

Summer 2012 Campaign to End Unjust Deportations

Draft Interview Topics; Useful Questions

The following useful questions were developed during the June 2 Field Training. They are intended to be guides for successful interviewing. There is no script for a successful interview; rather, each interviewer will need to assess his or her subject. These questions provide some useful language and direction.

Where and when were you born?

Tell a little about when and where you were born, and a little about growing up

Describe childhood

Describe a typical day for you as a child

Life in country of origin:

Describe your upbringing/typical day

Reasons for immigrating to US:

Tell me about your reasons for coming to the US

What were key factors in your decision

Describe your feelings while contemplating your options

Journey to the US

Describe how you came to the US

Describe your feelings while traveling here

Life in the US

Tell about your life in the US

Education

Work

Community background

Detention

What happened the day you were detained

What were your thoughts while being detained

How were you treated

Was an interpreter provided to you

Could you call family members

What did you tell them

What did you not tell them

Deportation

Describe the day you were actually deported (See, Hear, Feel)

What was it like in the detention center

Did you have an attorney

How long did you spend in jail

What was the deportation hearing like?

How did it feel to know the government wanted to deport you?

What was it like to be cross-examined?

Impact of Deportation

Were you worried about your family

What will you miss most

How has this affected your family

Survival and Coping

How did you cope with the deportation (Financially, Emotionally)

What were factors which kept you going

Reflections

Walk through the process of being detained/deported (Treatment, Feelings, Thoughts, Sights)

Three words to describe the deportation process you went through

Hopes and Expectations

What do you wish to see happen in the next year

What would you like others to learn from your experience

What would make you happy