

Community Archives Center Tacoma Community House Oral History Interviews Transcript

Atef, Salem. Interview date: 05/04/2022

dindria: [00:00](#) Are you ready to speak in English?

Salem Atef: [00:02](#) Yeah. A little bit.

dindria: [00:04](#) A little bit <laugh>. And use those notes. So, um, you can use those notes and then we're gonna start with your name, the date. Yeah. And then we are lo- we are in Tacoma Community House. Okay. Okay. So that's how we start and then we go to your questions.

Salem Atef: [00:25](#) Okay.

dindria: [00:27](#) And we skip this one? Yeah. Okay. Okay. Okay, here we go. I left the record on too long before, um, so we recorded ourselves talking. So <laugh>. Okay. Ready? Please say your name.

Salem Atef: [00:45](#) Um, name Salem Atef.

dindria: [00:48](#) And what is the date?

Salem Atef: [00:51](#) Uh, today date? Uh, fi four, uh, may, uh, 2022.

dindria: [00:59](#) And where are we located?

Salem Atef: [01:03](#) Tacoma Community House.

dindria: [01:07](#) Okay. Question number one, where are you from? Where is your home country? Tell us about it.

Salem Atef: [01:16](#) Uh, I am from, uh, Yemen, my family, uh, city Yemen. uh, name Ibb City Ibb. I am in, uh, um, family village, uh, family in, uh, brother, six brother in Saudi Arabian? Yeah. Oh,

dindria: [01:40](#) In

Salem Atef: [01:40](#) Saudi? Yeah. I am two family, two country. In Yemen. In Saudi Arabia. Oh, yes. Uh, before I am, uh, 24 years, I am work in Saudi Arabian. Oh,

dindria: [01:53](#) Okay. Right on. Yeah. Were you born in Yemen or Saudi Arabia?

Salem Atef: [01:58](#) I am home, my home in Saudi Arabian. Okay. I am now, I am, uh, no go Yemen. Um, eight years? No go Yemen. Oh,

dindria: [02:09](#) Okay. Yeah. Okay, that makes sense. Next one. Who is your family? Describe them?

Salem Atef: [02:17](#) Uh, I have, uh, two children. Boy. Yeah. One, uh, [inaudible] years. One, uh, 12 years.

dindria: [02:28](#) Oh, 16 and 12. Yeah. Okay. Yeah. So they're teenagers. Yeah. <laugh>. Um, next one. How did you get to Tacoma, Washington?

Salem Atef: [02:41](#) Yeah. I am in, uh, family. My, uh, before in married in, uh, you have, uh, citizen Americans. Okay. Yeah. Oh, uh, 2-, 2013 in, uh, Ta-Tacoma.

dindria: [03:01](#) In Tacoma. Yeah. Oh, right. Congratulations. Yeah. Thank you. <laugh>. Um, what did you think about the United States before you got here?

Salem Atef: [03:12](#) I, I like, I like, I am, uh, a happy, I am very, very nice in USA before I am, uh, brought in 18 years. I am, and think I need USA, <laugh> USA democratic. USA no problem. USA, the school, uh, son school, Good and university good, I need my boy, uh, my, uh, son and doctor. And I like in, uh, American.

dindria: [04:04](#) All right.

Salem Atef: [04:05](#) I, I need Citizen American. I need in, uh, work in American business. I, uh, American. Yeah.

dindria: [04:16](#) All right. That, that tells me all the reasons why you come to the United States.

Salem Atef: [04:21](#) So yeah. American number one I like, I am, no, I am No, uh, I am, no, now eight years. Now I am American. Yes.

dindria: [04:34](#) Right on. Yeah. Congratulations. Yes, <laugh>. Um, what is the next one? Uh, what was your first American experience?

Salem Atef: [04:45](#) Good.

dindria: [04:46](#) Yes,

Salem Atef: [04:47](#) American. Very good, very nice.

dindria: [04:48](#) What happened the first day

Salem Atef: [04:52](#) When,

dindria: [04:52](#) When you came to America?

Salem Atef: [04:54](#) Yeah. Uh, first day in, uh, September, 2013.

dindria: [05:01](#) That's right, because you got married, right? Yeah. Yes. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>. Um, and it was a happy day. So, <laugh>, what food do you like?

Salem Atef: [05:11](#) This, uh, this Arabic in Umm Kulthum This number one in Arabic.

dindria: [05:20](#) Okay.

Salem Atef: [05:21](#) Yeah. This Egyptian this, uh, Umm Kulthum Egyptian.

dindria: [05:33](#) It's in Egyptian

Salem Atef: [05:34](#) Dish. Yeah. That's good. Yeah.

dindria: [05:35](#) Oh yeah. What is, what is, um, is it spicy?

Salem Atef: [05:41](#) Yes. It's spicy.

dindria: [05:43](#) Spicy. <laugh>. I'm a wimp about that, but next one. What is your favorite music?

Salem Atef: [05:49](#) Yeah, this music, this Umm Kulthum. This Umm Kulthum. Oh, this, yeah.

dindria: [05:55](#) This is the

Salem Atef: [05:56](#) Food. Yeah, this is the food here, huh?

dindria: [05:58](#) No food here. Oh, I'm sorry. That's okay. Don't worry about it.

Salem Atef: [06:02](#) The food in food, music. This food in McDonald's. In, in home.

dindria: [06:09](#) Yeah. Yeah. Home food. What

Salem Atef: [06:12](#) You eat at you? Arabic food. Uh, McDonald's, uh, chick. No. Chink.

dindria: [06:18](#) Yeah. I have a lot of different variety.

Salem Atef: [06:21](#) This mu mu music. Music. Umm Kulthum. Umm Kulthum.

dindria: [06:28](#) Umm Kulthum. Yes. Okay. I wanna say it right? Yeah. This good? Okay. Umm Kulthum. This one is, who do you want to share when someone listens to your story? This one.

Salem Atef: [06:43](#) This? Mm-hmm.

dindria: [06:44](#) <affirmative>

Salem Atef: [06:46](#) Story. Mm-hmm.

dindria: [06:47](#) <affirmative>,

Salem Atef: [06:49](#) Uh, uh, [inaudible].

dindria: [06:51](#) Uh,

Salem Atef: [06:51](#) The story. This an American Good American Democrat.

dindria: [06:55](#) Yeah. That's important.

Salem Atef: [06:57](#) Yes. No problem. Speak. No problem. American number one. International. Okay. Number one. Yeah.

dindria: [07:05](#) Is it

Salem Atef: [07:06](#) <laugh>? Yeah, democratic. Democratic.

dindria: [07:08](#) Because you can speak whatever you

Salem Atef: [07:09](#) Want to say. Yeah, no problem. No, no. Afraid American. Very nice. Yes.

dindria: [07:15](#) I like that. Um, um, what do you want for your future?  
Yeah, yeah.

Salem Atef: [07:22](#) No, I need an American number one. International. I need  
American. Uh, is is good?

dindria: [07:34](#) Yeah. Is it freedom?

Salem Atef: [07:36](#) Freedom, yeah. Freedom in American. Number one.  
Number go. This

dindria: [07:41](#) <laugh>. All right. Thank you so much. You welcome sale.  
Thank you. You did a fabulous job. Can I keep this?

Salem Atef: [07:48](#) Yeah. No,

dindria: [07:48](#) This, I can keep it. Yeah. Okay. Thank you. Because I love  
it as a document because it shows your work. Okay. Your  
words in Arabic. Okay. Okay. Okay. Thank you. All right. I  
press the stop and then I'm going to take the picture.