

Good Morning,

My Name is .

I am Vijayan Sabulal , I am from India ,I was working in the United Arab Emirates . I am a PIPE FITTER with 20 years of experience.

When I was in India ,saw some advertisement for the post of Pipe fitter for Signal International, Mississippi ~~and I applied for the post.~~

Sub agent of Signal promised us H2B visa leading to permanent visa status, and asked me to pay a huge amount for this,

I thought that most of the time I worked in the United Arab Emirates. without my family If I go to America I can live happily with my wife and childrens, I heard that in America everybody will get Liberty and Justice,

So I paid nearly \$20,000.00 to get this chance. there is about 600 employees from India reached signal international ,Mississippi and Texas.

After I reached Signal International on December 5, 2006. I get shocked, because they gave me a bed in a trailer with 24 people, I never lived in a room like this anywhere in my life time, and served very bad quality food and said that this is Indian food, ~~but I never saw such Indian food in India.~~

company deducted 1050 \$ for month from our pay cheques, we were struggling in this trailer and woke up at 3.30 am to start use bathroom. We were likes pigs in a cage.

I began organizing the peoples and making complaints to the camp manager.

the management threatened us and told me that Signal invested millions of dollars in this labor camp and we are doing business, "This is not your India , this is America ,if you want to stay in this country ,keep quite and shut up , Sabulal sit down, I did so, because I was not ready to loose this job, because of my great debt. I sold my wife's jewellery, borrowed from friends, and invested the money I had saved to build a home. to come to America.

Day by day camp management was ignoring our needs. company said that this accommodation is approved by DOL, but we did not believe that. You can imagine that a room with 24 peoples, and for asking better food camp manager called us animals, “Indians are behaving like animals,” We know the living conditions of Indians and you are getting more better food and accommodation here.”

What are the promises they(company) submitted to DOL while applying for the visa , I don't know, but I think nobody inspect the camp and find out the reality. Signal started to reduce the salary from 18 \$ to 13\$ and lay off some peoples,and they forced to sign on new wage agreement.

We conducted meeting at the nearest catholic church with the help of New Orleans Workers Center and Southern Poverty Law Centre, After all this meetings my wife got some phone calls from signals Indian recruiter “Dewan ,” asking for my phone no and contact details, my wife get threatened. In a phone call Indian agent told me that ,Signal informed him that I am the leader and stop all this meetings otherwise everybody will be deported”

Another day company management conducted meeting in the labor camp and threatened us to stop all activities ,

The next day March 9, the real tragedy I ever faced in my life. In the early morning.I saw 2 people were locked up in TV room. 5.10 am I was packing my lunch box inside the mess hall, armed security guard with camp manager come to me and told me that “ you are under our custody.” obey the security guard and come to TV room” . I tried to take a cup of coffee but I was shivering and failed to take my breakfast and I went to my room ,security guard tried to stop me and another one security was shouting and chasing me ,camp manager shout at me and told me to go to the tv room, I told him that I need to wash my hands, I was loosing my control , afraid that company going to harm me. and deport me to India, I afraid to back home with empty handed in front of my poor family and the society, I cut my wrist with a razor blade,

the threatening situation created by signal forced me to do so. I was in the hospital for 3 days, my family wept for weeks ,my child told me “come back I need my dad”

I got 3 increments in the company

I only get punished for fighting against this injustice . DOL is approved this labor certification ,. they did not check the reality inside the company,

My question is this.after all these incidents what actions taken by DOL against this injustice?

Agents ,Sub contractors and companies in the US are doing H2B visa program as a bussiness.and they are cheating the US government and the peoples by spoiling their life. and earning millions of dollars every year.

My request to this ^{congress}~~congress~~ members is this

Please let the H2B visa holder to live with dignity,give them enough time to earn some money. Give them the right to change his employer if they wish,

Please find these criminals who are doing H2B as a business and punish them.

DOL can do a major roll in this H2B visa program

To stop selling this H2B Visa

and to

Stop this Modern Slavery

Thank you all