**2013\_esch\_UgAs\_18**

*So this is Lwam Tesfay interviewing Shamim Haji on the fourteenth of March two thousand and thirteen. Shamim can I, can you start by telling me your full name and your date of birth?*

Yeah I don’t want, I don’t know my date of birth but just that my name is Shamim. Shamim Haji.

*Mm-hmm.*

Yeah.

*And where were you born?*

I born in Kenya.

*Whereabouts?*

Er…Dar es Salaam. Yeah. Dar es Salaam.

*Do you know what year roughly you were born in?*

No no no.

*OK.*

Long long time now I am old.

*Laughs inter*

I forget because I have stroke.

*Mm-hmm.*

Everything I forget.

*That’s OK no problem. So, er… do you come from a large family?*

Eh?

*Do you come from a big family?*

Ye-yeah, no no. mm...I have big family Pakistan…Kenya. Now, die, everybody die. Now my mum is die, my brother die, everybody die. Now is nobody in the Kenya.

*Did you grow up in Kenya or did you grow up in Pakistan?*

And now I go the Pakistan then I come here. Then I married.

*So how old were you when you left Kenya? To go to Pakistan?*

I don’t know. Long time I forget.

*Is this before you got married?*

Before. Ya, before.

*Yeah, and when you came to Britain what do you remember the most? What was your favourite memory when you came?*

Here?

*Can you remember when you came here, yeah? First time? Where did you live?*

East Ham, here East Ham.

*Can you remember what the house was like?*

Sometime I forget no.

*Yeah.*

Before I know everything.

*Mm-hmm.*

Then I no have stroke, now I forget no.

*When did you have the stroke?*

Er, because I have high blood pressure, too much headache.

*Mm-hmm.*

Then I have stroke, then I forget everything.

*Do you remember anything about Kenya?*

No no.

*What about the food you use to eat…or…?*

No, I…yeah I know. I eat outside restaurant. I eat the chicken this is.

*In Kenya?*

Ya Kenya, very nice and very tasty.

*What was Kenya like as a country?*

Very nice country, for me very nice. And lucky Kenya. Because no Kenya is very warm for me no.

*You like the hot weather?*

Yeah yeah. I like it.

*What about when you came here, it was…?*

Yeah I feel the cold.

*[LAUGHS].*

A little bit I’m use to it now. But this country is very nice. He provided everything. Now I appreciate and, I realise no.

[FRIEND INTERRUPTS]

*It’s OK.*

[FRIEND TALKS TO INTERVIEWEE IN URDU].

*You know a lot of the Asians that came in the…nineteen seventies, almost forty years ago because Idi Amin…er…expelled them from Uganda.*

I don’t.

*Yeah. A lot of them like Mr Mandali…*

Manda.

*…said he’s from Uganda and the dictator Idi Amin said you had to leave.*

He leave?

*Yeah, he said all the Asians had to leave…*

Ah-ha.

*So then went, a lot of them they came to UK…*

Oh…

*They came to Leicester.*

No everybody is er, er, come UK but everybody when he…enjoy go to Kenya. Kenya is very nice country. And warm country. Everybody enjoy there, even white people they go there and enjoy there.

*Yeah.*

I see, when I have before…no I have stroke. I said my children, is said mum, I… love your country. Can you see…show me, which country you are live there before. No I know language. Kenya language.

*You know Swahili?*

Ya Swahili everything. Jumbo, habarisana, mjori, asante sana, I know. Just little bit Swahili I know.

*Yeah.*

Now everybody then I, I said ok I don’t have stroke. Because I young, no. I said ok, my children love country no. they said which country you born, I want to see. Then I go there. There I enjoy. I go the swimming pool.

*Did you go back to Kenya?*

Ya, three…four months I go, then again …I enjoy XXXX my children, no. and er, three month I go Pakistan. Both country I show my children. Everybody my children enjoy very nice country. Then before I come here, then I have stroke, at least I show my children.

*How many children do you have?*

Yeah.

*Can you tell me a little bit about them, how many boys, how many girls?*

No I have one only daughter. He married Pakistan.

*Mm-hmm.*

Then he live Pakistan. Ya.

*So one daughter is in Pakistan?*

No, only one.

*Only one ok. And she’s in Pakistan?*

Pakistan yeah.

*But you took here to Kenya?*

Yeah. Before he no married my children no married, young…little small. Then I show my children Kenya country. He’s like so much.

*What does she like?*

My daughter, swimming pool…there restaurant. Everything, warm weather. He enjoy very nice. There is people very nice. The language knows everything.

*Do you miss Kenya?*

Yeah, yeah. I miss, lot lot of thing. Before now I have stroke, I want warm weather no. because I can’t be walk. Then I want warm weather because I do go there. My family all died nobody there.

*Can you remember what your mum and dad, what they use to do…when they were in…your dad, what did he use to do in Kenya? When he was working?*

There, he’s working my have dad is butcher job.

*Butcher?*

Butcher working. Lot of, no, money my dad no.

*Did you live in Nairobi, or Mombasa?*

No, no Mombasa Dar es Salaam.

*Yeah.*

Yeah.

*He was a butcher?*

And my mum is, the…the…Nairobi. Then I born Nairobi, then I live I don’t know what happened. Then I leave other, other area no.

*Maybe Mombasa, maybe Nairobi?*

Maybe Mombasa, maybe I forget.

*Ah ok, that’s ok.*

Sometime I forget, no. sometime I know.

*Yeah. It’s ok, it comes back and it goes.*

Ya, come back yeah.

*And er, can you remember a little bit about…what Nairobi use to look, Nairobi use to look like, or Mombasa?*

I don’t know.

*Do you know of any special places you use to go?*

No no.

*When did you take your daughter, er…what did you, what did you remember seeing, from before?*

Just swimming pool there. It’s swimming there, and go the restaurant, most places go there like park…like er, animal and any stuff is looking there no. now I’m long time I forget.

Yeah.

*What about Pakistan?*

Pakistan is nice. So so just my children like Kenya.

*They prefer Kenya?*

Yeah she likes daughter, and my children, other son like Kenya.

*And where do you think home is? When you think about home…*

Yeah?

*What country do you think of? Do you think of Uga…er, Kenya…*

Now I…

*Or Pakistan or London?*

I like London, yeah. I like it so much because London because every government is helper disabled people. He give me everything provided, everything, now I forget it er…Kenya. Laughs

*When you first came here was there a lot of er, other Pakistan…*

Yeah yeah just er, if you go Kenya just enjoy and come back.

*Ok, just for holiday.*

I can’t be leave my, this country. England is best.

*Yeah. Not as, not as er, not as warm as Kenya?*

Laughs no just, just go and enjoy like er, no, restaurant go and come back. Just enjoy no.

*And your, your daughter, does she…does she still go back to Kenya, do you think?*

No no she doesn’t go. His no have time. He busy this country no.

*Yeah.*

Yeah.

*She’s here, Pakistan?*

Pakistan.

*Pakistan. What does she do?*

Ha?

*What does she do?*

Just, my husband. She is husband is working there.

*Ok.*

His mum dad there no. that’s why.

*And how many, do you have any family in…in London?*

With my daughter?

*Yeah apart from your daughter?*

No no no.

*Do you have any like er, photographs, that you keep at home?*

I have, yeah I have photograph. Even Kenya, airport, I have photograph. I sit in the car, restaurant, I have all stuff there.

*Is it when you were a child or when you were…?*

No when I go the, Kenya.

*Yeah, recently.*

Then with my children.

*Yeah.*

Then my children is like Kenya no.

*Do you have any pictures when you was er, a child? A small child?*

No no no. I don’t have. Because er, my mum is die, I don’t know what happen, now I grow up come here, then I busy for London (laughs).

*What were you doing when you came here?*

Ha?

*What were you doing? You, married?*

Ya married, now…

*Where did you get married?*

Yeah here, London. Me, my aunty, you know my mum is sister son.

*Your mum’s sisters son?*

Sister son is live here. He my mum is British. My, mum’s sister is here, this country is British. Then his son is very nice, than, somebody married him.

*Do* *you have pictures from the wedding?*

Yeah I have all of them. If you tell I bring.

*Yeah? That’ll be nice, then I can come in next week?*

Yeah, OK inshallah.

*Do you, what do you remember about the wedding? [LAUGHS]. You can look at the photographs, you can see? What colour was your dress?*

Red.

*Red?*

Er…

*Did you have a lot of gold aswell?*

Gold, gold lot of. This country too much.

[LAUGHS].

Money money money.

*It’s quite expensive isn’t it? And what do you think of East Ham? Of the area that you live now?*

Ya, I don’t like East Ham.

*No?*

…because racist area, there no. I tell my social worker please I request you, I beg you, can you move this, er, area, because before five year I live here because I walk. Everybody XXXX, staff look after no. now near the park, somebody, sometime take egg put it in my window, sometime come in the garden take my stuff and go no. then I can’t be stop no, because I can’t be walking , XXXX no. that’s why I can’t be seeing anything. Then I sit, tell social worker I don’t like this…area now. Before I lived five year suffering here. Now I am in the wheelchair no. I can’t be doing anything. Now can you move me, give me downstair house, at least I go the toilet, I move. Now this house I can’t be go upstairs see what happen, upstair. Just stay, then I have lift, then I do shower, carer take me in the lift, and take upstairs. Then I shower, it’s too much hard for carer no. one hour, five minute it go, leave it and go.

*So you’re waiting to have a new house? Do you want to move?*

No I waiting how can social worker doesn’t apply, doesn’t tell me, I give to, downstair house no. because everything is down, at least I see my stuff no. no.

*Where were you living before East Ham? Have you always lived in East Ham?*

Yeah I lived East Ham, but er, because I walk no, alright for me.

*Yeah.*

Now is, upstairs stair five, seven year I don’t go upstairs, see my cupboard, see my stuff. Only go one day, Saturday, carer come and take me upstair and shower.

*Is that her name, carol*? Your carer?

No no no. [PAUSE]. Different different carer. Everyday different, everyday different, no.

*They come to your house.*

Yeah, then take me upstair and do shower because I can’t be go upstair with lift.

*You have a lift in your house?*

Yeah, no. inside my room. My room, which I sleep there, the no, living room there is lift. Then I go upstair, in the room lift take me in the wheelchair, upstair then I do shower then come back in the living room. This hard for me. Lot of I have stroke, I suffering too much no. this thing.

Pause.

This is my feeling.

*Yeah.*

*Do you like to look back at, some of your, do you like looking back at your photographs?*

Sometime, if I look then I cry no.

*Yeah.*

What might happen, what XXXX, god give me, punish, I’m in the wheelchair I can’t be move one side no. until I waiting toilet, I eat waiting food, when carer come give to me then I eat. If I hungry, I can’t be go up, go there no. this thing.

*Yeah.*

My life is too much tough.

*Do you like coming to SUBCO?*

That’s why I’m come SUBCO, home, my XXXX, I bored there. More depression, headache that’s why I come here, four days at least, everybody there, I sit there no.

*Do you, do you enjoy coming here? Or, you feel more comfortable?*

No, just, how can enjoy what is this. Just sitting and go home. Like that.

*You don’t enjoy the activities?*

No, no anything I don’t enjoy.

*What do you like watching on TV when you’re at home?*

Home I don’t watch the TV, just praying.

*You pray?*

Yeah.

*Were your family religious?*

Yeah…everybody no. even I’m Muslim, my XXXX.

*Do, do you remember when you were growing up, were you, were your family religious in Kenya?*

Yeah yeah, yeah.

*Even in Kenya?*

Yeah.

*Where there a lot of mosques?*

Yeah.

Same like here. Here is mosque nice and there is mosque. Everybody go there and salah in mosque.

*Is it Asians and black Kenyans together?*

Yeah.

*There was no separate mosques?*

Everything.

*It’s mixed. Did the Kenyans and the Asians did they get along?*

You know, lot of Asian there. And Arabic Muslim, everybody there.

*And the, the black African aswell.*

Yeah. Is…Muslim, he speak Allah, everything.

*Did they, did they get along, was there any problems…can you remember?*

No, no. when I go no problem, anything I just happy.

*Peaceful?*

Now I don’t know.

*Yeah. I’m sure it’s changed.*

Yeah its change, you go?

*No.*

How can you know, you change?

*It must change. If you were, if you were there say…*

Yeah.

*…thirty, forty years ago.*

Yeah, too much.

*Who knows.*

Everything it change. Somebody told, everything change no.

*Even if I come tomorrow this place will change.*

Yeah yeah yeah, yeah.

*[LAUGHS].*

If it change, then I said if it change, this is go there…

Laughs

…even somebody no, even woman, somebody five minute it change. He leave husband, he leave…wife like that. Somebody want to change, five minute. I can’t believe this country life no. XXXX.

*Thank you Shamim.*

### The End

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