

# Portraits of Injustice

A Campaign for Justice from the **National Coalition to Protect Civil Freedoms**

[www.freemasoudkhan.com](http://www.freemasoudkhan.com)

## Masoud Khan

**U.S. citizen, architecture student, father;  
resident of Gaithersburg, MD**



**He visited Pakistan  
and played paintball in  
America—once.**

**The court said this was a  
“conspiracy to conspire.”**

In 2001, Masoud, a newlywed, met a group of young Muslims who attended a mosque in Falls Church, Virginia. They played recreational paintball in the woods, fired legally owned firearms on a firing range, and discussed international politics and the obligations of Muslims to defend their faith. Masoud played paintball only once and was never a part of their group. In September, he was summoned to Pakistan by its High Court for a family estate matter. While there, he toured an LET training camp, which focused on liberating Kashmir from India, but he never joined LET, never planned any violent activity or attacked anyone, and at the time LET was not considered a terrorist organization by the U.S. Masoud returned to America, and in 2003 was arrested and charged not with terrorism but for conspiracy to violate the Neutrality Acts—obscure, rarely enforced laws that make it a crime for Americans to attack a country (in this case, India) with which the United States is at peace. Other Muslims from the Virginia paintball group were also arrested; thus Masoud was charged for associating with people who were “conspiring to conspire”—planning to make a plan—although the FBI conceded that the government had no evidence of specific plots against the U.S. at home or abroad, and said that “a lot of this is about preemption.”

Masoud, who was unable to testify at trial, was convicted. The judge stated that she had no choice under the law but to sentence him to life without parole, and that “I have sentenced al-Qaeda members who were planning real attacks on these shores for far less time...this is sticking in my craw.”

**How can you help?**

**Masoud Khan has another habeas appeal pending and its decision is expected to occur soon. In the meantime you are welcome to sign the petition in support of requesting a pardon or reduction in sentence to allow him to be released soon.**