

Testimony—Michael Roger Cloud

Congressional hearings on Morocco

June 17, 2010

I, Michael Cloud and my wife Safaa have lived in Meknes, Morocco for 14 years. We have been blessed to have 4 children currently ages 8-13.

We found a great need in Morocco to train parents and help children who were dealing with the challenge of cerebral palsy. We have started 12 centers throughout Morocco. That has created over 100 jobs for previously unemployed Moroccans—and helped over 1000 children and parents. The Moroccan people and government have always applauded our efforts. I have met King Mohamed the V and been on national television 3 times.

Our goal of coming to Morocco was to 1) Be a good citizen of Morocco and honor the King, 2) Be an excellent ambassador of the United States (as we are Americans) and 3) honor God who has blessed us and given us the motivation to help others. We are Christians and know Morocco is a Muslim country with laws against proselytism. We have been watched very closely by the police all of our time in Morocco. They know about all of our guests—friends—activities at work—our travels—etc etc.

Last summer my wife went temporarily to Cairo, Egypt after being diagnosed with breast cancer and needing an operation as well as chemo therapy. I travelled to Morocco monthly to start Therapy center number 12 and plan center number 13 and was shocked to learn on March 15, 2010 I was refused entry—after 13 hours in a waiting room with 2 police men, I was deported back to an airplane to Cairo, Egypt.

Rumor has it that we were part of a 'sweep' against Christian Aid Workers. The American Embassy would only say we were on a "Refused entry list" and would only offer a list of lawyers; they would not say who or where the document was from.

We have never asked Muslims to change their religion to Christianity. It is a rule of the Therapy Centers—"The Center will not be used for political or religious purposes."

We have had people angry at us throughout our time in Morocco for not giving them money or jobs and they threatened us that they would spread the rumors to the police and others.

To this day not one authority has said we did something wrong. The parents of the center went to the Mayor of our city—He said Michael Cloud has no problem he has not committed proselytism—he only has a legal problem.

No one will tell us or our lawyer in Rabat what is our legal problem.

We accept the fact as foreigners that we may be asked to leave—But to exit in such a cruel manner after 14 years of hard work. And to be locked out of our rental house with all of the belongings of the family—unable to sale car or stop phone and utility bills.

We feel very "Dishonored"—our reputation has been "falsely Slandered" and it has caused a great deal of emotional and financial hardship to us.

We have asked the authorities for permission to come into the country for 2 weeks to liquidate our belongings—NO Response.

WE LOVE MOROCCO BUT ARE VERY SADDENED BY THIS LACK OF TREATING US WITH HUMAN DIGNITY.

Sincerely,

Michael Cloud