

## *Refugee Seniors in the United States Video*

### **Full Script**

Time	Speakers	Script
0:09-0:41	Moti and Kaushila Rizal, Bhutan	<p>We were in Bhutan and we were treated very cruelly by the Bhutanese government.</p> <p>There was gunfire, that's why we had to abandon our property and leave Bhutan.</p> <p>We had gathered all our food at home, but we were unable to eat. The children were very young. We grabbed some chickens and left in the middle of the night.</p> <p>We left in the middle of the night. Early in the morning we were in India.</p>
0:40-0:43	(Off camera)	Did you walk?
0:43-0:52	Moti and Kaushila Rizal, Bhutan	<p>Yes, we walked. When we were in India it was daylight.</p> <p>The kids said they were hungry, but we had nothing to eat. There were tears rolling down my cheeks, and the kids were crying too.</p>
0:59-1:22	Moti and Kaushila Rizal, Bhutan	<p>We wanted to go back to Bhutan, Bhutan, Bhutan, but nothing happened. Since we could not go back, there were organizations that wanted to help us.</p> <p>Finally we are here and let's see how it goes.</p> <p>People said you have to be able to do anything and eat anything in America. During orientation, we were told we can practice our own beliefs. For people who want to practice their traditions, they can do so, and we are doing the same.</p>
1:34-1:37	Salah Razoqi, Iraq	The weather is so beautiful today.
1:36-1:38	(Off camera)	It really is.

1:39-2:24	Salah Razoqi, Iraq	<p>I wish the weather were like this every day. The people are so nice, the streets are so beautiful.</p> <p>As you know, there was a war in Iraq and a lot of crisis there. A lot of things were not available for Iraqis – no electricity, no water, just darkness.</p> <p>Of course, here in America, thank God there’s safety and electricity exists. There’s a better life here. People are so nice and the country is so clean. Thank God we’re very comfortable here.</p>
2:25-3:02	Salah Razoqi, Iraq	<p>Our first goal here in America was to learn English. I speak English with my wife, my daughters, and my son. Our TV and cable is in English so we hear English all the time. Sometimes I go to the supermarket and speak English with the employees. Besides that, my caseworker gives me lessons 2-3 days per week. So thank God we’re learning.</p>
3:03-3:05	ESL teacher 1	Ah, good morning.
3:06-3:07	ESL class	Good morning.
3:07-3:09	ESL teacher 1	How are you today?
3:09-3:10	ESL class	Good.
3:11-3:23	Shay Mahat, Somalia	I came from Somalia. I left because of the war.
3:24-3:25	ESL teacher 1	Where are you from?
3:26-3:27	Shay Mahat, Somalia	I am from Somalia.
3:28-3:40	Shay Mahat, Somalia	First, my wife and my 4 children came here. Then, after 5 years I came.
3:41-3:42	ESL teacher 1	Do you have children?
3:43-3:47	Shay Mahat, Somalia	Yes, I have four. Four. Four children.

3:48-4:09	Shay Mahat, Somalia	School isn't bad, it's good. When I go there in the morning... School isn't bad for me, it's fine. Those who are wise can and those who are not, don't get it.
4:10-4:53	Ma Khin Nwe Nwe, Burma	If you live as a refugee in Malaysia, you are subject to get arrested. And there is not any social support at all. You'll be in big trouble. It's much worse in Malaysia. But for me, I had a husband, so I didn't have such trouble.  When I first came here, there were only Chin and Karen people around here. There are ethnic groups from Burma. With their help, here I am, the only Burman. I live with them as my own family and children in this house.
4:54-4:55	ESL teacher 1	Where are you from?
4:56-4:57	Ma Khin New New, Burma	I am from Burma.
4:57-4:59	ESL teacher 1	Burma.
4:59-5:15	Ma Khin Nwe Nwe, Burma	It would be good if refugees have learned some basic English, and if they're able to work. There will be some difficulties if they aren't able to work like me.
5:16-5:35	Mohammed Mohammed, Sudan	The most difficult thing when you come to America is if you can't speak English. It will be hard.  I came here to America and I found life is different and everything is organized.  There's a war over there and it's well known.
5:36-6:02	Mohammed Mohammed, Sudan	I work at "First Star Paper".  I work with a group of other people during the night shift. We collect the papers and organize them in cartons then take them to the warehouse.  I can barely speak English, but I have friends who speak English. It's hard, but hopefully we'll learn the language.
6:03-6:16	ESL teacher 1	So everybody now has two homes, has two homes, and this is

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		okay. You have one home that has your heart, your memories, and one home here. How are you this morning?
6:17-6:18	Moti and Kaushila Rizal, Bhutan	I'm fine.
6:18-6:19	ESL teacher 1	You are fine.
6:19-6:42	Moti and Kaushila Rizal, Bhutan	I feel like they teach us well, and I know my stuff during the class, but I tend to forget afterwards. Little by little I'm learning, it's great that they're teaching us. They're teaching us well. We learn there and then when we leave school, and by the time we arrive at home, we forget. What happened?
6:42-7:10	Salah Razoqi, Iraq	Of course, when someone can't speak English here, it's very hard. But I'll tell you something. If someone has relatives here, it will help a lot. Like my wife – she can speak English as well as my daughters. My son also speaks English and even I have a good background in English, but if someone doesn't speak English, they have to learn.
7:11-7:15	Salah Razoqi, Iraq	But as I said, you need to be patient.
7:15-7:16	ESL teacher 2	Good morning!
7:16-7:17	Moti and Kaushila Rizal, Bhutan	Good morning.
7:18-7:20	ESL teacher 2	Hi. Have a seat.
7:21-8:05	Moti and Kaushila Rizal, Bhutan	<p>My help... I have insurance for the hospital and medicine. I'm taking those medications. If I have to go to the hospital, I ask my kids or I just stay home because I can't go anywhere by myself.</p> <p>I think, "Where am I?" and I get lost. I haven't learned to get around here. When I look at the signs, I just understand "bus" and "train" and nothing else. I understand that because I learned something in the village.</p> <p>I wonder how we will spend our lives in the future. I can't get around by myself. I really can't.</p>

8:15-8:31	Ma Khin Nwe Nwe, Burma	If you have good health and are able to work, you can earn a lot of money, which will be very good for your life. If, however, you aren't healthy enough to work, you will face difficulties.
8:47-8:03	Salah Razoqi, Iraq	My advice for the refugees is to be patient. That's the most important thing. They shouldn't rush and they should take everything step by step.
9:05-9:37	Shay Mahat, Somalia	Now I have few difficulties. I understand the system and I've gotten used to it. I can go places myself. All I can tell them is that this place is good. America is good, it's not like Somalia.
9:46-10:36	Moti and Kaushila Rizal, Bhutan	<p>Everything is fine so far, but we don't know what will happen in the future. We can't work. We don't know what will happen then. We want at least one of our sons to study. The youngest son doesn't even work. I have a dream that he will study. We're uncertain about our future. Sometimes I worry that we won't be able to pay the rent. That's what I feel.</p> <p>I think if we get educated and learn things, then we will be able to do something in this country. Even if I can't, I want my kids to.</p>