

CASE NOTES - CREDIBILITY

She left Ethiopia because she participated in a public protest at the Addis Ababa university demanding for freedom and rights in 2002. Applicant claims that she was arrested, detained and detained and beaten for her political opinion. She claims that she was held for 3 weeks. She states that she was unconscious and that she was held in a prison outside of Addis Ababa. She states also that she was unconscious because the government forces hit her on her back and on her head.

I have asked applicant why there was a protest. She has stated that there was a problem with the quality of education. I asked what was wrong with the education and she states that she did not know. She also states it was about the presence of military on campus, etc. Applicant states that she was at the very front line of the protests.

I have asked applicant a series of questions attempting to obtain more details about her experiences, her knowledge of the protest. Her answers have been vague, lacking in detail. Applicant has not been able to provide any details.

Applicant was working as a clerk for the Toyota Company. I have asked applicant questions about why she was participating in a student protest when she had not been a student since 1990. She has stated that two of the students were her cousins and she felt the need to protest. She said that she was walking with them on campus when it happens.

(however on her application she claimed that she left from work to join them)

After applicant claims that she was released from prison she was warned not to participate in any activities. She was to sign a document each month at the police station to check-in. But she is afraid.

Also, applicant states that the government caused the company to fire her. I have asked applicant how she knew that the government did this, and she said that she lost her job for no reason. The company did not provide her with any reasons for her dismissal.

Applicant decided to leave Ethiopia because she lost her job and was evicted from her home (it was a government property). She also did not like to government follow-up for during the year following her release from prison. She claims to be afraid to go back because she is afraid to be sent back to jail and be mistreated for her political opinion.

Credibility issues:

1. Vague testimony: lacking in knowledge or detail reasonably expected of someone in the claimant's position
2. Contradictable testimony: the way she got involved: walking on campus VS receiving a call at work

I have shared my concerns with applicant and provided her with the opportunity to respond to my concerns.

1. During your interview, you were unable to provide a sufficient explanation as to the purpose or events that occurred during the protests. Your responses to my questions about the event were vague and lacked the detail required to satisfy me that your stated experiences actually occurred.
2. You stated that at the time of the protest you were walking on campus with your 2 cousins. However, on your application you stated that your cousins called you at work.

I took note of the applicant's response:

As response, Applicant states that her persecution continued because she lost her job. She was very angry against the government because she knew the two boys very well.

Assessment of her explanation:

I have considered her response. The fact that the applicant states that her persecution continued because she lost her job does not give explain reasonably why the applicant lacked of details to satisfy me that she experienced the events.

I am still not satisfied on balance that her participation in the protests is credible.

Materiality of the credibility issue:

Her participation in the protest is the reason why she claims to be afraid to go back: persecution based on her political opinion. This is the central element of her claim.

Conclusion:

Therefore I am not satisfied that there is a serious possibility that she has a well-founded fear of persecution based on her political opinion..

No evidence provided that the application has been and continue to be personally and seriously affected by an armed conflict or civil war. Also her claim regarding potential violation of HR was not found credible.

Apply definition to remaining credible evidence:

I am satisfied that the applicant worked for Toyota and that she is from Ethiopia. However this is not sufficient to have a valid claim nor to explain that she has been and continue to be personally and seriously affected by an armed conflict or civil war.

As such, I am refusing this application.

END OF CAIPS NOTES

COMMENTS: even though it might seem **implausible** that someone will want to participate in a protest because she knew two cousins who are student, do not create your own theory of how a particular event may have unfolded, or how you think the applicant, or a third party, ought to have behaved.