

AFFIDAVIT OF GOLSHIFTEH FARAHANI

I, Golshifteh Farahani, hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the following statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and recollection. I am writing this affidavit in support of Ali Birang's I-140 Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker.

1. My name is Golshifteh Farahani. I am an actress, musician and singer. I am a native and citizen of Iran, and currently I am a resident of France, residing at 5 rue victor massé 75009, Paris, France. I am a globally known actress and have taken roles in notable movies by world-class director such as Abbas Kiarostami, David Ignatius, Asghar Farhadi, Jim Jarmusch, Christophe Honoré, Majan Satrapi and Ridley Scott. I also played memorable roles alongside internationally acclaimed actors and actresses such as Juliette Binoche (in *Shirin* by Abbas Kiarostami), Leonardo DiCaprio and Russell Crowe (in *Body of Lies* by David Ignatius). I was nominated for or won numerous international and national prizes for my acting. I won the best actress award at the Three Continent Film Festival in Nantes, France (for *Boutique* in 2003) and in the Kazan International Film Festival (once in 2006 for the *Tears of the Cold* and once in 2008 for *M Like Mother*), and the Eleonora Duse Award at the Asolo Film Festival in 2008, which is awarded annually for international recognition of a prominent figure in theater or cinema. I have also been in the position of judging the works of my peers as a member of the international jury at the 63rd Locarno Film Festival. In addition to cinema, I also have a background in music. I started playing piano at the age of five and attended Iran Music Conservatory in Tehran. I used to be a member of a rock band in Tehran called Kooch Neshin (Nomads), and in October 2009 I featured on the album "Oy" by Mohsen Namjoo, a prominent Iranian singer in exile.
2. I know Mr. Ali Birang from the Iran Music Conservatory, which we both attended from the age of twelve until the early years of college. Although the school was segregated by gender, I would still meet Mr. Birang on Thursdays when female and male students used to have common rehearsal sessions. He also played piano like me and had fame for being a composer for Iranian National Television at a young age. He would make music for TV series such as *Doniaie Shirin* (1997) and *Doniaie Shirin-e Darya* (1998). These TV series were very popular among children and adults at the time. We never had the opportunity to work together, though, since we were both playing piano. However, we both were selected to accompany other youth to the Fajr Music Festival when we were approximately 14 and 13 years old. Although we were not competing and were only present to accompany other musical instruments, only a few students from the conservatory were selected to accompany other

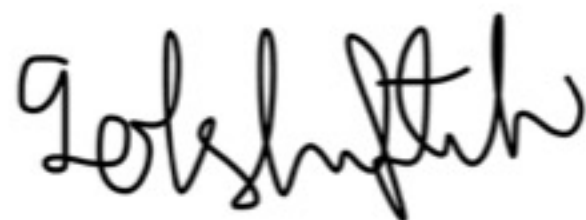
musicians by the professors based on their skill and talent; Mr. Birang was one of the best, so he was selected.

3. I find Mr. Birang to be a phenomenal musician who is skilled in a wide variety of music from classical to pop to jazz, and he is a talented composer. His major at the conservatory was classical piano; however, he has taught himself a wide variety of music on his own and without any teacher. Mr. Birang also possesses great skill in employing technology to create samples for soundtracks and orchestral music, which considerably reduces the cost of movie production. For example, if he wants to send a sample of the music for a director to decide on, he does not need to pay for any musician or extra instruments; instead, he can simply create the sounds with a sample created on the computer. Another rare talent of Mr. Birang is his improvisation skills. He has this amazing talent to improvise classical pieces according to the style of the specific piece he starts with. This skill is very hard to find among classical musicians, who are so used to sticking to the notes and traditional styles of the music. This strong talent in improvisation makes Mr. Birang a great jazz musician, which is not common in Iran. His jazz music is an interesting combination of Western jazz styles with an air of Iranian local music.

4. Mr. Birang is one of the best composers in Iranian cinema, and I am confident that with his excellent music skills he will work continuously wherever he goes and achieve even further success to add to his already outstanding film and television and music resume.

Sincerely,

Golshifteh Farahani

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Golshifteh', written in a cursive style.