

47. Mohammad Nazeer Paktiawal

Who was Mohammad Nazeer Paktiawal? Mohammad Nazeer Paktiawal was a 41-year-old father of six who fought alongside U.S. forces during the 200 to 2021 Afghanistan war. To his family and friends, he was known as Nazeer. He had been an Afghan special forces member in Paktika province – one of the most dangerous in Afghanistan since 2005. Mohammad and his family were evacuated when the pro-U.S. government in Kabul fell to the Taliban in 2021. "It was not easy for everyone to get on that plane," said Nazeer's brother, Naseer Paktiawal, who came to the U.S. seven years earlier. "You would have to have a badge from your job, certificates, recommendation letters [from] where you worked before with the U.S. government."

Nazeer and his family were initially resettled in Dallas and moved to nearby Richardson.

How did Mohammad Nazeer Paktiawal end up in ICE custody? Mohammad Nazeer Paktiawal was leaving home to take four of his six children to school on Friday, March 13, when, according to his brother, two unmarked, black ICE SUVs pulled up alongside him. Around eight or nine people with no badges or any signs on the vehicles or any stickers that identified them as police or law enforcement— just masked men— surrounded Mohammad and, according to his brother Naseer, told him, "You are going with us." Mohammad's kids were screaming for help.

The agents took Mohammad away. Naseer said his brother called him later that day from ICE custody, claiming he'd offered to show the arresting agents documentation stating he had a legal right to be in the country through 2029. The agents wouldn't listen.

How did Mohammad Nazeer Paktiawal die under ICE Custody? Late that evening, Naseer got another call from his brother. "He said that, 'I don't know. Something is happening to me. I can't breathe well. My whole body is in pain, and I'm shaking and sweating,'" Naseer said. An ICE agent told Naseer his brother would be taken to the hospital. When Naseer asked which hospital, the agent refused to tell him and hung up. A doctor in the hospital's emergency department recommended that Mohammad stay in the hospital overnight. The following morning, Mohammad's tongue began to swell and he was administered epinephrine.

The next afternoon, Naseer was driving with his and his brother's children. An ICE representative called to say that his brother had died that morning at Dallas Parkland Memorial Hospital.

Mohammad Nazeer Paktiawal died in ICE custody in Dallas on March 14, 2026. His death certificate showed that he died due to an "adverse drug reaction", causing him to experience anaphylaxis. His death was ruled as an accident, the result of an anaphylactic reaction following the administration of an antibiotic, per the autopsy report eventually released by ICE.

Sources:

<https://www.tpr.org/news/2026-03-23/how-an-afghan-man-who-aided-u-s-military-forces-died-in-ice-custody-in-texas>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohammad_Nazeer_Paktyawal