

the Iranian government and the Australian government, and had been abused and let down by the systems. Today, this girl has a young daughter of her own, and I wonder what her damaged mother is going to teach her.

Our life at Cheltenham was even harsher. What added to the severity of the situation was, the police, entrusted with power to protect the rights and dignity of the residents, seemed to join hands with the perpetrators. Very often police cars hovered around our house. Many times parked nearby and stayed for a quite a long time. However, I could not resist myself when one day they parked, blocking our driveway. I approached them and politely asked if I could be of any assistance. One of officers replied in a very plain, cold tone that they were doing their job and it wasn't my business at all. I then retorted that it certainly became my business when they were parked on my driveway. With the police constantly driving around the perimeter of my house, the neighbours had started to cook up false ideas about my family and me. I went to the Eastwood Police Station to discuss and ask if the police was suspicious about myself or any activities that I was involved in. I presented myself very calmly and requested to speak to the senior official, as the lower level officials did not seem to care about what I was going through. No one was there to listen to my experiences and me. Instead, I got very cold and rude statements from them. I felt helpless and overwhelmed with frustration and agony. After that visit to the police station I noticed that the watchdogs didn't appear close to my house. Not that they had stopped, but now they stayed a bit further in the street. Now the questions that hounded my mind were, firstly, "How did the observers know about what I reported within the walls of the police station?" and secondly, "Was that the reason why the offenders were never been actioned upon despite their acts were clearly evident?"

Then I started getting calls from taxi companies (Silver Taxi) around 2 am of the night saying if I had booked a taxi. The first time I denied and ignored the call. The next day around the same time of the night a taxi came to my house saying that I booked a cab. I sat inside with a smile and told the driver to take me where he was told. He kept on insisting that I booked the cab so I had to tell him where I needed to go. I then asked him to drive me to a nearby police station. When he stopped in front of the police station, I went inside and explained the whole incident to them. When police asked the taxi driver who called him, he showed them the number on his mobile phone. The Police was silent when they saw the number and tried to explain to me that it was a misunderstanding and instructed me to pay the fares to the driver. I was not ready to pay the fare as I hadn't booked the taxi. To my absolute surprise, this incident never got recorded and no report was created. My mind was about to burst with all these thoughts that police knew the number of the caller and kept silent.

Around 2000-2001, I used to supply cleaning products to hospitality businesses. This particular instance I was visiting Parramatta shopping centre to deliver some products to an established customer and walk around to get new businesses in the area. An Aussie looking, hefty man closely followed me wherever I went around the shopping centre and shops I entered. He tried to intimidate me with his physical appearance and presence.

During a similar work related visit to one of restaurants located at the top floor of Hornsby shopping centre, I had police following me. While I was talking to the restaurant owner and explaining about my products, the policemen came and quietly sat on the chairs nearby (in the food court). They neither ordered any food or drink nor spoke to anyone.

In 2003 I met with federal agent Fiona Drennan of the Australian Federal Police and clearly stated that I knew of the pressure exerted by the Iranian Government on both the Indian and Australian governments to damage my reputation and limit my opportunities.

A tragic incident took place at a shop in Liverpool where I supplied my products. Police attended the business with my photograph and warned the owner to stop dealing with me immediately. A similar condition was created at a fruit shop in Liverpool, where police spoke to an Asian female worker of the store. I could see the police entering the fruit shop from a coffee shop outside (I was writing an invoice). Then those gentlemen in blue shirts came close to me and stood around for couple minutes, making me feel like a criminal. Following that incident, the fruit shop refused to do any business with me. I have personally witnessed both the situations.

As mentioned earlier, I have been ignoring all these activities for a long time, as I very well know the reason behind it. I have spoken to many of my clients and explained that my reputation is being attacked because I am against the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran but the Australian government supports the current Iranian government and is clearly assisting them by attacking their opposition. Fortunately, a majority of my customers these days are prudent enough to see the truth and continue the business relation. However, many of them simply do not wish to deal with me because they do not like any trouble and wish to operate their business smoothly. I do not blame them at all and I wish the same. Everyone has a right to live and earn their living peacefully. But the reason of heartache is only because I have lost my right to live a peaceful life and earn my living without distress.

It is sad to mention, that this has not stopped even after I recently moved to North Rocks (6 years ago). The vigil started again and my closest neighbour was assigned the duty. Every step in and out from home was watched. One out of many such occasions, when I came home from a meeting, I saw a van waiting right in front of my house. I quietly parked behind it and waited inside the car to see what they were up to. They probably had realised that I would not come out of the car and thus drove off.

As an innocent man, I believe, I should be able to live happily and peacefully in the country that I chose to spend the rest of life. Despite the continued harassment and attempts to tarnish my reputation, limiting my opportunities at work breaches of privacy, I shall continue to love and be faithful to this nation. However I have vowed to continue this fight for justice for as long as it takes. So that in future any innocent person will not suffer injustice.

On receipt of this letter I ask that you please contact me on 0423 017 655 or sri.import.export@gmail.com within 14 days of the date of this letter to discuss the matter further.

Sincerely,

Mehdi Zolfaghari