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## **PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Client: Sadiq Karim  
DOB: October 27, 1995  
Age: 28  
Evaluation Date: September 2, 2024  
Report Date: September 15, 2024  
Assessment Procedures: Biopsychosocial History Interview  
Trauma Screening Questionnaire  
Impact of Event Scale-Revised  
Referred by: Attorney John Doe  
Examiner: EJ Umoh, JD, MSW, LSW  
Qualified Mental Health Evaluator  
Licensed Social Worker  
Pennsylvania State Social Work Number: SW142176

### **ABSTRACT OF FINDINGS**

A comprehensive forensic psychological evaluation was conducted on Sadiq Karim, a Sudanese refugee seeking asylum in the United States. The evaluation included a detailed history, clinical interview, and standardized self-report screening assessments. The primary objectives were to assess the psychological consequences of witnessing and escaping a mass murder and its impact on the victim's mental health while also evaluating the credibility of Mr. Karim's reported trauma.

**Mental Health Status:** Mr. Karim presented with symptoms consistent with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). These symptoms appear to be directly related to witnessing the Janjaweed militia group kill his father and aunt in Sudan.

**Credibility of Trauma:** The reported trauma experiences were deemed credible based on supporting factors such as the consistency of the narrative and psychological assessment scores.

### **IDENTIFYING INFORMATION**

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Mr. Sadiq Karim is a 28-year-old, self-identified Sudanese male. He is single and has no children. Mr. Karim lives with a cousin named Ibrahim who owns a home in the Northeast section of Philadelphia. Mr. Karim has the equivalent of a high school diploma and is currently unemployed. He was referred by his attorney for an evaluation to determine his current psychological status and evaluate his credibility.

### **RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Sadiq Karim was born and raised in the Southern Darfur region of Sudan. He comes from a two-parent household and was the second of four siblings. He described his parents as hard-working. His father, Yakoub worked on the family farm, and his mother Aisha was a housewife. Mr. Karim was tasked with working on the family farm, growing wheat, and tending to livestock since he was 10 years old. He recalled growing up in a loving household with strong extended family ties that adhered to Zaghawa customs such as respecting elders, hospitality, and being a devout Muslim. He also described how his family and village lived in constant fear of being killed due to the Sudanese government's acts in committing mass murder against the Zaghawa people due to being a non-arab ethnic group.

Mr. Karim painfully recollected working on the farm with his family on February 1, 2023, when he saw a group of men with guns, wearing camouflage military gear, riding on camels and horses towards them. He said that those people were called the Janjaweed and they are the military group of the Sudanese government that has been committing genocide against his people for decades. Mr. Karim said he heard "gunshots" and that his father told him to "run" and save himself. Mr. Karim knew that those men were "coming to kill" him and his entire village.

He recalls fleeing to a part of the village that was at the "back of the farm" where there were "a lot of bushes" to hide in as shots continued to ring. He articulated how he could never forget that the shooters screamed the word "Amby" which is a local word for slave. He says that he sometimes hears the shooter's voices at night making it difficult for him to sleep.

Mr. Karim hid in the bushes “for hours.” During that time he remembered that he was “crying and praying”. Other town members were also hiding in the bushes he stated. The elderly town members slowly walked out of the bushes after not hearing any noise for a long time. He communicated that they checked to see if the military group had left before telling everyone that it was ok to leave from the bushes and return to their homes. Mr. Karim expressed that he “immediately ran back” to the farm to find his family.

When he returned to the farm, he saw his father “lying on the ground covered in blood.” He also saw his aunt, Fatima, on the ground dead with her clothes ripped off next to his dad. Mr. Karim revealed that he screamed and cried on top of his father’s body for a while until he remembered to look for his mom and siblings in the house. He “ran inside” the house to look for them but they were not in the house. He was “not sure if they were alive or dead” Mr. Karim’s paternal uncle Yousuf found him in the house and told him that he needed “to make arrangements to leave the country” or else he would “have the same future” as his father. Yousuf expressed to him that his father wouldn’t want him to stay in Sudan to wait to be “slaughtered” by the Janjaweed. His uncle told him that he would be safe in America. A flight was scheduled for Mr. Karim to leave Sudan, which he did the next night. He traveled through the countries of Chad, Turkey, Colombia, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico before arriving to the United States border to ask for asylum. A credible fear interview was conducted by border agents. Mr. Karim was later sent to Philadelphia to live with his father’s first cousin Ibrahim.

### **IMPRESSIONS AND FINDINGS**

During the clinical interview, Mr. Karim discussed how seeing his beloved father and aunt killed has affected him. He specifically complained of experiencing helplessness, He also experiences sudden, repeated, and unwanted memories of seeing his father’s bloody body. He admitted that not knowing the status of his mom and three siblings has further intensified his suffering as he has no way of contacting them. He reported that the Janjaweed

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took the life of his uncle Yousuf just as he crossed the U.S. border. Based on his account of his experiences, it appears that Mr. Karim suffered significant emotional distress as a result of the trauma he endured in Sudan.

His self-report was consistent with the results from the psychological instrument he was administered during the psychological evaluation. Mr. Karim completed the Trauma Screening Questionnaire (TSQ), which is a self-report measure designed to assess the severity of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms in individuals who have experienced a traumatic event. It is a widely used and validated tool in clinical settings and consists of 18 items that assess various symptoms of PTSD including intrusive thoughts, avoidance, and hyperarousal. Mr. Karim earned a score of 39 which indicates a severe level of PTSD symptoms.

To further assess Mr. Karim's psychological symptoms, he was administered the Impact of Events Scale-Revised (IES-R) which is a widely used self-report measure designed to assess the severity of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms. It is a reliable and valid instrument that has been used in various research and clinical settings. It consists of a 22-item measure that evaluates intrusion, avoidance, and hyperarousal. He scored a 57 on this trauma instrument. A score of 37 or more indicates that there is a high enough PTSD concern to suppress immune system functioning even ten years after the impact of the event.

## **SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Karim was referred for an evaluation to assess his current psychological status and the extent to which having experienced a mass murder affected him psychologically. He underwent a thorough psychological assessment consisting of a face to face clinical interview and the administration of a series of empirically validated instruments. Overall, he provided a candid account of his struggles and sufficient information for clinical purposes, yielding valid clinical impressions of his current functioning.

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Having survived an assassination attempt that left his family members murdered has resulted in long-lasting negative consequences for Mr. Karim. The intensity and chronic quality of the symptoms he is currently experiencing are consistent with those who are clinically diagnosed with PTSD. It is important to note that there is no cure for this disorder, but studies have shown that symptoms can be managed through timely mental health treatment. Additionally, safe, supportive, and stable environments are crucial for fostering well-being.

Mr. Karim is struggling with healing as he is under constant stress trying to locate the rest of his family. According to Mr. Karim, if he were to return to Sudan, he fears that he would be killed by his government. Returning to Sudan would clearly subject Mr. Karim to unbearable psychological distress, as well as a real, objective probability of death. Although determination of past persecution is ultimately deferred to a Trier of Fact, in my opinion, remaining lawfully in the United States and being able to find gainful employment to support himself and be a contributing member of society therefore appears to be the optimal setting to foster his healthy emotional and psychological well-being.

If you have any questions regarding this report, feel free to contact me at your convenience. I declare under penalty of perjury that all statements contained herein are true and correct to the best of my professional judgment.

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EJ Umoh, JD, MSW, LSW  
Licensed Social Worker

Date: