

My Journey to Canada with My Son



My name is Faisal, and I am no longer a refugee. My story begins with having to flee the only home I knew in search of a new home where I could live without fear of violence and death. I waited nine long years before being given the chance to begin a new life in Canada. It is during this time as a refugee in a third country, living without basic human rights, I met with ORAT. In 2018 I met Deacon Rudy. I left filled with hope for the first time in many years. My case was put forward through the assistance of ORAT and soon after I was given notice that the Canadian government accepted me as a refugee. All I needed to do was wait three years before I boarded the plane to Canada.

Once I lived a good life in my homeland. I had a good job as a business owner of a grocery store. I was married and had a baby son. There were many family celebrations, meals, and love shared among a large extended family living in the same city. Everything changed with violence and fear as those that shared my family's faith were targeted, often having their homes set on fire and many were killed. It is under these circumstances that I too was targeted, feared for my own life and that of my family. We fled in terror in 2013.

It is during my time as a refugee, living without any rights in Bangkok, Thailand that my sorrow became almost unbearable. My wife and young son were arrested and detained in a detention centre. My wife was pregnant with our daughter, and sick with kidney failure. Medical attention was denied. I lost both my wife and daughter. I thank God, I was able to be reunited with my son. It is after this tragedy that I was connected with ORAT.

This was the first time in many years that I was given hope that I may be able to build a new life. ORAT assisted me with paperwork and information, and it wasn't long before I knew that someday I would be moving to the safety of Canada.

My son and I arrived in the very northwest corner of Canada late in September. We were met at the small airport by a group of excited Canadians who quickly bundled us into winter clothing and took us to our new home. We have experienced so much in our short time here including, snow, skiing, skating, swimming in lakes, beautiful mountains, and good, lovely Canadian people. I have secured employment and recently got my driver's license. My son attended school for the very first time. I am so thankful to have Yukon Cares as part of my extended family and have made lasting friendships in this community.

My life was so difficult, fleeing the violence in my homeland, and then living in secrecy in Bangkok. I am happy now, I have everything I need here. My son is studying in school, and I am beginning my employment journey.

Today I feel like a full member of Canadian society. I have many friends in my new community and I hope that some day I can assist in supporting a new refugee family settling in this community. It is with much gratitude that I thank ORAT for giving us this new life.

