the overall development activities in Afghanistan, which made me „kind of known“ and a target for the Taliban, who were always contacting me and would sometimes threaten me. Sometimes we had this kind of unfriendly conversation with them.

When the change in Afghanistan happened, I could see that the situation was changing and Taliban took over Afghanistan. That was when I received the message that these people were now in Kabul and they would come and get me. That is why I had changed residence by the time that Taliban took over Kabul. When I changed my residence right after two days, I heard that they were at my house and they searched the house and they were asking for me. I was staying for a few days in a hiding place, and through my friends I was informed that I could move to Serena Hotel in Kabul, where the evacuation was taking place from Kabul to other countries.

Me with kids and family, we stayed in Serena Hotel for a week, but the German employees were not given the chance to enter the Kabul airport because of the big crowds at the airport and also because America did not allow other nations to take their employees and were giving passage to the American employees only. For that reason, we stayed in the hotel for a week, and after a week, we were informed that the Taliban would like to search the hotel, room by room, searching for people, because they got the message that high-ranking German employees were staying in this hotel. That is why we immediately left the hotel, went back to our hiding places, and waited for evacuation. With the help of Kabul Luftbrücke, three times we got onto these buses for



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the airport to leave Afghanistan but this was not possible and we went back to our hiding places. Finally, on 2nd of September, I went to my office to close and pick up some of my things and as I left the office to go back to my hidden house, on the way I got chased by the Taliban and I was shot in my leg. At that time I was thinking that I was followed all those days and I didn't know about it. I ended up in a hospital bed for six weeks and away from my family. My family was evacuated to Pakistan by the Kabul Luftbrücke on 21st of September. They were waiting for me in Pakistan and I was in the hospital for six weeks.

On 14th of October I managed to leave Afghanistan for Pakistan in a wheelchair and joined my family and stayed for two weeks in Pakistan. After that, I obtained my first entrance visa for Germany. At the end of October, I entered Germany and came here. So, since the end of October or beginning of November 2021 I have been in Germany, living in Berlin.

Now, if you have questions, I'm here to answer them.

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Vielen herzlichen Dank. - Dann würde ich gern mit der Befragung beginnen und Sie zunächst fragen wollen: Aus den Unterlagen ergibt sich, dass Sie 2010 für das von Ihnen mitgegründete Unternehmen Vision Supply gearbeitet haben. Sie haben gesagt, Sie haben da für verschiedene Projekte gearbeitet. Aber vielleicht können Sie uns berichten, welche Leistungen dieses Unternehmen anbietet und welche Funktionen Sie in dem Unternehmen hatten.

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** Vision Supply was founded in 2010 with a co-founder and the mandate was to provide agricultural services in Afghanistan, while in between, I had different contracts with GIZ. The good thing was that Vision Supply as a company had no contract with GIZ through this process because we had different mandates, but I as an individual was working with GIZ on different projects.

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Wie würden Sie diese Zusammenarbeit, von der Sie gerade gesprochen haben, bewerten? Und welchen Erfolg hatten die Projekte, wenn Sie das im Nachhinein betrachten, die Sie dort betreut haben?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** We are in 2023 now. Looking back at that time the projects were quite successful and the sustainability of these projects was taken into consideration quite highly. For example, if I just pick up one of the projects: between 2004 and 2010 there was a German project under the name of PAL, Project for Alternative Development. That project came to exist based on the first Bonn conference that Germany would test and trial a number of agriculture products to find alternatives for the poppy cultivation in Afghanistan. The result of that project was that more than 30 different agriculture products were trialed and introduced to the Afghan government, and the results of most of these projects were taken into consideration by the Afghan government. Nationwide, those advices and examples were used in some of the areas with a very, very high poppy cultivation in the East of Afghanistan. These projects could successfully remove the poppy cultivation at that time and brought the poppy cultivation to a 30 to 35 percent reduction.

Another example, a project that I was working on in the South of Afghanistan was to support local government in Oruzgan. At the time, the project was quite successful. We were helping the government employees to perform their job. For example, we were helping the Department of Finance to write reports, to provide financial reports and all the nitty-gritty work with all the different departments. By the end of the project, these departments were self-sufficient, self-standing, and they were working on their own without any technical support from outsiders.

Another very good example is the project that I was implementing under Vision Supply. We introduced greenhouses in 2014, 2015 and 2016 and up to the year 2020, when I visited Badakhshan, the result of this project was on the ground and people were benefitting from the results of these projects. The projects I was involved in,



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from my point of view, were successful with sustainability and quite in demand, at that time, by the people.

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Können Sie uns einen Einblick in Ihren damaligen Alltag geben? Also, wie lief für Sie so ein typischer Arbeitstag ab? Was waren Ihre eigenen Aufgaben dabei? Sie haben jetzt beschrieben, was da gemacht worden ist. Aber was waren Ihre eigenen Aufgaben, und wie sah bei Ihnen so der Alltag aus?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** I would give three examples of different positions that I was holding. When I was the regional manager for GIZ international services for Afghanistan and Pakistan, it was more like going to the office every day, preparing the tasks of the day, meeting some of the government officials like Deputy Ministers or sometimes the Ministers and sharing some of the projects that GIZ was thinking of implementing in Afghanistan.

When I became the policy adviser between 2005 and 2010, the daily working life was a little bit different because my office was based inside the Ministry on behalf of GIZ. Every day when I got to the office by 8 o'clock, I had to attend a morning meeting at the Minister's office, to see what the Ministry was doing that day and then I was informing them about the progress of the activities every month.

We had a committee meeting with all organizations in Afghanistan that were working in the field of counter-narcotics and that were getting together and sharing their updates. The report of that committee was going directly to the President to see how international organizations were reacting in terms of counter-narcotics in Afghanistan.

When I was project manager in Oruzgan that was a totally different working environment. Every day, we had a morning meeting and after that we were visiting different departments. The team that I had consisted of six people and every one of them was going to different departments. We worked closely with the provincial governor and we were seeing every day what their core needs

were and how we could fulfil those needs to enable government employees to perform their job in a more efficient way.

When I was the head of program for Vision Supply, my daily work life was a little bit different because it was more like sitting in front of the computer every day and seeing the progress of the projects that we had and seeing what were the backstopping that the project implementation needed on a certain day. When I was doing a little bit of consultancy with different German organizations it was more fieldwork. I was going to the most difficult places, which was quite dangerous, and I was seeing what the project implementation looked like.

Excuse me, because I have not been speaking English for a year. During my time here in Germany, I have to practice my German, not English.

For example, in the East of Afghanistan, for one of the projects of KfW, PATRIP, a foundation which is working between Afghanistan and Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran and Afghanistan and Tajikistan, I had to go to the border line and visit all the projects. These projects were all located in the area that was controlled by the Taliban. I had to change clothes, for example, and I had to act as a taxi driver or go to these projects as one of the local people and at the same time see the projects, take photos of the projects and bring reports. For example, I was seeing the projects between Afghanistan and Tajikistan, on both sides of the Omo River (?). I was going into this area, most of it was controlled by the Taliban, and I had to go there in this way.

So it was a different nature of work, based on different contracts and in different contexts, and I had a different working life through these years.

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Vielen Dank. - Welchen Eindruck hatten Sie von der Bedrohungslage, was die Ortskräfte im Bereich deutscher Entwicklungszusammenarbeit angeht? Da werden Sie ja unterschiedlichen Menschen begegnet sein. Was war Ihr Eindruck, was die Be-



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drohungslage angeht, insbesondere in dem Zeitraum, über den wir reden, was so die letzten anderthalb Jahre angeht?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** I am the one who is mostly in contact with most of my former colleagues, the Germans, internationals whom I was working with, for example, from 2002 up to now. On whatever project I have worked, I am in contact with them. The same with my Afghan colleagues, those Afghans who were working for me, those Afghans who were colleagues and with whom I was working together. The threat for them is quite high. Every day I receive at least two, three calls from my former colleagues and they ask for help.

I will give you one example from the South. The team I was working with were three employees, locals from Oruzgan. We were going from Kabul to Oruzgan, but they were from Oruzgan. After the change of government, one of them was arrested by the Taliban and nearly beaten to death, while asked about the vehicles, the equipment, and the accessories of the German projects that he was working on. He replied, "I am just an employee, the project had finished and I am out of it." Everything has been handed over to the Afghan government. But he was beaten for a week, kept in a dark room until the elders of his family along with some other people went to mediate to get him out of there.

Two others from the same location had moved from Oruzgan to Chaman area. It's away from their hometown. I am in regular contact with most of the people from the East where I was working between 2005 and 2010. They were working from their home villages for different German organisations and now they are a target and cannot go and find work because the Taliban would identify them quite quickly. Most of the time they were beaten or they have been asked for money. This is the situation for most of the colleagues I am in contact with. For most of the people who were working with whatever international organisation, this last one and a half year or 15 months in Afghanistan has not been easy.

In any case, last week or two weeks ago, I had a series of small interviews with a number of women in the North and Northeast of Afghanistan. These women were working in different capacities for different organisations, for the government as defense lawyers, journalists or schoolteachers. They said, because of their profession, they went to court working as defense lawyers or prosecutors, and now the people who they were bringing to justice every day are suddenly in power, which puts them in a really difficult situation.

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Wurden Sie vor dem Vorfall, von dem Sie berichtet haben, persönlich bedroht oder angegriffen? Haben Sie damit gerechnet, dass das passieren könnte? Sie sind dann ja angeschossen worden; Sie haben das vorher geschildert. Hatten Sie da vorher schon Bedrohungen? Hatten Sie mit so was gerechnet?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** To be honest, I was not expecting anything that serious. There was a degree of communication. For example, when I was working in the South. During 2008, 2009 and 2010, when the Taliban were not very strong and they were not well introduced, the South was still somehow their main hub, where the Taliban mostly existed at that time. The Taliban from the other provinces were going there and received training in Oruzgan, Helmand and Kandahar. Those were the places where most of the Taliban from other provinces went. They had identified the Taliban from my hometown, where I came from, in the Laghman province in the East of Afghanistan. They had identified me and they approached me on many occasions for projects, asking about my work in an international organization which was running projects for people who could earn some money with it. They were asking me to give them projects, and I always denied because of the procedures and the conditions that we had in the office. I said that everything is run by the rules and that this is the rule and that I cannot do anything beyond that. When I finished the project in Oruzgan and came back to Kabul, I was approached by them and they asked for money, saying that I was working for a big organization and had a better income while they are fighting for Islam and for the country



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and had no income, and so I would have to give them some money. I always denied. It was not the case that they could come to Kabul and get me, but it was a kind of communication, they were asking for money and I always denied.

When they were about to come to Kabul, this communication was a little bit different because they were saying, „Now we will come to Kabul and we will talk to you.“ I was thinking, okay, we will talk, but not that I would be in a situation where I was driving home from the office and on the way another car just blocked my car and stopped it. As I looked at them that there might be somebody who wanted to come and talk to me, but they just came out of the car and started shooting. I did not expect these kinds of consequences and I was not even thinking about this, because if I had known that they would be shooting, not talking to me, I would not have stopped the car even if they blocked the road for me. It was better to make an accident than to stop and wait for them to shoot at me. This I was not expecting.

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Haben Sie sich angesichts der Bedrohungslage, die Sie geschildert haben, an deutsche Stellen gewandt und, wenn ja, an welche? Sie haben ja geschildert, dass es zwei Versuche gegeben hat, auszufliegen, die nicht funktioniert haben. Aber meine Frage wäre: An wen haben Sie sich gewandt, was Ihre Bedrohungslage angeht, an welche deutschen Stellen, oder mit welchen Personen haben Sie gesprochen?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** During August, when I was trying to get out, no official authorities of GIZ or the OKV were introduced for immediate contact or immediate direct communication. I even contacted some of my former supervisors and team leaders. They were so unfriendly that they did not even answer some of my emails, which is not a complaint, but it is how it is. Some of my very good friends whom I was working with from 2005 to 2006, when I was involved with the Free University Building, ARC, which is an organization doing analysis and study in Afghanistan, two of my very good friends and colleagues, Dr Jan Koehler and Dr Kristóf Gosztonyi,

who was supposed to come and be here with us today, but couldn't make it, I approached them.

I had another good friend of mine, Christoph Reuter from „Der Spiegel“. When he was coming to Afghanistan we always talked about the situation and I provided him some of the ground reality of the situation. I approached them and I asked them, „Look guys, this is the situation. This is quite serious and it's coming.“ When I was shot, again, I informed these friends and they were very kind, they helped me all the time. When I later on contacted Dr Annette Kleinbrod, who was my supervisor in Afghanistan, she was very kind to react and respond. With the help of this network of friends, I could manage to first evacuate my family from Afghanistan to Pakistan and from Pakistan, all together, we came to Germany.

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Ich gehe davon aus, dass die Namen, die Sie gerade genannt haben, zu Protokoll genommen worden sind und verstanden worden sind.

Darf ich Sie fragen, ob Sie eventuell bereit wären, weil Sie von E-Mails gesprochen haben, wo Sie um Hilfe gebeten haben, die ignoriert worden, nicht beantwortet worden sind, ob Sie die eventuell dem Ausschuss zur Verfügung stellen würden?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** Not to make a big complaint about my former supervisors. For example, I wrote many times to Winfried Brakhan, who was my team leader in Oruzgan. I wrote to him about the situation of my colleagues in Oruzgan, not about myself. I would say, „Look, there are so many people who were left behind and still OKV is not taking them into consideration. Maybe there is a huge number of applications in the OKV so they cannot communicate quite fast with all of them, but they are in a really difficult situation and need you to send a confirmation to OKV and tell them that, yes, they were our ex-colleagues.“ All of them had a GIZ contract with a GIZ number as a proof that they were working for GIZ. But Brakhan never replied to my email.





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**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Das ist ja für uns deswegen hilfreich, weil wir gerne wissen wollen, in welcher Situation deutsche Stellen und Behörden geholfen haben oder auch nicht. Insofern, wenn Sie ein oder zwei solcher Mails zur Verfügung stellen wollten, dann könnten Sie das tun. Das wäre durchaus willkommen. Aber es ist ja Ihre Entscheidung, ob Sie das machen.

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** Of course, I would like to share those emails. It was not only with Brakhan, it is not a matter of them denying to help, but simply that they ignored us. Maybe they were so busy to pay attention to these emails. I wrote to the head of SPFU, another project, which was there, to Berthie Williams (?), who was from South Africa. Mr. Brakhan, who is German, is still with GIZ. I was trying to get help from most of the former GIZ colleagues for those people who were left behind in Afghanistan. Some of them replied and said, "We are not in contact with OKV or we have no authority to write to them." For example, one of my ex-bosses, who was very nice and kind to me - sometimes the names are a little bit difficult to remember, but I will definitely remember, when I remember it, I will share it with you - I contacted him and he was very kind. He is the country director for GIZ in Georgia right now. He extended his support and he wrote me immediately a very nice email with a good recommendation because we have worked almost seven years together.

These letters were written to me and I added all these recommendations as part of my application when I was coming to Germany. However, most other colleagues - some even may not be able to communicate in English - had no clue how to contact their former supervisors, and they contacted some of the Afghans in leading positions like me and others that I know and am in contact with. They contacted them and we all tried to help them and contacted some of our German colleagues or German ex-colleagues. But in most cases they don't take it seriously.

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Sie haben uns vorhin geschildert, dass Geldforderungen an Sie ge-

stellt worden sind von denjenigen, die gesagt haben: Sie verdienen doch gutes Geld da mit Ihrer Arbeit und arbeiten für eine westlichen Organisation, und wir haben das nicht und kämpfen hier für den Islam. - Hat es in sonstiger Form Einfluss der Taliban gegeben, also Einfluss inhaltlicher Art, auf die Projekte, die Sie betreut haben?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** When I was in Oruzgan, they were trying to get some projects, to make some income out of these projects and then we simply said no. When I was out of Oruzgan - at this time I was busy with different projects in different parts of the country, for example, I had a project in Badakhshan, I had a project in Herat, in Mazar - at that time, their expectation was money because they wanted to collect as much money as possible as kind of income for themselves and for their group. This was their intention. When they approached me they were approaching me in most occasions through my cousins, through my family members. It was not a direct communication and usually I denied and did not want to pay them. I did not have that much money to pay them anyway and even if I had that money, I would not have paid them.

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Mögen Sie uns schildern, wie Ihre Familie oder Ihr Umfeld, Ihr privates Umfeld reagiert hat auf die Beschäftigung, die Sie hatten, und auf die damit ja dann, wie Sie geschildert haben, verbundene Gefährdung?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** My wife, who is sitting upstairs, was never happy with my work because I was travelling all the time to very difficult places in the country. I never shared with her this type of threat and the whole situation. I only shared it with my father because my father was the person whom I could easily communicate to and explain the situation. I always tried to keep my wife and kids away from the reality of the situation that I was facing outside of the house and in my working life. So they were not aware of it, but they were faced with the consequences. On 2nd September when I was shot, their immediate response was, "Oh, my dad was a peaceful person. Why was he shot, what was the reason?"



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So later on, I explained to them what the situation was that I was going through.

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Dann will ich die Gelegenheit nehmen, Frau Walim auf der Tribüne herzlich willkommen zu heißen bei uns.

Hatten Sie, als der Abzug aus Afghanistan angekündigt war, also dass die Amerikaner abziehen würden und dann ja sozusagen in der Konsequenz auch die anderen, Planungen für sich selbst, wie das beruflich weitergehen könnte für Sie?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** As Afghans, we were involved and informed of the political move and decisions about Afghanistan at all times. The Doha Agreement was not one of the very pleasant and loving agreements, which we heard about. No, I did not have a contingency plan. I did not have any kind of exit plan. I was thinking that even the change of government, based on the agreement, would be a smooth, swift change with consideration of the rights of people and that the lives of people would be safe. But on 14th and 15th of August, we saw, this was not the case and immediately everything was upside down, which we were not expecting to happen.

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Sie haben es vorhin im Zusammenhang vorgetragen, aber vielleicht sind Sie so freundlich und sagen noch mal, wann Sie sich endgültig entschlossen haben, das Land zu verlassen.

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** August was a month in which everybody in Kabul or in Afghanistan was seeing the change starting from 1st of August, when most provinces were handed over to the Taliban quite rapidly. For example, we were seeing every day on the news how in Herat, Farah, Nimruz and all the other provinces the Afghan military troops were giving up and giving all the artillery and everything to the Taliban. This was not a very good sign. Already I started to talk about this situation with my friend Dr Jan Koehler. In fact, Dr Jan Koehler called me himself and said, "You see that the situation is not very positive. What is your exit strategy?" I always explained to him that I didn't know. I hoped that

the situation would not go into the worst situation as it was in the nineties in Afghanistan. I thought if that would happen, I might move to Pakistan and stay there. This was the only thing I was thinking about. I did not think at the time that I would move to Germany to stay here because I was thinking, well, the government may change, but the people, the work situation would remain the same.

But on 13th, 14th and 15th of August, immediately the situation was completely the other way around. Most of the people who were in the Afghan cabinet, most ministers, deputy ministers we used to work with on some occasions, we knew each other. We were talking about the situation on different occasions. Right now, I am trying to help two of the Afghan deputy ministers who are still in Pakistan and I am trying to ask my friends if they could be part of the evacuation. It was with these friends that we talked about the situation and they were not happy about it. They were saying that there was another body within the government pushing the situation to pro-Taliban changes. Then I thought about it and I contacted again my very good friends here in Germany, and I told them, "Look, the situation does not seem to be as friendly as we expected it to be, so we would like to change the exit strategy."

I put a petition for Germany within the organization that I was working for. This was the longest work experience I had. At the same time I put a request for Australia as well, because the project I was leading in Oruzgan was funded by Australia, so I contacted one of my former colleague from Australian Aid. She had become the first secretary of the Australian embassy in Denmark. She was very kind and immediately she responded to my email with a very nice recommendation and forwarded my document to the authorities in Australia seeking asylum or an evacuation program.

When all this happened, I was in hospital and after leaving the hospital, I came to Germany. I was in Germany when I received an email from them that my case was approved and they wanted to



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talk about the evacuation. I replied that I was already in Germany and evacuated. I did not think that the exit strategy would mean that I would leave the country. This was not my initial thinking.

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Ich habe verstanden, dass Sie nach dem gescheiterten Versuch der Evakuierung keinen Kontakt zu deutschen Stellen hatten, sondern Sie sich an Ihre Freunde gewandt haben. So hatten Sie das vorhin gesagt? Das habe ich richtig verstanden?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** I was all the time in regular contact with my German friends and colleagues and with the Afghan authorities and we were discussing the situation all the time. The only thing, for me to leave Afghanistan, coming as far as Germany as an exit strategy was not the initial thinking. In February and March of 2001 [sic!] and again in June and July, Christoph Reuter was in Kabul and I facilitated that he gets introduced and interviewed some of the Taliban or pro-Taliban figures in Kabul to get their thinking. He was making different interviews and then every evening we would get together, sit over a cup of tea and talk about the situation, what it looked like together with some friends of mine, journalists who were working in Afghanistan. We were sitting and talking. Most of the time, our thinking was that even if the Taliban did not put any pressure on the Afghan government, the situation within the cabinet, within the Afghan government was so bad that the government would fall apart. This was the kind of understanding we had, and that's why an exit strategy was a topic all the time, but not that kind of topic to say, "Okay, I may leave the country", but exit strategy in a sense that if the situation changes, how I could cope with the new situation and how I will manage to adjust myself to the new situation where it might be led and run by the Taliban.

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Sie waren dann im Krankenhaus in Kabul, so habe ich das verstanden, und sind vom Krankenhaus aus nach Deutschland geflogen. Wie lange hat das gedauert, bis Sie ein Visum bekommen haben? Und was brauchten Sie dafür?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** I was living in Kabul with my family, but not in my house, from 17th of August onwards. The family - my kids and my wife - was all staying at my in-laws' family because my house was kind of watched by the Taliban. When I was shot, I was in a hospital. The name is Emergency. It's a victim's hospital: Emergency hospital for the victims of war. Only orthopaedic patients and those who are injured and all this are going there. I was in that hospital. The documents that I had provided - it's a folder with all my contracts with different organizations that I had, plus most of the certificates and a letter of the situation that I wrote about what has happened - this has been shared with most of my colleagues. I sent it to Dr Jan Koehler, to Dr Kristóf Gosztonyi, to Dr Annette Kleinbrod, to Christoph Reuter. All of them put this package to one of these organizations who were providing the first approval. I received the first approval as a small note in my email that "your entrance to the German territory has been approved". It was a short note and then I had to wait. I didn't know what to do with it. One evening, Christoph Reuter told me to approach the Serena Hotel and that "there might be people who will talk to you." Then I approached the Serena Hotel. There was a person who was dealing with all of this, checking the notes, and giving us rooms and we waited for the time to get into the bus to leave the country.

My family went to Islamabad on the 21st of September, and they received their first visa by the end of September, which was facilitated by the Kabul Luftbrücke and the team. I left Kabul on the 14th of October, from the hospital bed in a wheelchair, to Torkham border, which is something like five hours' drive, four hours' drive, and then crossing the border in a wheelchair, in a very, very difficult situation. I was not even trusting myself that I can make it, because as per the doctors' advice, they said that the bone is not in a kind of situation that it could tolerate any sudden move. So that is why I had to be very careful with it. But I managed with the help of my brother and another friend, and on the other side Theresa was waiting for me, and Vanessa was waiting for me from the Kabul Luftbrücke. And I crossed the border.



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From the 14th or 15th of October, these letter notes were given to the German embassy in Islamabad and I was given the chance for an interview. The interview was quite friendly. When I went to the embassy, they welcomed us very warmly. They wanted to check if the face in the passport with the filled-in name (?), all is correct. And then they issued the first one-month visa for Germany. And right after issuing the visa, on the 29th of October, I had a flight to Germany.

When I came here, the first month we stayed in a camp, which was quite a good place, very friendly people. And during that time we had an interview with the border Amt, and then they issued us a three-years' visa and all those documents with the work permission, the study permission and living permission in Germany.

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Ich verstehe, dass das für Sie eine ausgesprochen schwierige Sache gewesen ist und dass Sie am Ende ja auch ein bisschen Glück hatten, dass das gutgegangen ist.

Ich habe noch ein paar wenige abschließende Fragen. Darf ich fragen, wie es Ihnen und Ihrer Familie heute geht?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** Thank you very much. - Now we are coming to the very good answers and happy messages. We are very good and quite happy. The kids are going to school. We are looking forward that by end of the coming school holidays my small daughter will go to the fourth grade, my son will go to the ninth grade and my daughter will go to the tenth grade. Me and my wife are classmates. We are studying the German language and we are in the last class B1. Very soon in February, we will have our B1 exam. Both of us are looking forward to pass this exam and starting our career and job and seeing what the new life in Germany will bring us. This is the situation we are still living in. Finding a house in Berlin is a little bit difficult - you guys know about it - but still we are trying to do that and manage. But overall, we are quite happy and quite thankful for the very friendly reactions we get when we go to the job centre.

The people at the job centre are giving us a really nice reception. We talk about every issue. There has not been an issue that we write them an email or give them a call and they don't take it seriously. It's quite a friendly environment and we are happy. I hope I'm conveying the right message. My wife and kids will confirm that they have the same impression.

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Dann freue ich mich sehr, dass es Ihnen und Ihrer Familie gutgeht.

Für meinen Teil sind die Fragen erst mal erschöpft. Ich gebe das Fragerecht weiter an die Union, den Kollegen Röwekamp.

**Thomas Röwekamp (CDU/CSU):** Herr Walim, auch von meiner Seite herzlichen Dank, dass Sie sich unseren Fragen heute stellen. - Meine erste Frage zielt noch auf Ihre Tätigkeit in Afghanistan. Uns liegt ein Schreiben, eine E-Mail, von Ihnen - das ist MAT A GIZ-3.64, Blatt 14/15 - vor. Da haben Sie sich an eine Frau Scheller in der Botschaft in Kabul gewandt. Können Sie sich an diese E-Mail erinnern?

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Ich darf, Entschuldigung, die Zwischenanmerkung machen, dass es möglich ist, wenn Sie ein Schriftstück sehen wollen, dass Sie es auch zu sehen bekommen.

**Thomas Röwekamp (CDU/CSU):** Können Sie sich daran erinnern? Oder sollen wir Ihnen das Schreiben noch mal zeigen?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** Please show it to me because I have written so many emails to so many organisations for myself and others. So it would be very good if I could see it.

(Dem Zeugen werden  
Unterlagen vorgelegt - Er  
liest in diesen Unterlagen)

I don't remember this email, but definitely yes, this is what I have written.



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**Thomas Röwekamp** (CDU/CSU): Okay, vielen Dank. - Da schreiben Sie auf der Seite 2:

Importantly, I was local researcher and analyst as well as correspondent and fixer for different news agencies since 2010 ...

Deswegen meine Frage - Sie haben ja Ihre Tätigkeit in der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit geschildert -: Können Sie uns vielleicht noch sagen, wie Sie journalistisch tätig gewesen sind, für wen, in welchen Themen und seit wann?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** I have not been a journalist, but I have supported most of the German journalists who have come to Afghanistan when they wanted to find the right people to interview or they wanted to confirm some information. I have done that on many other occasions, for example, with Christoph Reuter when he was working for the "Stern" and when he was working for "Der Spiegel" and whenever he wanted to ask for some information. Or some of the other journalists, for example, some Australian or American journalists. I was in contact with them. Whenever they wanted to confirm some information on Afghanistan, or even when Dr Jan Koehler wanted to reconfirm some of the information on Afghanistan, I was providing the ground reality and I was providing information.

**Thomas Röwekamp** (CDU/CSU): Sie haben uns vorhin geschildert, dass Sie wegen Ihrer Tätigkeit für internationale Organisationen von den Taliban angefeindet worden sind. Hat es auch Anfeindungen gegeben wegen Ihrer Unterstützung journalistischer Tätigkeit?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** Once you are working in a community, you are known as a person who is working in the field of development or of journalists or in any relation. It has not been the case that I was only introduced as a developmental worker. For example, if a team of journalists was going to the Kunar province of Afghanistan and wanted to have the first people to meet there I have provided them with some of my ex-colleagues, friends and whomever so that they can go and talk to them. They said, "The journalists

were here and we helped them." Or, for example, if they wanted to go to other provinces, through my contacts I have introduced them and I have provided this facilitation to most of my developmental workers and also to my journalist friends. So this has been the case for many, many years.

**Thomas Röwekamp** (CDU/CSU): Im Zusammenhang mit diesen Anfeindungen und auch dem Übergriff vom 2. September haben Sie das immer den Taliban zugeschrieben. Können Sie mir vielleicht einen Eindruck verschaffen, woran Sie diese Taliban erkannt haben? Also, wie konnten Sie die zuordnen, insbesondere auch die Attentäter oder die Angreifer vom 2. September, aber auch diejenigen, die Ihnen vorher Drohungen ausgesprochen haben? Woher hatten Sie die Gewissheit, dass es sich um Taliban handelt? Konnten Sie die? Oder haben die sich Ihnen gegenüber als solche ausgewiesen?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** Definitely in the three seconds of the communication that I had with the shooters, they didn't introduce themselves. But the evidence which I had, for example, is: two times searching my house after I was shot and searching my office while I was in the hospital, closing my personal and official bank accounts with an official statement of the bank that the Taliban have seized or frozen my account because of the work that I have done with GIZ. That email or statement is still with me. And the message through some of my family and friends, that they were sending, that "Now we are in Kabul and we get you" is another message.

One of the very important things that I was thinking about later was that when I was shot and I fell on the ground, for a few seconds I was not able to see anything, but I could hear, and one of them came and looked at me and said, "He's dead." And he was talking in Pashto. Then another one of them said, "Okay, if he's dead, leave him there." I opened my eyes and I saw that their car and my car were turning around and going backwards. I just watched the two cars, which were leaving, and I was there for something like two to three minutes. And the people, the crowd came and they ask what happened and what was the situation. They helped me to get from the middle



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of the road to the side of the road. And there was one guy, very much a gentleman. He offered sympathy and said, "If you have any family, friends, whatever you can call them to come and help you." Since with these telephones and with these mobile phones, every number is saved in it and you never look at the number, you call the names. I didn't remember any names, but by a good chance, I remembered just a telephone number of a good friend of mine, Kahar. Now he's living in UK. I called him, and he informed my family, and they came to get me from the roadside to the hospital because none of the ambulance were willing to help us.

We called the Kabul ambulance three times and they said, "We can't help you." My car was not taken. If it was a robbery or whatever, they could take my car, but they didn't. They just took my car, left it away from my access, two, three kilometres somewhere, and they had left everything behind. When I was in the hospital, my brother called me the next morning saying "We found a car and we got it." So still my car is in Kabul. It's used by my brother. With all these other situations, like the house search, my bank account, always they were looking for me, even the neighbors were saying that "Most of the time there are new faces in the area and they ask about you," these are those types that I think it is the Taliban, no one else. I didn't have any other enemy. My family had no other enemy who would come and get me.

**Thomas Röwekamp** (CDU/CSU): Sind außer Ihnen und Ihrer Frau und Ihren Kindern auch anderen nahen Angehörigen gegenüber Drohungen ausgesprochen worden? Also, Sie sagten vorhin, Sie hätten öfter sich mit Ihrem Vater ausgetauscht beispielsweise. Sind auch Ihre weiteren Familienmitglieder bedroht worden? Und hat es diese Bedrohung auch nach Ihrer Ausreise noch gegeben?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** We are two brothers and my father. My brother and my father are still living in Kabul and they are not threatened because of my work, because of my contacts. I only share and consult my father as being a person who should be informed of what is going on. But

no, they are not threatened and they are still in Kabul.

**Thomas Röwekamp** (CDU/CSU): Dann würde ich gerne noch mal auf das Ihnen bereits vorliegende Dokument zu sprechen kommen. Adressat ist eine Frau - - eine Mitarbeiterin in der Botschaft. Meine Frage ist: Woher hatten Sie diesen Kontakt?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** The month of August was a month in which everybody was searching for whatever email address they could find to send their documents and applications to. It was a weave of email addresses which was opened all the time and closed. IOM, the International Office of Migration, had also opened an email address and most people were applying to that one. Then there was another email address and the people were saying, it was from the German embassy who accepted the applications. GIZ itself later on opened an email address where people could send their applications to leave the country. So it was nothing special that I found it or I got it, but it was a situation where these new email addresses were announced somewhere or somebody got them immediately. They got shared among friends and everybody was sending their documents and applications to get approval and leave the country.

**Thomas Röwekamp** (CDU/CSU): Ich frage das deshalb, weil das ja eine sehr ausführliche Schilderung Ihrer Situation und Ihres beruflichen Werdegangs einschließlich Lebenslaufes und auch von Scankopien der Ausweise von Ihnen und Ihrer ganzen Familie gewesen ist. Das sind ja schon sehr weitgehende Informationen, die Sie da mitgeteilt haben. Deswegen noch mal meine Frage: Sie können sich nicht genau erinnern, woher Sie diese Ansprechpartnerin benannt bekommen haben?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** Exactly, to be honest, no. I don't remember from where I get this - a Kabul diplomat? -, but I told you, I put in a petition at that time for Australia. I put a petition to IOM. I put a petition to some of the other email addresses that some friends and people who were



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also in that same situation were applying. I applied at the same time for the Royal Netherlands as well, because one of the projects was funded by the Netherlands and I was working on that one, and I contacted some of my former colleagues and they said, "Yes, you can apply for that project as well." I do not remember exactly from where I got that one, but I applied to so many organisations.

**Thomas Röwekamp** (CDU/CSU): Haben Sie auf diese E-Mail oder auf andere E-Mails, die Sie geschickt haben, eine Antwort erhalten?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** Yes, I received a reply from IOM, I received a reply regarding the Australian application. I received it not directly myself, but through my friend Dr Annette Kleinbrod, who was in contact with the Dutch authorities. Some of them were accepted, some of them rejected. Okay, we were rejected. It was a different situation and, yes, I have put this petition to different organisations.

**Thomas Röwekamp** (CDU/CSU): Noch mal meine Nachfrage: Haben Sie auf diese konkrete E-Mail nach Ihrer Erinnerung eine Antwort bekommen, also von der Botschaft oder vom Auswärtigen Amt?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** I should say, I don't remember, but I have to check my emails and see if I have received any reply to that one or not. But I don't remember.

**Thomas Röwekamp** (CDU/CSU): Okay. - Sie hatten dem Vorsitzenden ja sowieso gesagt, dass Sie noch mal Ihre E-Mails durchsehen wollten. Also, wenn eine Antwort dabei wäre, wären wir für die nachträgliche Überlassung auch dann entsprechend dankbar.

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** I will definitely do that. Thank you.

**Thomas Röwekamp** (CDU/CSU): Danke schön. - Dann hatten Sie gesagt, dass Sie im August in das Hotel „Serena“ sich begeben hätten und dass von dort aus ein Transfer zum Flughafen organisiert

werden sollte. Können Sie sich noch daran erinnern, woher Sie diese Informationen hatten? Und wer war Ihr Ansprechpartner in dem Hotel? Können Sie sich auch daran erinnern?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** Yes, I remember that I was contacted by Christoph Reuter, and he sent me a name, Breuer, and he said, "Go to the hotel and show this name."

When I went to the hotel Serena that evening, there was such a big crowd in front of the hotel. Before arriving there, I did not know that people were transported from Serena hotel to the Kabul airport. We went there and we waited for almost 20 minutes for somebody to appear at the door and talk to us. Finally, we saw somebody with the name of Jord- -

(Zuruf der Ehefrau des  
Zeugen von der  
Zuschauertribüne: Jordan!)

- Jordan. Thank you. With the name of Jordan.

I showed that one name, and I said, "I am Wafi Walim with my family, and here is the name." She saw that name, checked the list, and said, "Go inside," and we went inside. Then we were given the room. Jordan was the point of contact in the Serena hotel until we left the hotel, until those two or three times that we went and sat in the bus and waited for the Americans to give this bus permission to enter the Kabul airport. She was the point of contact.

**Thomas Röwekamp** (CDU/CSU): Wissen Sie, ob diese Unterbringung in dem Hotel und der Versuch, Sie zum Flughafen zu bringen, schon von der Luftbrücke Kabul organisiert war? Also, ist da irgendwo diese Organisation Ihnen gegenüber in Erscheinung getreten? Oder wann hatten Sie das erste Mal Begegnung mit Vertretern der Luftbrücke?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** To be honest, no, I didn't know that Jordan or Theresa Breuer were part of the Kabul Luftbrücke. That organization was not introduced, but we were there, thinking that one of the applications that I have put



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through my friends or myself has been accepted by the German government, and that is why I'm here. The first time I heard about the Kabul Luftbrücke was the time that my wife and kids were evacuated to Islamabad. I talked to them and then talked to Theresa and she explained that it was Kabul Luftbrücke that was doing all this ground logistics service and providing this evacuation program.

**Thomas Röwekamp** (CDU/CSU): Sie hatten geschildert, dass es, ich habe mir notiert, drei Versuche gegeben habe, mit dem Bus zum Flughafen zu kommen. Meine Frage jetzt: Haben Sie sozusagen im Bus gesessen, sind zum Flughafen gefahren, haben dann vor Ort die Mitteilung bekommen, dass der Zugang nicht gewährt wird, und sind dann zurückgekehrt? Oder wie muss ich mir - - Können Sie das so ein bisschen näher schildern, wie diese vergeblichen Versuche, zum Flughafen gebracht zu werden, abgelaufen sind?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** The first time, we were still at the hotel. In the hotel, Jordan explained the situation and they made all the people who were there - around 60 people - into four groups and gave every group a kind of sign-code with a telephone number, so that you leave the hotel, you don't talk to anybody, but every group was given a particular address in the city that they had to reach. This was so because from the hotel it was nearly impossible that a bus with people would get out and leave because of the crowd of people and all the situation. When we went to that particular location for the first time, we were waiting there for more than two hours in the evening and when we were calling that number, that number was not responding. Then after two hours, that number called us back and said, "Return to the hotel." Because of the security situation we could not make the arrangement that would give us safe passage to the airport.

After two days, again the same exercise was repeated and was unsuccessful. Then we left the hotel and went to our houses and we were waiting for them to inform us. Then the third time - again it was early morning, 4 o'clock - they told us that we would have to go to one particular location, that we have to be there. So we went

there. There were three, four buses standing there. We sat inside the bus from 4 o'clock in the morning till 10 or 11 o'clock in the morning. We were sitting there and waiting. The bus was full of people. The weather was a little bit hot as well. On the bus, we collected a little bit of money from everybody and gave it to the driver to switch on the air condition for us because it felt like in a cooker, sitting inside a closed bus. Again by 10 o'clock Jordan said, "Unfortunately, we didn't get the permission of safe passage." Yes, this is all that I remember from that time.

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Damit endet das Fragerecht der Union und wechselt

(Thomas Röwekamp  
(CDU/CSU): Schade!)

- es kommt ja wieder - zu den Grünen, zum Kollegen Wagener. Bitte.

**Robin Wagener** (BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN): First of all, thank you very much for your willingness to talk to this committee and to explain your situation and what your experience is. It's very important for us to get your direct words, your direct explanations. Of course, we read about you, but it's very important for us to hear, to have your direct voices here. So thank you also for being willing to live some things through again, to think about it again. That is great. Thank you.

I would like to start with your work. In the past, you have been directly employed by the GIZ. What I read was: until 2013. You just said 2014. Can you confirm the date, please? After that you were working for projects. But direct employment there?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** The original contract was up to December 2014 [sic!]. Because of the handover and closing of the project, we had to do some of the work in January 2014. So since I was busy with the handover until then, I said 2014.

**Robin Wagener** (BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN): Okay, thank you. - Why did you stop working as





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a directly employed staff member of the GIZ and change to the other condition?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** First of all, I stayed with GIZ for quite a long time and I wanted a change, to see if I would be more successful in another area of work or not. And secondly, Vision Supply was established with mostly my idea into the mandate of the organization involved. That is why I was thinking, I will be more useful through Vision Supply if I could make Vision Supply a success. That is why I thought not to continue with GIZ after 2013 and 2014.

**Robin Wagener (BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN):** Then with your own organization, did you only work in this organization for the GIZ, or did you also have other German Auftraggeber, or whatever the English word is? If someone from the translators can translate that please.

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** Through Vision Supply, I did not have any contract up to 2015/2016, I believe. In 2015, I had one short activity for one of the GIZ projects as they needed a survey in six provinces of Afghanistan in a quite short span of time. I provided that activity. Beyond that one, as Vision Supply, I did not have any contracts with GIZ or other German entities.

**Robin Wagener (BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN):** Okay, so just that I have it very clear. After 2014, you did not work even in this Vision Supply context for the GIZ, it was only until 2014 and then this connection stopped? Mainly only the small one you just mentioned.

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** Yes, as a contract, as an organizational contract, only this one contract, which was for one month or one and half month, but I didn't have any other organizational contract with GIZ. But as a person I had many occasions. For example, I did the end-line study of an RCD project in the North and Northeast of Afghanistan. I have done many studies on different KfW projects like RIDF. That was one of the projects of KfW for that I conducted two times a study in the North and Northeast of Afghanistan. That was an individual contract I had myself,

with GIZ or with KfW or with other organizations that I have done these consultancy services for.

**Robin Wagener (BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN):** Okay, thank you. - And you just mentioned your work for German journalists. When did you start doing that?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** It was not a contract that should have a start and end date, but I was in contact with different German journalists from 2006/2007. This was ongoing - living and talking and being in contact. It has been an ongoing activity. Even now, if they are working on some pieces or they need some information or want to confirm some of the factual information, they give me a call, even if I'm sitting in Germany. Through my friends and contacts, I can get some ground reality and confirm some of the information.

**Robin Wagener (BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN):** Thank you. - Then you already talked about the threats you received. Even back then, in the time before Kabul when you were in Oruzgan, just that I have it very clear, were these threats kind of meant like a punishment for working for a Western organization? Or was it more like getting the money from you and getting projects done for the Taliban? This is what you mentioned. So was there a link? Like they said, it's bad working for a Western organization.

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** If you have followed the news, the Taliban say that by taking over the power in Kabul they have forgiven those Afghans who were working for the international organizations. It means, for them it was seen as a guilty crime that Afghans were working there and they were thinking of these Afghans as of hands and eyes and feet of this overall development, a big machine that these Afghans are working for on the ground. So that is why it is a kind of crime from their point of view and it was seen as a kind of penalty if you're working there. "We don't touch you and you pay us", this was the message.

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Herr Kollege Wagener, ich weiß, dass das eine besondere Freundlichkeit Ihrerseits gegenüber dem Zeugen



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ist, dass Sie auf Englisch vortragen; aber die Stenografen bitten darum, dass wir das so machen, das jeweils muttersprachlich vorgetragen und übersetzt wird; sonst führt das hier zu Verwirrungen und macht die Dinge komplizierter. Es wird ja perfekt übersetzt. Insofern wäre ich Ihnen dankbar, wenn wir das so halten können, dass wir auf Deutsch fragen. - Danke schön.

**Robin Wagener (BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN):** Ja, klar, kann ich gerne auch machen. Ich persönlich finde es angenehmer, den direkten Austausch haben zu können, was verlorengeht, wenn man es so macht. Auch gerade bei einer Befragung finde ich es angenehmer. Aber wenn das für die Protokollierung leichter ist, können wir das natürlich auch gerne so machen.

Als Sie diese Bedrohung erhalten haben, welche - - Also, Sie haben dann als Konsequenz - - sind Sie nach Kabul umgezogen. Und wenn ich es richtig verstanden habe, hat die GIZ damals nicht richtig reagiert, überhaupt nicht reagiert auf Ihre Gefährdungsanzeigen, die Sie damals gemacht haben. Oder gab es irgendwelche Unterstützungen vonseiten der GIZ, auch schon als Sie in Uruzgan waren und dann nach Kabul gegangen sind?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** I have not shared this with the GIZ at that time. I did not report it to anybody because this was not that serious. Everybody was approaching us for projects. Some of them found family and friends and asked for a project. Some used a little bit of pressure, some would offer some cash, some of them used different means. This particular subject was a little bit different and unique because I knew that they were from Eastern Afghanistan, where I came from, and I knew that this family or these people were from the Taliban and their intention was to get involved in some of the activities and make themselves "kind of involved" and make some money out of it. So this was based on my information, on the ground reality that I am from the East of Afghanistan, and I knew it.

**Robin Wagener (BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN):** Die Veränderung der Bedrohungslage - - Als Sie

nach Kabul sind, haben Sie auch dann geschildert, dass die Taliban Ihnen gesagt haben: Wir wissen, wo Sie sind, und wir kommen, um uns mit Ihnen zu unterhalten. - So in etwa haben Sie es gerade geschildert. Haben Sie noch eine andere Veränderung der Bedrohung wahrgenommen, nicht nur durch den Umzug nach Kabul, sondern vielleicht auch eine Veränderung durch militärischen Fortschritt der Taliban oder veränderte Lage in Afghanistan?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** In fact, when I received this message, I immediately contacted some of my friends. Some of them, you know, were working with the government and at the same time working with the Taliban or somehow they were pro-Taliban, but still living in Kabul. I had many of these friends, I talked to them, and they gave me an assurance that, "No, nothing will happen and it will be quite a friendly environment. And we are here to give you support, we will protect you." Things like this. This was the message all the time.

When I talked to my father, he was also confident, and he said, "No it will be a situation that a million Afghans are living here with the same characteristics that you have. If they are killing, it means that they are killing thousands of people." So for that reason, I was a little bit afraid, but not afraid at the same time. It was kind of: let's see the situation, how it will develop, how it will go. For that reason, I was not thinking that it would go that far. This was my very first impression. When they sent the message, I was thinking that they will come and say, "You are working for this organization here, you earn this much salary and you have to pay us this much." I was thinking more along these lines, but not that "when we come to talk to you" means that they come and shoot me. This is totally a different thing.

**Robin Wagener (BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN):** Eine Frage noch zum Kontext. Hat sich irgendwas an der Bedrohungslage durch die Taliban dadurch geändert, dass Sie nicht mehr in einem direkten abhängigen Beschäftigungsverhältnis bei der GIZ waren, sondern als Auftragnehmer tätig?



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Hatten Sie den Eindruck, dass das wahrgenommen wurde und sich dadurch etwas verändert hat?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** I should say I do not know it, because I was working in different capacities. It was not because of this one work. The reason they gave me when they froze my bank account was that I was an adviser of GIZ and to the government of Afghanistan. That relates more to my career between 2005 and 2010. When I received the message through some people to give them money or a project, this was a different level totally because this related more to the time between 2010 and 2013 and 2014. When I was asked for money, this was more related to the time when I was working for Vision Supply. So it was different times, different messages, where you can interpret that message immediately, as it corresponds to certain parts of your career. So for that reason, I simply do not know which kind of threat was related to this shooting or which kind of threat was really behind my house search and office search as they were looking for me.

**Robin Wagener** (BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN): Herzlichen Dank.

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Dann wechselt jetzt das Fragerecht zur AfD.

**Stefan Keuter** (AfD): Vielen Dank, Herr Vorsitzender. - Guten Tag, Herr Walim! Vielen Dank, dass Sie uns heute hier zur Verfügung stehen.

Ich würde gerne als Erstes wissen: Wie ist Ihre Familie von Kabul nach Pakistan, nach Islamabad gekommen? Auf dem Luftbrückenweg oder dann doch über den Landweg?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** They travelled by land without my wife having a passport, without my family having a visa. Even when I travelled to Pakistan, I did not have a Pakistani visa because during the time that I was in hospital, one of the agents of Kabul Luftbrücke applied for my Pakistani visa six times, but the Pakistanis rejected my visa. We all travelled by road crossing the Torkham border and there was an agreement between the German government and the Pakistani

government with a list that our family name was on, so that even without visas, the Pakistanis would allow us to enter Pakistan.

**Stefan Keuter** (AfD): Das heißt, Sie haben die Grenze mit Ihrem afghanischen Personalausweis quasi aufgrund dieses deutschen Abkommens überschritten?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** I had my valid passport, but not a visa, and I crossed the border with that passport.

**Stefan Keuter** (AfD): Okay. Vielen Dank. - Lassen Sie uns mal zu dieser Situation zurückkommen, wo Sie angeschossen worden sind. Mir liegt eine E-Mail-Korrespondenz des Auswärtigen Amtes vor. Für die Akten: Das ist MAT C AA-1 EM-20, Blatt 1. Die Frage ist: Waren Sie alleine in dem Auto? Oder wer hätte Sie begleitet?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** I was alone. In fact, I usually left the office late, but that was not one of the usual days in the office. I just went there to get some of my things in order and to close my files, when my daughter called me that she was sick and needed to go the doctor. Then I thought that I had to leave a little earlier and not to wait until 4 or 5 o'clock. I left the office at 2:30 and on the way, at 3 o'clock, the incident happened that I was shot. This was the time I was going to my in-law family, which was more in the Southwest of Kabul, while my office was in the centre of Kabul, and I was alone in the car.

**Stefan Keuter** (AfD): Waren Sie bewaffnet?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** No, never.

**Stefan Keuter** (AfD): Auf welche Distanz sind Sie beschossen worden?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** When they stopped my car, their car was most probably at a distance of four to five meters from my car. At that moment I opened the door and put my left leg out of the car as they were approaching. And I wanted to stand. While standing up from my seat I fell to the ground and that was the time that they were already shooting. I heard them



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shooting three to four bullets. In the hospital in Kabul, they said it was one bullet and they took it out. When I came to Germany, I made another X-ray and they said that there were two more bullets still inside the leg, but it is not worth it to take them out and I could have them for the rest of my life.

**Stefan Keuter (AfD):** Wissen Sie, ob diese Vorfälle untersucht worden sind? Aus dem Bericht des Auswärtigen Amtes geht hervor:

Der Hintergrund der Tat ist unklar. Die Taliban ermitteln angeblich.

Das zitiere ich jetzt daraus. - Wissen Sie, ob Ermittlungen geführt worden sind, ob es da Ergebnisse zu gibt?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** In those days, the police department and some of the police stations, their investigation or whatever, you name it, was not functional. They claimed that they would do it. When they handed my car back to my brother somebody has said, "We will be investigating and give you a report." Nobody has talked about it or informed us about any progress. At the same time, I was so afraid that I was not going to contact them and ask, "Can you tell us who shot me or what the process was?" "Because I was thinking, if I identified myself or announced myself, that it would happen again."

**Stefan Keuter (AfD):** Okay. - Lassen Sie uns noch mal über einen anderen Bereich sprechen. Ich habe einen Zeitungsartikel gefunden vom 16.08.2021 einer niederländischen Zeitung; „de Volkskrant“ heißt diese. Hier sind Sie mit einem Augenzeugenbericht in einem Artikel geschildert worden. Sie haben per Videoanruf die Situation in Kabul Mitte August 2021 geschildert. Ich zitiere daraus - - oder sinngemäß: Laut der Schilderung plaudern Sie zu diesem Zeitpunkt mit den Taliban, und die Menschen in der Stadt machen sogar Selfies mit den Taliban. Es soll keine Gewalt gegeben haben, und die Situation soll friedlich abgelaufen sein. - Können Sie das so bestätigen? Oder was hat Sie damals veranlasst, diese

Äußerung gegenüber dem „de Volkskrant“ so zu tätigen?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** Yes, I remember this interview; those were the days that we were conducting all the interviews. This was the situation out on the ground. This was the reality of the city. I was going around still wearing a t-shirt and jeans, and nobody was even telling me anything. The day I was shot, I was not wearing normal Afghan clothes, but jeans and a t-shirt that I was shot in. The Taliban were not doing anything and in most places, most of the people were taking selfies with the Taliban. Nobody was aware of what was happening in the background. I was not aware of it either. What I saw in the street was what I spoke about in this interview.

**Stefan Keuter (AfD):** In diesem Artikel heißt es weiter oder Sie schildern, dass es nicht an Wasser, nicht an Nahrung mangelt, dass seit der Einnahme der Stadt durch die Taliban kein einziges Mal der Strom ausgefallen war. - Daraus schließe ich ja, dass die Situation eigentlich normal und umgänglich war. Wann ist in Ihrer Wahrnehmung diese Stimmung in Kabul gekippt?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** I think that on the surface the situation in the city has not changed up to now. There is still food, there is water, everything is normal. You can go and talk to a Talib or you can take a selfie with a Talib. The situation still has not changed at all, but as we hear, read, and see from the media, there are secret killings. Even last week, one of the ex-parliamentarians was shot dead in Kabul in her house.

**Stefan Keuter (AfD):** Vielen Dank. Unsere Zeit endet. Wir machen in der nächsten Runde weiter.

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Darf ich Sie darauf aufmerksam machen, Herr Kollege, dass, wenn wir Vorhalte machen im Sinne von „aus irgendwelchen Interviews oder anderen Dingen zitieren“, das dem Ausschuss zur Verfügung gestellt werden muss?

Ich rufe dann noch die FDP zum Fragerecht auf, und danach unterbrechen wir die Sitzung für



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eine Stunde. - Jetzt hat Frau Kollegin Dr. Jurisch das Wort.

**Dr. Ann-Veruschka Jurisch (FDP):** Vielen herzlichen Dank, Herr Vorsitzender. - Vielen Dank, Herr Walim an Sie und Ihre Familie, dass Sie heute hier sind und dass Sie bereit sind, unsere Fragen zu beantworten. Das ist sehr freundlich von Ihnen.

Ich würde gerne damit anfangen, noch mal über Ihr Unternehmen zu sprechen, über Vision Supply. Könnten Sie vielleicht dazu mal was zu der Eigentümerstruktur sagen? Also, wem gehört das Unternehmen?

Ich habe auch in einem der Dokumente, aber auch auf der Website des Unternehmens gesehen, dass es in den USA inkorporiert ist und dass es auch beim State Department registriert ist. Vielleicht könnten Sie dazu noch was sagen.

Und wenn Sie dann vielleicht auch noch ein bisschen was dazu sagen könnten, in welchem Umfang Sie Tag für Tag dort gearbeitet haben. Also, wie viel Prozent Ihres Arbeitstages war mit Arbeit für Vision Supply angefüllt?

Also, eine ganze Menge Fragen. Vielleicht könnten Sie das einfach mal so ein bisschen schildern. - Danke.

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** This is one of the interesting questions that I love to talk about for hours. Vision Supply was established in 2010, together with a friend, Dr Mary Hayden. She is an American. At the beginning, it was only about how to better use our knowledge for better serving or better bringing the development to the people. Dr Mary Hayden was very kind to accept to register the company in the United States and officially introduce it to Afghanistan, so that we could enter the work market in Afghanistan as an international organization or as an American organization. The know-how and the knowledge to make the company work came from me and my team. She was always saying that she was the founder of the organization in the United States, but that I was the founder in Afghanistan, and

the word Vision Supply was my idea. I am really proud of this organization.

The organization was on paper up to 2012, and we did not have any official work time or separation of work time. In 2012, we decided to come out of the paper into reality on the ground and hired a team to work on that. I did not give my time, but we hired another person to do the job. We shared the salary cost of this person to run the show. Up to 2014, I practically joined and came to work there. Before that, between the contracts that I had - for example, a contract for a year, then a break for two months or something like that -, I gave some input to Vision Supply, but it was more intellectual input to the organization than physical work time to do the job.

**Dr. Ann-Veruschka Jurisch (FDP):** Also, wie haben dann Ihre Arbeitstage jetzt vor allem 2020 und 2021 ausgesehen? Waren Sie dann auch immer noch regelmäßig im Unternehmen? Oder haben Sie da vor allem als Consultant in den verschiedenen Funktionen für andere Auftraggeber gearbeitet? Und vielleicht könnten Sie in dem Zusammenhang auch noch sagen, in welcher Form und in welchem Umfang Sie 2020 und 2021 für die GIZ gearbeitet haben.

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** The work I was doing for Vision Supply between the years 2020 and 2021 meant that I was fully giving all my time to Vision Supply, but for the time I was providing consultancy services for other organizations. Still, I was using the platform of work of the Vision Supply office, the Vision Supply computer and all the opportunities which I had as head of the programs and director. I was doing consultancy at the same time, as a freelance contract so that I can do it from anywhere. It was not bound by time, but work. For example, I made a study of the DAAD activities in Afghanistan between the years 2003 and 2017, we conducted this kind of activities for one of the German organizations and I was doing all these interviews from that office most of the time. So, the time division was that I was working for Vision Supply, but I was taking out time for my consultancy work and doing the contracts.



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**Dr. Ann-Veruschka Jurisch (FDP):** Als was sind Sie denn wahrgenommen worden, also jetzt gerade von den Taliban? Haben die Sie als jemanden, der halt für irgendwelche internationalen Organisationen arbeitet, wahrgenommen, als jemanden, der für die GIZ arbeitet, als jemanden, der für Vision Supply arbeitet, oder einfach - - Was war Ihre Wahrnehmung? Was glauben Sie, wie die Taliban Sie wahrgenommen haben?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** One thing I forgot to add to the first part of the question: in 2012, the American wing of Vision Supply had come to an end and Mary Hayden was not part of the organization anymore and it became a totally Afghan-led company. This was the reason that later on we continued with it.

How the Taliban perceived me, I didn't know. They were not reading my contracts and were not aware of the detail, they only saw the result of my work, how far I was involved or I was appearing in public. This was their window of understanding of my work. So they saw me as somebody who is travelling to the provinces, who is visiting government officials, who is meeting foreigners and things like that. This is what they saw and was their source of information, I believe. Whether they had access to the files that I had in my office or my contracts and they knew all the details, this I don't know about. What they saw from the outside was that I am somebody who was involved everywhere: he is working with the community, working with the government officials and at the same time he is involved with the internationals as well.

**Dr. Ann-Veruschka Jurisch (FDP):** Ja, das wäre auch meine Follow-up-Frage. Sie haben ja bei Ihrem Antrag auf Ausreise vom 15. August geschrieben, dass Sie schon 2010 in der damaligen Provinz auch schon von den Taliban verfolgt wurden und so. Wie können Sie sich dieses Wissen der Taliban erklären? Ist das einfach aufgrund dessen, dass man öffentlich in Erscheinung tritt? Oder haben die Taliban Unterlagen? Also, vielleicht könnten Sie das auch noch ein bisschen näher erläutern.

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** I hope they had documents and files, since I was working in Oruzgan and Oruzgan was the hub or the motherland of most Taliban. Even the Taliban from other provinces of the country were going to Oruzgan during 2009 to 2013 to receive some training or to stay and wait until their commander would send them somewhere. They kept a low profile staying in Oruzgan. They saw me there for the first time, they saw that I was going to the governor's office all the time and meeting the Governor of Oruzgan. So that was the platform where they saw me and started to investigate what I was doing in Oruzgan. They found out that I was working for GIZ and then they started to establish contact with me from Oruzgan. When I came back, they started to influence me in Kabul as well and in my former homeland in East Afghanistan where I came from. So the first introduction between me and the people from my village or from my province had happened in Oruzgan.

**Dr. Ann-Veruschka Jurisch (FDP):** Wie hat sich denn die Bedrohung geäußert, damals 2010 Uruzgan und auch später? Und was war Ihr Eindruck, was das Ziel der Bedrohung war? Um was ging es den Taliban?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** To be honest, I was not taking it very seriously. I was relying on the Afghan military forces, that they are there to protect us. Most of the time, I didn't think that it will be the case that they would come to Kabul and take us one day. This was not my understanding or my belief or something that we even could imagine that this will happen. For that reason, I never took it that seriously. I was always thinking, "This is what they are saying, this is what they want or this is how they approach us," but it will not be the case that one day they would really, physically be able to come to Kabul and get me. I never could even have imagined that.

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Das Fragerecht, Frau Kollegin, ist erschöpft. - Ich würde dann jetzt die Sitzung für eine Stunde unterbrechen. Das Fragerecht geht dann nachher an die Partei



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Die Linke und die SPD in dieser ersten Runde, und dann beginnt die zweite Runde.

(Unterbrechung von  
14.25 bis 15.25 Uhr)

**Stellvertretender Vorsitzender Thomas Erndl:**

So, ich eröffne die Sitzung, wie abgesprochen, wieder. Wir haben eine Premiere: Ich darf kurz die Sitzungsleitung übernehmen - der Herr Vorsitzende kommt nachher wieder und macht weiter -, also nur für einen kurzen Zeitraum.

Wir machen weiter in unserer Befragung. Aber den Zeugen brauchen wir auch noch.

(Der Zeuge betritt den  
Sitzungssaal)

- Wunderbar. Dann können wir fortfahren mit der Befragung. - Das Fragerecht geht an die Fraktion Die Linke. Frau Kollegin Büniger, bitte schön.

**Clara Büniger (DIE LINKE):** Vielen Dank, Herr Vorsitzender. - Vielen Dank auch, Herr Walim, von meiner Seite, dass Sie heute hier sind, und für Ihren Vortrag, der für uns sehr wichtig ist.

Sie haben in Ihrem Statement vorhin gesagt, dass Ihr Konto eingefroren wurde. Habe ich das richtig verstanden, und, wenn ja, wann ist das passiert?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** When I was in the hospital in the first week, I needed some cash. So I signed a check and sent it to the bank and they came back and said that they were not giving us the cash. And they said "Your account has been frozen." Then I wrote an email to the person I was in contact with at the bank, and they said, "Your account has been frozen based on the ordinance we have received from the Central Bank" - from the Afghanistan Central Bank. And the reason - I asked him for it later - was, "Because you have been an adviser for the Afghan government. We only have this information that we can give you, but nothing further."

**Clara Büniger (DIE LINKE):** Können Sie das einordnen zeitlich so ein bisschen, wann ungefähr

das Konto gesperrt worden sein müsste, an welchem Datum, in welchem Monat? Das würde eigentlich schon ausreichen.

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** Approximately, I can say the second week of September, 2021.

**Clara Büniger (DIE LINKE):** Das ist ja relativ schnell nach der Machtübernahme durch die Taliban dann erfolgt, dass Ihr Bankkonto demzufolge eingefroren sein muss. Für mich persönlich gibt das Rückschlüsse darauf, dass sie entweder eine Liste hatten mit Ihrem Namen dadrauf oder relativ einen hohen organisierten - - hohen Grad der Organisation gehabt haben müssten. Haben Sie Kenntnis von solchen Vorgängen, oder kennen Sie eine andere Person, der Ähnliches passiert ist wie Ihnen?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** I don't know anyone else who had the same situation, or better I should say, I have not spoken to anybody. But I would like to share something from another interview that we conducted - or I conducted - with someone regarding this situation: how this smooth transfer of power between the Taliban and the former government will take place. Somebody said that the Taliban have information on different levels and they have already made this kind of "who-should-do-what" when they enter into Kabul. For example, every police division has a Taliban police structure that will just go and take over. Also, the person in that interview said, "We have detailed information on every person: who is working where and what are the capacities of their work. And based on the capacity of their work or the importance of their work, we follow them and we see if we have to put them in jail or kill them or do what. It is not only for those people who were working directly with the government of Afghanistan, but all others who are working with international organizations, but are still involved with the government of Afghanistan." This is a quote from another interview.

As for myself, I have no information; I don't know why nor how this has happened. It was the only email communication that I had with the bank. I even wrote a letter requesting that the



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Central Bank of Afghanistan give me a reason why my account has been frozen and what the procedures are for me to open it. The letter reached a certain stage and somewhere along the way, it was blocked and they said, "At this point, we cannot tell you anything and this letter cannot go further." My brother came back and said, I cannot move this letter forward any longer. Then we said, okay, let's leave it as it is.

**Clara Bünger (DIE LINKE):** Hatten Sie damals - -

**Stellvertretender Vorsitzender Thomas Erndl:**  
Das Fragerecht wechselt zur SPD-Fraktion. Herr Kollege Nürnberger.

**Jörg Nürnberger (SPD):** Vielen Dank, Herr Vorsitzender. - Ich möchte an der Stelle Ihnen auch danken, Herr Walim, dass Sie heute die Zeit haben und die Energie, uns die Fragen zu beantworten.

Nachdem viele Fragen bereits einmal gestellt wurden, möchte ich mich auf bestimmte Themenbereiche konzentrieren, die hier noch nicht angesprochen oder nicht bis zum Ende durch befragt worden sind.

Unser Untersuchungszeitraum beginnt mit dem 29. Februar 2020, mit dem Abschluss des Vertrages zwischen den USA und den Taliban in Doha. Mich würde interessieren, wie Sie persönlich die Entwicklung in Afghanistan nach diesem Zeitpunkt bis in den Sommer 2021 wahrgenommen haben. Welche Auswirkungen auf Ihre Arbeit, welche Auswirkungen auf Ihr konkretes Leben hatte dieser Abschluss des Abkommens?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** Once the detail of that agreement was out in the media, in public, it was quite clear it was not for the benefit of a democratic Afghanistan. It was an agreement - one can say a safe passage for the United States, which is totally out of discussion. The situation in Afghanistan was such that the trust in business, entrepreneurship, any new business in the country suddenly stopped and everybody was trying to close shop and leave the country. Most of the business community were trying to establish their business somewhere out of the country.

Turkey was a very easy passage or better place where most of the business community were trying to transfer their businesses to. And it was not a very promising situation.

People were thinking that there might be another Afghan-to-Afghan talk between the Taliban and the democratic government of Afghanistan to come to a conclusion and see how both parts of the community can make a future Afghanistan. But this didn't happen because of this giving-up of Afghan military and most of the provinces, which was reported regularly on the media every night. It showed that there was something going on in the government which no one knew about. Because the president was repeatedly saying that he has everything under control, everything is okay, everything is going in accordance with the agreement. And then some of the military officials were also confirming the same thing, while the military was seeing that after February, most of the military bases were giving up and were given to the Taliban. We have many reports, starting from Herat, Nimruz, Farah and all these provinces, which are in the south, and Kandahar and most of the provinces in the east. There was a mass media coverage on that one between February to August that this happened.

People were putting short clips on Facebook, and everywhere they were saying, "I have a gun, I have a bullet, but I'm not allowed to fight back the Taliban." The spreading of this message was immediately giving people a kind of message "You have to leave the country." Especially the business community was very cautious of the situation. It's very important for them that they save their wealth and their business. For that reason, they were the first who left the country before anything would happen. Most of the bigger businesses transferred and took out their cash and wealth from Kabul. Many of the dealers and banks were not transferring money to Kabul as early as one month before the Taliban would take over Kabul. Private banks were acting such that they were not giving anybody more than 200 dollars a day. They put this ceiling to control the money distribution, which immediately does give people a feeling that something is going wrong. There will be something happening. That





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is why the banks are not giving your own money back to you. So this was kind of a desperate situation.

**Jörg Nürnberger (SPD):** In diesem Zusammenhang noch eine Nachfrage. Sie haben vorhin in Ihrer Aussage erwähnt, dass Sie davon ausgegangen sind, dass die afghanischen Regierungsstrukturen nicht stabil genug seien, um dem Druck der Taliban standzuhalten, wenn ich Sie richtig verstanden habe. Haben Sie diese Informationen, wie Sie sie gerade beschrieben haben, aus den Medien? Oder haben Sie noch andere Informationsquellen, worauf Sie sich berufen können?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** There are two things. The one side is what comes out in the mass media. The other side is what we believed, or what we hoped, and what we were looking for was for our government to stand against the upcoming situation. What we were seeing from the mass media or reports through some friends or contacts and informants that we had from different provinces, was clearly showing that there is no interest to stand against the Taliban. That is why the situation is decreasing day by day and it is going towards being in favour of Taliban. For example, the two weeks of fighting between Ismail Khan in Herat and the Taliban was one of the evidences that he was trying to prevent the Taliban from entering into Herat city. But Kabul did not help him. It was as if everybody was talking about it on the media every night, on the news, and Kabul was not willing to help them. There was a kind of agreement/understanding that led the country to fall in the hands of the Taliban. This understanding has gone into the practical life of people. The people, especially the business community, were trying to leave the country, take out their money. This is what we were seeing and witnessing.

**Jörg Nürnberger (SPD):** Vielen Dank. - Ich springe jetzt in den August 2021 zu Ihrer konkreten Situation und den Blick auf die Evakuierung. Sagt Ihnen die Abkürzung IOM, oder ausgeschrieben: Internationale Organisation für Migration, etwas?

(Der Zeuge nickt)

- Ich nehme Ihr Nicken als Ja.

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** Yes, IOM is International Office for Migration, or other way around, "MOI, IOM", but it is the same organization.

**Jörg Nürnberger (SPD):** Ich habe nur nachgefragt wegen des Protokolls. - Sie haben sich ja am 15. August an die deutsche Botschaft gewendet mit der E-Mail - das ist hier schon zitiert worden - unter MAT C AA-1 EM-18, Blatt 1 bis 8. Wurde Ihnen von der Botschaft empfohlen, sich an diese Organisation, die ich jetzt genannt habe, die IOM, in Kabul zu wenden?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** I do not remember this communication exactly, but in those days in August, there was a certain information flying around from friend to friend and everybody who knew something: Where are the correct sources to apply for asylum or to apply for evacuation? UNHCR was not very much active and functional in this area. That is why we were not applying for UNHCR. But IOM - there was information that IOM has an office which deals with this kind of situation. When I sent IOM an email, they immediately sent me a link with a username and password, and so I entered the username and password, and they were asking some questions and asking about some of the documents. I uploaded all documents. I was hearing back from them quite slowly, like every two, three or four weeks they were sending one piece information or asking a question, but it was not something concrete where you could say, "Okay, something is really moving." So that is why people were sending their applications to any possible email address that they were thinking might be correct.

**Jörg Nürnberger (SPD):** Vielen Dank. Damit haben Sie auch meine nächste Frage bereits beantwortet, wie das weitere Verfahren mit dem IOM-Büro ablief, und auch Ihre Erfahrungen geschildert.

Wann haben Sie dann erfahren, dass Sie auf einer Evakuierungsliste des deutschen Auswärtigen Amtes bzw. der Botschaft in Kabul stehen?



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**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** Please don't press me for an exact date, but I think it was between the 19th or 20th of August that I received this call where they said, "You have to go to the Serena Hotel." Before that, I was not aware that my name is on any approved list or if I had received any permission to enter into German territory. That night I heard about it, and if I remember correctly, I received that one via WhatsApp. Somebody sent it to me, not even via email, so before that I did not know it.

**Jörg Nürnberger (SPD):** Vielleicht kann ich Ihnen in diesem Zusammenhang weiterhelfen, wenn wir Ihnen MAT A GIZ-3.64, Blatt 108, vorlegen.

(Dem Zeugen werden  
Unterlagen vorgelegt - Der  
Zeuge liest in diesen Unter-  
lagen)

Sie werden auf diesem Blatt, auf der Seite 2, sehen, dass Ihr Name nicht sichtbar ist; es ist nämlich alles geschwärzt. Aber diese Liste - und darum geht es mir - trägt das Datum vom 21. August 2021. Kann es sein, dass Sie dann danach informiert worden sind?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** Most probably yes, because I was a little bit confused on whether the exact date was 19th, 20th or 21st. When I was writing the short note, my daughter told me that it was not the 19th, but another date. I have not even received this paper; this is the first time I am seeing it. What I received was only a shorter note with my name and details and a short note. I guess I might still have that photo saved in my computer. But this paper, as it is, I have not seen it; this is the first time I am seeing this.

**Jörg Nürnberger (SPD):** Es handelt sich dabei ja auch um interne Korrespondenz der Ministerien. - Vielen Dank dafür, dass Sie das bestätigt haben. Sollten Sie dieses Dokument tatsächlich haben, würden wir Sie vielleicht bitten, es uns vorzulegen, weil es für unsere Unterlagen sehr hilfreich sein kann - diesen Screenshot oder dieses WhatsApp-Dokument, das Sie vom Auswärtigen Amt bekommen haben.

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** I do have this approval for all five family members, including me, and I can share that one.

**Jörg Nürnberger (SPD):** Vielen Dank dafür. - An der Stelle sind meine Fragen für den Moment erschöpft.

**Stellvertretender Vorsitzender Thomas Erndl:** Gut, dann endet die erste Fragerunde. - Wir starten mit der zweiten Runde, und das Fragerecht startet wieder mit der SPD-Fraktion.

**Jörg Nürnberger (SPD):** Nachdem die Fragen in der ersten Runde bereits erschöpft waren, ohne dass die Zeit abgelaufen ist, -

**Stellvertretender Vorsitzender Thomas Erndl:** So ist der formale Ablauf.

**Jörg Nürnberger (SPD):** - danke ich für die formelle Nachfrage; aber wir sind tatsächlich mit unseren Fragen durch. - Vielen Dank.

**Stellvertretender Vorsitzender Thomas Erndl:** Gut. - Dann geht es weiter mit der Union. Thomas Röwekamp.

**Thomas Röwekamp (CDU/CSU):** Herr Walim, wir sind ja vorhin stehen geblieben bei den gescheiterten Versuchen, zum Flughafen zu kommen. Dann gab es ja den Überfall auf Sie mit der Verletzung am 2. September. Sie hatten vorhin auch erwähnt, dass Sie mit Frau Kleinbrod von der GIZ Kontakt hatten. Hat Frau Kleinbrod Ihnen in Ihrem Bemühen, das Land zu verlassen, helfen können? Also, haben Sie von ihr ein Feedback bekommen?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** I was in contact with most of my friends, I am still in contact with all my former German colleagues, even if we were colleagues in 2006. Now for example, she is working in Fiji, but when she visits Germany, she still comes to my house, we have a tea together, and we talk about it.

When I contacted Dr Annette Kleinbrod, she immediately offered me her service and she said, "Send me all the documents so that I can order



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them in such a way that somebody out of your hand can see and read it and easily understand it." She immediately helped me with that. She was not in a position to help me with getting me approval, putting me on a list or whatever. But between my close friends who were working on this topic and Annette, we then immediately made a WhatsApp group and she was the force in the WhatsApp group who was like pushing everybody. "Did you write the recommendation? Did you receive this document or what? Where was the document?" She was kind of putting all the documents together for me and she was always asking other friends who were working on this evacuation plan things like "How was the progress, where does it stand, when can he leave the country?" Especially when I was in the hospital, she was always, like, not only talking to me, but also talking to my friends on my behalf to help them, or to kind of push them to do something immediately so I could leave the country.

**Thomas Röwekamp** (CDU/CSU): Meine Frage geht dahin: Wir wissen aus den Akten, dass Frau Dr. Kleinbrod sich sehr für Ihre Evakuierung eingesetzt hat innerhalb der GIZ. Meine Frage war jetzt: Haben Sie von ihren Bemühungen etwas erfahren? Hat sie Ihnen berichtet? Und hat sie Ihnen vielleicht auch geschildert, ob sie erfolgreich waren oder nicht?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** She was pushing for this topic not only in GIZ, but in this Netherlands program as well, because we were working together when we were implementing this Netherlands-funded project. She was helping me to be on any of the evacuation lists of the Netherlands as well. And in GIZ, yes, she was participating in most of these on-air conferences of GIZ and trying to get information from there. She was not telling me exactly step by step what she did, but, yes, I know that she was knocking on any possible door to find a way for our evacuation.

**Thomas Röwekamp** (CDU/CSU): Nach unseren Unterlagen wusste Frau Dr. Kleinbrod auch von dem Angriff auf Sie. Haben Sie mit ihr selber darüber gesprochen? Also von der Attacke vom 02.09. mit Ihrer Verletzung.

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** Yes, between 2nd of September, up to 6th or 7th of September, I didn't have a telephone in the hospital and I was not in a very good health condition to use the telephone. However, after that I informed all friends who were helping me. I informed them what happened and where I was. Everybody was informed.

**Thomas Röwekamp** (CDU/CSU): Dann würde ich jetzt gerne noch einige wenige Fragen zu Ihrer tatsächlichen Ausreise stellen. Ich habe das vorhin so schnell nicht mitgeschrieben. Können Sie noch mal sagen, wann Ihre Familie nach Pakistan ausgereist ist? Wissen Sie es genau?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** My family travelled from Kabul on 21st of September. Let me just look it up to see if I'm telling the correct date. I will see

(Der Zeuge wendet sich an seine Ehefrau auf der Zuschauertribüne - Zuruf von der Zuschauertribüne)

- She said, 22nd of September.

**Thomas Röwekamp** (CDU/CSU): Okay. - Haben Ihnen Ihre Frau oder Ihre Kinder berichtet, ob es ein Problem gab bei der Ausreise über Pakistan? Sie hatten ja vorhin geschildert, dass Sie teilweise keine Ausweise oder keine Visa hatten. Also, war der Grenzübertritt problemlos?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** I should say that was a very, very hot day of those six weeks. I was always there to help them, but that day I was not. It was a little bit difficult, I should say, especially when I was in regular contact with them over telephone and WhatsApp and everything. They stayed at the border from 10 o'clock until 8 o'clock at night because the Pakistani officials were creating problems and creating reasons not to let them in, annoying them, controlling their telephones and really trying to make them feel that they were not welcome. My wife's health condition was not quite good that day as well. I



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was trying to reach them because for that particular border area, the telephone and the internet do not work as well.

It was quite a bad experience and a bad day; even to this day, they talk about it. They remember it with many sad feelings for that day. They did not have visas, but their name was on a kind of list, which allowed them to enter into Pakistan without a visa. Despite that, the Pakistani officials were making up so many bad reasons, not good reasons, bad reasons. "You have to have a corona test. We are not accepting anything, but we do it here now. You wait out in the hot weather, in the sunshine, until we get the result." Once that was done, then they were checking all the documents. The documents were sometimes acceptable, sometimes not acceptable. And the whole team - it was not only my family that day; it was around five, six families, around 25 people or even more - was waiting at that border from 10 o'clock in the morning up to 8 o'clock at night. Once they crossed the border at 8:30, I could get the telephone number of the driver of the bus, which drove from the Torkham border to Islamabad, so I could reach them and talk to them to make sure that they passed the border safely. But honestly, if you just talk to them in their mother tongue, they can really explain how they felt during that; they really remember it and they really hated it.

**Thomas Röwekamp** (CDU/CSU): Vielen Dank, dass Sie auch darüber so offen sprechen. - In dem Zusammenhang noch eine Frage: Wurde Ihre Familie betreut oder begleitet durch Vertreter der Botschaft oder durch die Luftbrücke? Oder sind sie in einer größeren Gruppe auch zur Grenze gereist? Also, war das ein Bus? Oder wie muss ich mir das vorstellen?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** From Kabul, again, it was the two buses which were planned, the same as I explained before: we wanted to go to the airport which fell. However, this time, it was a smaller bus with a smaller number of people from Kabul. Early in the morning, they left and by 10 o'clock, the bus reached Torkham. Security was on the way, seeing where the Taliban were asking questions, where they were searching the cars, where they were not searching the cars.

Everything was organized by Kabul Luftbrücke; they were the people who were working on all this. The problem on the border was that the team of Kabul Luftbrücke from Kabul, or the Afghan team, was allowed to go up to a certain area, but there was a certain area that they were not allowed to go. Then from the Pakistani side, where, again, the Kabul Luftbrücke team was waiting, there was a gap in between, and they called this gap a kind of "security check". The security check was keeping all these people in a situation where the team of Kabul Luftbrücke from the Pakistani side was not able to reach and help them, and the team from the Kabul side did not have the chance to reach and help them. They were kept in a bad place, which was not quite friendly, I should say.

**Thomas Röwekamp** (CDU/CSU): Vielen Dank. - Wenn ich das richtig in Erinnerung habe - das genaue Datum erinnere ich jetzt nicht mehr -, haben Sie gesagt, Sie seien dann Mitte Oktober - können Sie vielleicht das Datum noch mal genau sagen? - auch über die pakistanische Grenze gefahren. Sind Sie dabei auch durch die Luftbrücke oder durch jemand anders betreut worden?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** That was in fact the last day of validation of that list that people without a visa could cross the border. For that reason, Theresa and Christoph Reuter, both of them entreated me, "Leave the hospital as soon as possible." At that time, in the beginning of the week, according to the doctor's advice, I was not in a position to sit in a wheelchair and I was not allowed to do that. By the middle of the week, somehow I got this ability and the doctor examined me and allowed me to do that. The 14th of October was the last day of that letter. Then I came up to the border with my brother and another relative in my own car. When I crossed over from Torkham border, the Kabul Luftbrücke team took over and we went together with Vanessa, one of the team members, to Islamabad. I stayed in Islamabad in this hotel, which was arranged by Kabul Luftbrücke, for two weeks until I received my first visa from the German government. And then I came to Germany.



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**Thomas Röwekamp** (CDU/CSU): Vielen Dank. - Ihr eigener Grenzübertritt, war der genauso schwierig wie der Ihrer Familie? Oder sind Sie ohne Probleme über die Grenze nach Pakistan gelangt?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** I was sitting in a wheelchair and everybody was giving way to me and I just went through. The only thing was, I was not questioned, I was not stopped so much. They just looked at me, looked at the list, then looked at my passport if the name matched, and they said, "Go, go, go." Then at immigration - again, Theresa was there and she spoke with the person who was in charge there and he looked at my passport and everything and they gave it a stamp and said, "Go." It was easy. I did not face that problem.

**Thomas Röwekamp** (CDU/CSU): Okay, vielen Dank. Das deckt sich mit unserer Lage, dass Ihr Grenzübertritt angekündigt worden ist für diesen Tag und darum gebeten worden ist, den im vereinfachten Verfahren durchführen zu lassen.

Dann haben Sie Ihre Familie wiedergetroffen, wenn ich das richtig aus den Akten sehe, in Islamabad und sind dann gemeinsam ausgereist. Oder sind Sie getrennt ausgereist dann nach Deutschland?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** My family had already received their visa before I could reach Islamabad, and they were waiting for me to come. We were reunited in Islamabad and stayed two weeks there until I received my visa and then we came together from Islamabad to Germany.

**Thomas Röwekamp** (CDU/CSU): Sind Sie dann - - Mit welchem Flugzeug sind Sie geflogen? Sind Sie mit einer normalen Fluggesellschaft ausgeflogen worden? Oder in welcher Weise sind Sie dann von Islamabad - - haben Sie Islamabad verlassen?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** No, it was one of the chartered flights with very small seating. When we came to the Islamabad airport, I saw many former GIZ colleagues there who I knew by face, some of them by name. Of the people who were

there, I would say I knew 50 percent of them. I was not supposed to sit in one place with a folded leg for a long time. So this chartered flight with a small seat capacity had me sitting for a very long time until we reached here so that the next day, when I reached Germany, I was diagnosed with DVT, deep vein thrombosis. There was a blood clot in my left leg where it was injured because of sitting so long in that chartered flight. It was not one of the regular flights.

**Thomas Röwekamp** (CDU/CSU): Wissen Sie, wer dieses Flugzeug gechartert hatte? Also, hat das auch die Luftbrücke Kabul organisiert? Oder war das eine von der Regierung gecharterte Maschine? Also, ist Ihnen da irgendwas mitgeteilt worden?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** No, I am not exactly sure who chartered the flight or whatever. This information was not shared. However, some of the support was provided in Islamabad. For example, GIZ provided the ground logistics going to the German embassy, because there is a kind of distance between the areas where the public vehicles are allowed and where they are not allowed. GIZ was providing this service as well as taking appointments for people who have to go and have their appointments in the embassy, and all the services in the airport, because the Kabul Luftbrücke staff was not allowed to enter the airport to provide facilitation and support for people who were travelling. When I saw some of the GIZ colleagues inside the airport, I asked them about some of my friends who were working there and they knew them, and so that was a kind of common point to talk to each other over. So I know that those people inside the airport were GIZ staff and were providing logistic facilitation.

**Thomas Röwekamp** (CDU/CSU): Okay. - Dann habe ich auch nur noch eine abschließende Frage: Nachdem Sie dann in Deutschland angekommen sind, wurden Sie dort medizinisch gut versorgt? Und wenn Sie mögen - das müssen Sie nicht beantworten -: Ist diese Verletzung eigentlich vollständig bei Ihnen auskuriert?



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**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** The injury itself had already recovered in Afghanistan. It was only a matter of when the bone was going to complete its reconstruction, which takes 12 months, but after six weeks, it is able to start moving; that is the process. In Germany, it was not the kind of organized process that somebody was going to help us. My friends, especially Annette Kleinbrod, helped us find a doctor here and told us where to go for physiotherapy and all that. That was the first step that we took into consideration, which was enough. I cannot complain; I was expecting there would be proper check if the treatment in Kabul was correct or not, or things like that. But no, this was not the case. It was not organizational health services that were provided but individual. In addition, even with the first doctors that we went to - I did not have a Versicherungskarte. I had to go there with only my name and later on, it was charged to the insurance. It was support provided not through an organization but through my friends.

**Thomas Röwekamp (CDU/CSU):** Und Sie sind vollständig wieder genesen oder - -

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** I go jogging with my wife and I am healthy.

**Thomas Röwekamp (CDU/CSU):** Vielen herzlichen Dank.

**Stellvertretender Vorsitzender Thomas Erndl:** Gut. Vielen Dank. - Dann geht das Fragerecht zur Fraktion Bündnis 90/Die Grünen. Ich würde gerne Ihr Einverständnis einholen, dass wir die Befragung mit dieser Runde abschließen und ich sozusagen jetzt großzügig einen angemessenen Aufschlag gebe, wenn die vorgegebene Zeit nicht ausreicht. - Passt das so? - Gut.

**Robin Wagener (BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN):** Wunderbar, vielen Dank. - Sie haben vorhin Ihre eigene Bedrohungsgeschichte geschildert und auch von zum Beispiel dem Kollegen berichtet, der eine Woche gefangen gehalten wurde, also auch eine Bedrohungsgeschichte. Jetzt haben wir hier eine Sachverständigenanhörung gemacht zum Beginn des Untersuchungsausschusses, bei

der Herr Dube von der GIZ uns geschildert hat - ich zitiere mal aus dem Protokoll der Sitzung -:

Meine Erfahrung, zumindest für Afghanistan, ist, dass all den Leuten, die bei mir gearbeitet haben - das waren viele, viele Hundert -, bis heute nichts passiert ist.

Das war die Aussage zur Bedrohungslage für GIZ-Mitarbeiter. Für mich passt das nicht so ganz zu dem, was Sie von sich selber berichtet haben. Aber vielleicht können Sie auch noch mal näher sagen: erstens, der Kollege, von dem Sie vorhin berichtet haben, für wen der gearbeitet hat, und ob Sie von anderen GIZ-Ortskräften in Afghanistan wissen, die auch, erstens, konkrete Bedrohungen hatten und, zweitens, auch tatsächlich Schaden genommen haben.

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** I wish Mr. Hans-Hermann Dube was right. And I wish Mr. Hans-Hermann Dube had the correct information. I add to that that I wish he knew all his staff. Which is very unfortunate. I know him. We work together. I left the office where he entered in 2005. He came as a country director and I left as a policy adviser to the project. But we know each other. He does not have the information. He does not know all people that he has worked for and I am sure he is not updated and in contact with all these people. The people I have been working with from 2010 in Oruzgan - I have a list of them. It is still based on this last attendance sheet, which is there; I know them by person. The people I have worked with in Eastern Afghanistan, I know them one by one. I am in contact with them.

One of these guys, his photo was published in one of the Australian magazines because that project in Oruzgan was financed by Australia, and the website of the AusAID - when you open the website -, the third or fourth page has his photo and explains that he is an engineer sitting in one of the projects. Because of that photo, because of this photo that he had in this page, he was in Jalalabad in a Taliban jail for three days and he was nearly beaten to death. I called him over WhatsApp to talk to him. He said, "I'm not able



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to talk." I mean, somebody should give this telephone number to Mr. Dube and say, "Do you think this guy is a GIZ employee? He has this eight-digit contract number. Would you like me to share that with you?" Or the other guy who was sitting in Oruzgan - he sent me some of the photos of his back, showing how he was beaten. I was not able to look at them. I deleted those photos.

From where did you get the information that nothing has happened to the GIZ employees? 300 people - I hope you know them by name or by face -, nothing has happened to them? I am surprised.

**Robin Wagener** (BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN): Vielen Dank für die Schilderung. Also nicht danke für das, was Sie geschildert haben; aber es ist gut, dass wir diese Informationen jetzt haben. Danke.

Dann noch eine Frage zur GIZ bei dem, was Sie geschildert haben. Sie haben ja gesagt, die Mails, die Sie geschrieben haben, wurden nicht beantwortet, im Grunde einfach ignoriert die ganze Zeit über. Nur einmal, damit ich es richtig verstanden habe: Sie haben 18 Jahre für die GIZ gearbeitet in verschiedenen Funktionen; aber bei Ihrer Evakuierung spielte die GIZ überhaupt keine Rolle.

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** Possibly yes, because according to the decision they made, it was first priority for those people who are under a contract right now with GIZ and then, by year, they would go back into the back years. So that would be the reason, I believe.

**Robin Wagener** (BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN): Okay, danke schön. - Dann noch mal zum Hotel in Kabul, bei dem Sie waren. Sie haben vorhin den Namen „Jordan“ erwähnt, der Ihre Ansprechperson in dem Hotel war. Können Sie sagen, wer Jordan war, für wen er gearbeitet hat, wie Sie an Jordan rangekommen sind und wer das Hotel organisiert hat?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** I believe the hotel was organized by Kabul Luftbrücke. Miss Theresa had

booked all the rooms in her name. Jordan was one of the colleagues of the team of Kabul Luftbrücke who was working in Kabul in that hotel. She was not staying there; she was not even providing information. She was always just coming and saying, "Okay, today or tomorrow we are leaving." Before leaving, she was explaining the process, how we should organize ourselves and how we should go to the buses, and how our backpack should be light enough, small enough so that we could get through the crowd, and things like that. I believe Jordan was from Australia, but she was part of the Kabul Luftbrücke team; she was in Kabul.

**Robin Wagener** (BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN): Diese Kabul-Luftbrücke-Verbindung haben Sie aber später rausgefunden oder damals schon? Ich frage jetzt deswegen, weil Sie vorhin gesagt haben, dass Sie von Kabul Luftbrücke, also von der NGO Kabul Luftbrücke überhaupt erst gehört haben, als Ihre Familie über den Landkonvoi nach Pakistan evakuiert wurde. Das hat uns ein bisschen überrascht beim Hören, als Sie das gesagt haben, weil Sie ja für den 25.08. tatsächlich auf der Passagierliste waren für das privat organisierte Flugzeug von Kabul Luftbrücke, was dann auch keine Menschen evakuieren durfte von der Liste. Aber jedenfalls wären Sie auf dieser Liste gewesen. Das heißt, tatsächlich habe ich es aber richtig verstanden, dass Sie erst im Nachhinein erfahren haben von Kabul Luftbrücke und dann auch von diesem konkreten Flieger?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** Yes, I was only hearing names, not organizations. The real information was not given because of the huge rush, because of so many applications, and nobody was giving the correct information. I was hearing the name Theresa, not even her last name, because the hotel rooms were booked by her last name. I didn't know that. At that time, I was not even able to pronounce "Breuer" because that was a completely new German word for me. I went there, I showed that name to the people, and they let us inside. But yes, when I am now talking about Kabul Luftbrücke, it is information that I have now going back to that time. At that time, I did not know Kabul Luftbrücke or the team or how it is organized or how it functions.



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**Robin Wagener** (BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN): Vielen Dank. - Und dann noch eine letzte Frage von mir: GIZ: keine Unterstützung, haben wir gerade schon gehört. Bei Ihrer Ausreise und bei der Ihrer Familie war ja auch keine besondere Unterstützung bei Transport und Begleitung durch das Auswärtige Amt, so wie wir es rausgehört haben. Als Sie dann in Pakistan waren, wie war da die Betreuung durch das Auswärtige Amt?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** Well, they provided the accommodation in Islamabad, as well as the appointment at the embassy. When we went to the embassy, they were very friendly and gave us the visa and then the chartered a flight that brought us from Islamabad to Germany, to Leipzig. That was all the services they provided.

**Robin Wagener** (BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN): Ja, ganz herzlichen Dank. - Das war auch meine letzte Frage. Vielen Dank für die Informationen, die Sie uns gegeben haben. Danke schön und alles Gute.

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Dann wechselt das Fragerecht jetzt wieder zur AfD.

**Stefan Keuter** (AfD): Vielen Dank. - So, wir machen mal bitte mit der GIZ einmal weiter. Ich würde gerne von Ihnen ein paar Hintergründe zu Ihrer Zusammenarbeit mit der GIZ haben. Wir haben ja vorhin schon mal das Thema angesprochen, dass von den Taliban Geldforderungen erhoben worden sind, denen Sie nicht nachgekommen sind. Der Sachverhalt bezieht sich insbesondere auf das Aktenfundstück MAT A GIZ-3.08, Blatt 305 und 306.

Meine Frage dazu ist: Wie hat die GIZ reagiert, wenn sie von Ihnen - „Ihnen“ jetzt mal kleingeschrieben, also Ihnen und anderen Mitarbeitern - erfahren hat, dass die Taliban hier Forderungen, insbesondere Geldforderungen, erhoben haben? Wie hat sie insbesondere in Ihrem Einzelfall dann auch reagiert?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** I did not report it on a specific case because at that time, I was not even aware that this is a systematically organized approach “to give us a project or give us money”. I

was thinking it was one of the normal routines where everybody is rushing to get projects or get benefits of these projects, and I was simply sticking with the normal procedure and not accepting any kind of personal contacts. So that is why there was no need for these personal contacts, which was a kind of routine. Every day we were receiving 10, 20 of them, but among 10 or 20 of them, which one of them is more targeted, organized? You do not know this when you are in that situation. But later on, when I received this “kind of direct money for me” and things like that - at that time I was not under contract for GIZ, so there was no need for me to report to GIZ on that one.

**Stefan Keuter** (AfD): Okay. - Also, wenn ich das richtig verstehe, sind diese Talibanforderungen an Sie nicht herangetragen worden, während Sie Projekte für die GIZ gemacht haben. Ist das richtig?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** The request for projects or the request for “giving us a chance to benefit from these projects” was already from that time. But later on - the requests for money were in the later years.

**Stefan Keuter** (AfD): Okay, gut. Vielen Dank. - Ich möchte noch ein anderes, ein letztes Thema mit Ihnen besprechen, und zwar betrifft das das Aktenfundstück MAT A GIZ-3.08\_2, Blatt 1. Sie haben mehrere Gespräche geführt für die GIZ, und zwar auf Provinzial- und Gemeindeebene, aber auch mit offiziellen Vertretern der Regierung, insbesondere auch auf Ministerialebene. Ich würde gerne wissen, mit wem Sie dort gesprochen haben und worüber Sie gesprochen haben.

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** As per the nature of my work, under a different contract - as I explained, I was in contact with different levels. Just to start from the last one first: from 2010 to 2014, when I was in Oruzgan, we had to work from the very grassroots, like government employees in the district level, government employees in the provincial level, up to the provincial governor. The result, how can we connect these provincial and district authorities





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with the national level, and how can we get the national level support for these employees in Oruzgan? Because Oruzgan was one of the provinces: the number of educated people was much smaller, the government salary was very little. That is why other people from other provinces were not happily willing to go to Oruzgan and work. That is why we had to train the semi- or poorly educated employees of the government who were already there and who were willing to work there. For that reason, we had this nation-wide committee, which was working on a committee together with the Afghanistan Reform Commission, together with all Sectorial Ministries, which had representatives at the provincial and district level.

I, as a program coordinator, had to meet different ministries, seek their support for the province, and also participate in different forums of the committees on the national level to get the Administration Reform Commission to focus more on Oruzgan together. Some of the activities, like training, training on the job, some of the coaching we were providing and the rest, had to be taken over by the Afghanistan Administration Reform Commission so that we made Oruzgan a kind of functional administration in the area. For that reason, I had to meet different people on different levels. Before that, when I was the policy adviser, I had to talk with the Minister and Deputy Minister and meet them in different forums on the ministerial level and I had to participate in working groups on different topics, which were established. For example, a different group on counter-narcotics, an alternative livelihood working group.

Another group was a subnational development working group. This forum, based on the information, based on the activities that every organization was implementing, we were all getting together, sharing the information and the result of these meetings was going directly to the President. So that is why the ministries were very careful, because this forum was sharing activities. It was not something that the minister or ministry were reporting about their activity and achievement, to look good. This forum was reporting on their failures, their non-cooperation and their

lack of helping the organizations, which were working practically on the ground. So that is why that was very important for them. For me, to get information and to collect information, I had to go to the project site in Eastern Afghanistan. At least two weeks every month I was going to the project site, going down to the field, seeing how the project implementation took place and what was the progress, to collect factual information and come back and share it at the national level.

**Stefan Keuter (AfD):** Vielen Dank. - Ich habe eine allerletzte Frage an Sie. Wie können Sie aus Ihrer Erfahrung heraus die Arbeit der islamischen Republik Afghanistan, die Regierungsarbeit, in den Jahren 2020 und 2021 aus Ihrer Erfahrung oder aus Ihrem Eindruck heraus bewerten? Und wie sehen Sie den Rückhalt der Regierung Ghani in der afghanischen Bevölkerung?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** That would be very much a political answer if I should answer that one. We believe in democracy, that is why we are struggling to see from different angles how this approach could be successful. We believe that, whether one is part of the government or not part of the government, still this process should go on. The election was one of the essentials that we were supporting and providing our best support for as an Afghan, as a person who was working with different organizations. How often and repeatedly the election takes place, the parliamentary election and the presidential election, this is an exercise that people learn from and they fulfil their responsibility. At the same time, finally, today with Karzai and tomorrow with Ghani and the day after tomorrow we will have somebody who will be a real technocrat and person who will bring development to this country. I know most of these people who are part of the Cabinet and I have discussed with them and we spoke about these issues.

Ghani was really trying to bring changes, fundamental changes into the administrative system of Afghanistan. I mean, there were always political pressures, which did not allow him to do what he really wanted to do. It was not only the pressure from the Taliban. If it had been only the pressure from the Taliban, I believe he could



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stand it. There was also a huge pressure from the inside. There were so many political parties, especially the Jihadis, Dr Abdullah, Sayyaf and Karzai himself. He has turned to be a kind of opposition to the system. So that is why he was lacking more good support from inside instead of only fighting against the Taliban.

Unfortunately, what we are seeing today as a result of his failures are not only his own failures, but of all the people who pretended to stand on the side of the republic, Afghanistan, and they did not. They were always pro-Taliban or against the system in such a way that they really wanted to destroy the system, not to be a constructive opposition to the Ghani system.

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Vielen Dank. - Dann wechselt das Fragerecht zum Kollegen Müller von der FDP.

**Alexander Müller (FDP):** Wir bedanken uns beim Zeugen Walim und haben keine weiteren Fragen.

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Danke schön. - Dann geht das Rederecht zur Frau Kollegin Büniger.

**Clara Büniger (DIE LINKE):** Das kam schneller als erwartet. Vielen Dank. - Herr Walim, ich wollte noch mal ein bisschen daran anschließen, wo wir vorhin aufgehört haben, als es um Ihre Kontosperrung ging. Meine Frage wäre noch: Haben Sie dann irgendwann wieder über Ihr Konto verfügen können, oder blieb Ihr Konto gesperrt?

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** Up until now, it has been frozen and now before reactivating it my physical presence is necessary, which I cannot do any longer. Still it is frozen and I have no access to my accounts.

**Clara Büniger (DIE LINKE):** Sie sagten mir vorhin, dass die Taliban einen Plan hatten und dass sie auch - - also wer etwas tun sollte und dass auch die Taliban detaillierte Informationen über Personen hatten. In diesem Zusammenhang möchte ich auf den Angriff auf Sie zurückkommen und Sie fragen, ob Sie Kenntnis davon haben, dass der Angriff auf Sie mit der Arbeit für die GIZ im

Zusammenhang stand bzw. mit der deutschen Entwicklungszusammenarbeit oder mit der Arbeit, die Sie mit den Medien zusammen gemacht haben, ob Sie das wissen, ob das konkretisiert wurde oder ob Sie dazu etwas sagen können, und wie Sie lokalisiert werden konnten an dem Tag.

**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** The first part, I honestly do not have that information and I wish I knew why they attacked me. That day when I went to the office, it was around 9 o'clock, I don't think that I was followed because I was kind of always watching the mirror in the back when I was driving and I didn't notice anything. When I was in the office, nobody asked anything from my colleagues or those people. When I left the office, there were two cars and repeatedly I saw one of them always in the mirror and one of them, on places where I was turning as the road was curvy, like in the mountains, I saw in the mirror how he made a bad turn so that some other car honked. It was things like that. That is why I saw it and I saw it was the same car that I had seen before, and this was the car that drove in and stopped me with the consequences.

But no. I do not have the information and do not know why and because of which activity they were not happy with me.

**Clara Büniger (DIE LINKE):** That's it.

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Vielen Dank. - Dann stelle ich fest, dass die Fraktionen keine Fragen mehr haben. Und wir können Ihre Befragung für heute beenden. Im Rechtssinne abgeschlossen ist Ihre Vernehmung noch nicht. Sie bekommen das Protokoll übersandt und können sich das zwei Wochen anschauen, um, wenn Sie Fehler feststellen, die noch zu korrigieren oder Ihre Aussage richtigzustellen. Erst danach beschließt der Ausschuss den Abschluss der Vernehmung.

Ich will mich sehr herzlich bei Ihnen bedanken, dass Sie sich zur Verfügung gestellt haben und wir Sie befragen konnten, und ich wünsche Ihnen und Ihrer Familie alles Gute.



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**Zeuge Abdul Wafi Walim:** Thank you very much and thank you for giving me this chance to present what I experienced. I will be looking forward to the minutes of the meeting. The two documents that I was asked about, I think I can share with the person who is in contact with me from the Secretariat, and that will be it. Thank you so much.

**Vorsitzender Dr. Ralf Stegner:** Danke Ihnen.  
Alles Gute!

(Beifall)

Jetzt ist es 16.32 Uhr. Ich unterbreche die Sitzung bis 16.40 Uhr. Dann fahren wir mit dem nächsten Zeugen fort.

(Unterbrechung von  
16.32 bis 16.44 Uhr)