

QUESTIONS FROM ASYLUM OFFICER AUGUST 2024
TO AN ACTIVIST FROM BURMA Part 1 of 2

Did anyone help you do your application? who? How did he help?

You wrote your story first, and then he made suggestions?

Did someone read your application back to you, in your language?

Attached to your application is a Personal Statement? How was it prepared?

you wrote it first, and then your lawyer made suggestions about it

What is your name? address? Date of birth?

[can you repeat your application back to me, without looking at it?]

What was your last address in your country?

Please give me your passport. It has 26 pages? Do you know what each stamp means?

How many other passports have you had?

Your government hates you, but it freely and quickly gives you a passport, when you ask?

It was easy to re-new your passport?

Tell me about all of your international travel!

You went to Singapore, and then you voluntarily returned to the country you now say is dangerous?

Today, you are afraid to return to your country? In 2023, you were in Singapore, and then you returned to your country and you were not arrested at the Yangon airport?

So, what is the difference today? Why would you be arrested on your return tomorrow, when you were not arrested upon return in 2023?

previous encounters with US Department of State [“DOS”]

-inside my computer, I can get your records from the DOS?

I can read the questions and answers on your applications to the DOS?

You applied to DOS for a visitor’s visa? B-2?

Your friend sat at a computer, filled it out, and then sent it in? So, you did not read what he said? Did your friend make any mistakes? Did your friend ask you all of the questions on DS-160?

One question on DS-160 is “Have you ever been arrested?”

You said NO? But that is not true; you were arrested, yes? So, you lied?

Another question is: “What are your plans? visit the USA for two weeks and then return?”

You said, “Yes, after a short visit, I will return home.”?? This was false? this is a lie?

After your friend filled out the application, you had a face-to-face interview at the US Embassy?

The officer asked you, : “Ever been arrested?” and you lied?

The officer asked you: “Will you return home in two weeks?” and you lied?

So, you lied twice on your written application and twice during the interview, which is a total of four lies? You are a skilled liar? Today is when you lie for the 5th time, yes?

Tell me the birthdates of each child

Tell me about your education

Tell me about your employment, going back 20 years

What is the name of your father? of your mother?

Why did you apply for asylum?

Did you suffer any harm?

Did you ever return to the country you now say is dangerous?

Were you a member of any organizations in your country?

Are you a member today, in the USA, of any organizations?

Do you have a membership card?

Is there one person in that organization who could write a letter of support for you?

Why didn't that person help you?

You say you have strong political opinions, but you do not join any groups of like-minded people? why not?

How did you prepare your written statement? How did your lawyer help you?

Who wrote it?

Did someone read it back to you, in your own language?

Did you or someone submit supporting documents? Did you read them before they were submitted, or even afterwards? Are they truthful? you don't know, because you have not read them?

Did you ever apply for a visa? How many times?

Who helped you? [Is this the second time I asked you about visas? why is that, do you suppose?]

Did you read your application before it was submitted? Is it truthful, or does it has some lies in it?

Why did you apply for asylum? [why do you think I ask the same question twice?]

Did you suffer harm? How many times?

Who harmed you? why?

Which part of the government harmed you?

What was the worst harm you suffered?

You were harmed at "the" protest? Which protest? In the history of the world, there has been only one protest?

Can you talk to me saying MONTH/YEAR/CITY?

"in February 2021, in Sittwe, I was at a protest and a soldier hit me on my leg with a baton"

"in June 2023, in Yangon, the soldier searched my backpack"

What were you protesting? How did you protest?

Why did the soldier tear-gas you?

Why was there a *coup* on February 1, 2021?

What is your political opinion? Can you say it in six words?

What does “protest” mean? stand on the street, chant slogans, carry large signs that criticize the government? hit pots and pans at 8 00 pm?

Where was the protest?

How many times did you protest?

Did anything happen to you? What?

Who organized the protest? Was there a political party?

you were not a member of the NLD party? why not?

How did you decide to join the protest?

What was the worst harm you suffered?

Can you tell me your story chronologically? MONTH/YEAR/CITY?

Is that difficult for you?

Are there different kinds of harm?

Emotional harm is what? Economic harm is what?

What was the worst harm you suffered? [why do I ask that so many times?]

A man yelled at you? What was he wearing? What is a “uniform”?

What words did he say?

Why did he yell at you?

What words did he say? Why don’t you want to repeat the words he said?

He took you to the police station. Why?

What was the reason he took you away?

Where were you, at the moment of your arrest? under a tree? sitting on a chair?

What happened inside the police station?

What did you see? the man was wearing what? any weapons?

What language did he speak? Do you remember what words he said?

Can you repeat the words he said?

What did he want?

What did he ask you about?

Then, he put you in a small room with no furniture? What did you see there?

How did you get released?

What impact did this arrest and detention have on you?

You did not seek medical attention? so, you were not hurt so bad?

Why didn’t you seek medical attention?

Did you go to work the next day?

Did you suffer any other harm?

What words did the soldiers say? What language did they use? Can you remember some of the words? OK, so, please repeat them now

What would happen to you if you returned?