

## The Peale, Baltimore

*Out of the Blocks* Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the Out of the Blocks website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>



Murad Aljaboobi ([00:05](#)):

This is a grocery store. We're selling soda, snack, chips. Soon, we're going to open the deli. We're going to carry the food. Sandwich, gyro, wraps... all kind of salad.

Murad Aljaboobi ([00:23](#)):

My name is Murad Aljaboobi. My store is in Cherry Hill Mart. 661 Cherry Hill Road.

Speaker 3 ([00:31](#)):

Can I get two, three packs of your Irish Springs?

Murad Aljaboobi ([00:34](#)):

I'm from Yemen. I came to the United States in 2007. I came to study. I finished my college back home. I'm lawyer, and I come here, I say, "I'm going to take the master." But, I stopped study, I have a lot of things to do. So, especially in America, if I don't work, it's hard to do with. I stopped with the business, I

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continue the business, I have a lot of thing. I have family. I have in a big family. I have to take care of them. I have two kids, my mom, my sisters, brothers... big family. This time is hard back home. Almost now, two years wars in Yemen. No electric, no gas, no nothing. Nothing. You cannot imagine... how the people life [inaudible 00:01:33], God help them. Yeah.

Melissa Gerr ([01:36](#)):

And you said that you're trying to get your wife and children here?

Murad Aljaboobi ([01:40](#)):

Yeah, I'm trying. I'm trying, I applied for that, but now it's... the travel is hard from Yemen to any country. Yeah. My son is 12 years, and my daughter she's [inaudible 00:01:56] almost 11 years.

Melissa Gerr ([01:59](#)):

When was the last time you saw them?

Murad Aljaboobi ([02:03](#)):

Almost three years and a half. It's hard for me. I wish they come in, what we going to do.

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