

Qendrim Mustafa interview with Naomi Hamill (36:36)

(00:00)

NH: This is Naomi Hamill recording an Oral History for Manchester Aid to Kosovo. Can you just tell me your name, please and date of birth?

QM: My name is Qendrim Mustafa, I was born on 9th June 1992. I'm currently 23 years old. I was born in Kosovo, a little village in Kosovo called Lipjan.

There's not much that I really remember because I was just 7 years old when I came to England. But what I do remember, for some reason, it was always warm in Kosovo. I remember the summers much more than I remember the winters.

I really... we used to have a very small garden, and a really small house that was made I think 70 years before I was born. So it was made out of 'mud' kind of house¹. Yeah. So we weren't really rich so obviously, because we lived in a village, we had a few cows, and I always remember being in the barn. I was a really, kind of, exploring kind of kid, if you know what I mean. I always used to go straight out with my friends; go to the farms; go watch my dad get all the potatoes and the peppers out of the farms.

I remember once, this is a story my parents tell me, but I do remember vividly. They were in the farms looking after the crops and there was this massive well but the well was really low and it was a really dangerous well. And I remember playing hide and seek and my family thought I

¹ Probably a 'cob' farmhouse made of wood, stone and mud. It is estimated that about 30% of the world's population currently lives in earth-made homes. The number goes up to 50% in the developing countries.

fell in the well but I was so scared to come out because they were all shouting, I carried on hiding. I remember my uncle and my dad jumping into the well trying to find me and I think it was about half an hour later, I jumped out and said, "Here I am!", while my mum was crying and my dad was still searching in the well (laughs).

Yeah, I mean, there's not much I remember, apart from the sunny days. I always remember being in the garden, never really being home. Going out - we used to wake up pretty early so we used to go out at eight o' clock and not come back until sun had set - playing out with my friends. We used to go and look after the cows whilst they were grazing.

Most of the time, whilst the cows were grazing on the grass, we'd sit under a tree in the shadows, because it was really warm, it hit 40 degrees. I... we used to play this game with a stick: who could throw sticks the furthest. And I think I used to be the mean one, out of my cousins, because I was the one who was a bit fearless. I used to run around and chase the cows and not be scared to get too close to them. And any time I go back - we go on a yearly basis - when I go back they always say to me... they say these nicknames I used to have that I don't remember at all. It's quite funny because one of them was 'Beans' which is 'pasual' in our language. It's quite funny really the stories they tell me. I don't seem to remember.

My grandma - she's now passed away - I think I was 4 or 5 years old and my dad tells me stories of how she used to shout at me and hit me because I was so naughty. I don't remember that at all. It's quite funny listening to the stories especially when I go back home... and everyone... my grandmas on my mum's side tell me a lot. So

apparently I was a really dark skin compared to everyone else because I was so much into the sun.

Yeah, when I think about it now, it feels like a different life time ago. I don't think I'm the same person: totally different person to the kid that I was.

(03:53) NH: Can you remember, like, anything going wrong? Can you remember the build up to the war or the occupation or anything like that?

QM: For the kids especially, I think, in my family, I think they tried to not worry us as much. I remember there used to be chatter late at night about 1:00 or 2:00; the grown-ups used to stay in a different room and obviously they were worried because... when the war started it wasn't in our village... it was further up in North Kosovo and obviously the armies were making advances and everyone was worried. So everyone wanted to get out of the village and move further away towards Macedonia.

And I remember when the tanks first came to our village. My dad got obviously, my mum, my uncles, the rest of the kids, and we ran to our cousins' house, which wasn't really that far out but, obviously, two three hundred yards away. And we all had to lie down in the house because there were soldiers in the hills. And I remember one of my cousins - he was a really curious person - he put his head up at the window and I remember my dad just really shouting and dragging him down and saying, "Don't look out the window because you could get your head shot!"

That's probably the only thing I remember that was really scary because my little brother was crying and my mum had to hold his mouth while he was crying because obviously she didn't want anyone to hear. Hmmm

And then I remember, from that, going to my auntie's house which was, again, further away from where the war had begun. We stayed there for three months. Again, being in the naughty nature that I was, I didn't get on well with my auntie's nephews. I remember starting a fight: getting really shouted at a lot. But what really stuck in my head was we had to sleep with our clothes on, shoes on, just in case in the middle of the night we had to get up and run. So I remember being really uncomfortable when I was sleeping and really sweaty and muddy because obviously we had to keep our shoes on.

But yeah, I just remember the parents and the adults just trying to keep it quiet all the time: always chatting away, but obviously we could still hear - they thought probably we couldn't - still hear the worry. And I guess that put that fear into us, you know, watching your parents get worried. You know there's a real danger.

But yeah, I think that's... apart from getting to the Macedonian border... there was a train that we tried to get on.

NH: So I'll just take you back. You could hear things and you knew something was going on. And then was there a decision made that one day you would leave the village? Or how did that happen?

(06.55) QM: I think someone had come down, a neighbor or someone in the village and said this news that the Serb army is heading towards our village. And there was news that in previous villages people had

been murdered and houses had been burnt. So we didn't want to take a chance.

It was more of someone just running into the village and everyone really heard, it was a bit of a shouting and everyone had gathered together because everyone had to make decisions whether to stay or go. And I think there was a lot of people that did stay, you know like: "This is my house. I'm going to stay here no matter what happens."

But yeah, I think the decision was made by my dad who... We had one little car, and there was like 20 of us, so not everyone could fit in the car... So he had to work out who's going to be first and who's going to stay and try and unchain the cows because they don't want to leave the cows there. Dad had heard that farms had been burnt and cows had been burnt alive so my dad stayed behind to untie the cows and just kind of put them in the street so they can just go their own way.

(08:10) I think whilst we were doing that, someone had shouted, "They're in the hills!" That's when my dad had dragged us all into my cousins' house and we had to hide there for what felt like a lifetime really but I'm pretty sure it would have been easily an hour or two. But obviously because of the fear of getting up - so everyone just had to lie down - it just felt like a really, really long time.

But yeah, I think it wasn't really a decision that took a period of time. I think it was more like someone: "Look, they're coming! You need to decide now whether you want to go or not!" And it was to decide where we have to go and figure out which areas were kind of 'occupied' at that time. But my auntie had good news that her family were okay and no one had gone there yet so they invited us over, where we spent about three months there.

Like I said... I liked to be a bit adventurous, so I was not used to the garden. And I found it really boring because everyone was now so serious. No one wanted to play and have fun. The mood had really changed. And I remember asking a few times, especially my sister, saying, "When am I going to get home?" And my dad just kind of ignored the question, said, "Just go and play over there... go and do something."

(09:30) But they treated us really well. They were family to us as well. So I have some good memories there as well, I remember when they used to make dinners with the Kosovar tradition - I think it's most East European traditions - we tend to sit down [together] when we eat. And we didn't have any electricity so during the night time they'd put on gas lamps and it just a nice atmosphere, kind of, all being together. So yeah, I think they tried to make it as homely as possible. But deep down, you're used to one house, one area and that's what made you feel like home. Like I said before, the only things I really remember was being in the garden in my house and the sunny days and just being a naughty kid.

But no, they did try and make us try and feel at home, especially my auntie's nephews, although I started a lot of fights with them. They're in New York now, so I do talk to them now and then. But they always used to say that I was the angry one because I'd start a fight. If something didn't go my way, I'd want it to go my way, so they had no choice but to agree with it. (laughs) Thinking back now, they actually did a really nice thing for us. If it wasn't for them we probably... I don't know where we would have gone. I don't know if we would have been here, you know. One little thing can change history. And so yeah, it was a second home, for a bit.

NH: And then from there you decided to go the Macedonian border. Is that right?

(11:07) QM: Nah... I don't remember how long, really, it took us to get to the border. But I went back home a few years ago. We were going past some houses and I remember my mum saying: "We stayed here for a few months... We stayed here for a few months". But I don't remember that. I only remember going to my auntie's family. So I think between moving from my auntie's family and to the Macedonian border there was still a few months that I can't remember. Just a blank space really...

People were waiting their turns to get on the trains that were leaving, obviously, towards Albanian I think, no... towards Skopje: the capital of Macedonia. So we could get on a plane. And there they were deciding where to send people, you know, the refugees.

I remember there was a struggle at one point because they were letting people on only with young kids, like babies. And my auntie had her son who was three months old and we were trying to get to the front of the queue to try and get them on. But he wasn't crying, he had cried throughout the journey but he wasn't crying at that point so they were like, "No - the baby seems fine." And so, I remember, I think it was my uncle... he had to pinch him a little bit to make him cry.

Eventually... after... there was like a check point before you could get to the train and a lot of people were sneaking through because - I don't remember if there were Serb soldiers that were guarding the train or if they were Macedonian soldiers: I think they both kind of speak the same language - and I remember my dad sneaking us through with

another family. This wasn't our family. It was just another family that we had met.

NH: Snuck the children through?

QM: Yeah, we had gone to the train and the train was cram-packed, it was so hard to breath. It was so hard to breathe on the train because it was warm as well. It was midsummer at the time. And I remember my dad trying to keep contact with a man, trying to get his number, and trying to see if they'd made it through. But we never heard anything from them, that I know of anyway. We never really heard from them. But I remember when we had got to the train there was a soldier, or a policeman, guarding it, who had a gun. And we had run into the train and he was telling us to stop, pointing a gun, and obviously at this point everyone was terrified because we didn't know if he was going to shoot or not. My dad was screaming, the kids screaming.

NH: He was pointing a gun at your family?

QM: Yeah, because obviously from his point of view, there's a family running towards the train. He didn't know what was going on... us just trying to just get onto the train. Little did we know when we looked back that there was actually more people running so more people had snuck through as well, not just us.

Eventually, we did get on the train and it sent us to Skopje.

I remember not wanting to go to the toilet because everyone had used the toilets. For some reason, I remember milk. I used to drink milk a lot so I remember neighbours giving me milk, or something along those lines. It's really a blurry image. I remember the camps had been

set up all in one line so it's like a row of them and I remember it being really messy: obviously people littering all over the floor. And having to wait... if you needed the toilet; you'd have to wait at least an hour because there was such a big queue for them. There was only, I think, three toilets at each section, because you were given sections.

NH: Hmm. Was it tents you were living in?

QM: Yeah, they were tents. They were tents. It must have been an aid area for refugees. Yeah, thinking about it now, I don't much remember about the camps; it's just we had lived there for two weeks, actually. It's weird thinking about it now. It's such a... it feels like a long time ago. But really, it's only 16 years ago, you know! Yeah, at that point... there was not really... I just remember it's weird, I remember being on the plane, on the plane here because it's the first time I had been on a plane.

(15:20) I'm not sure how long it took us to get there, how long we had to wait at the airport. I'm assuming there was obviously a place where you had to sign up where you want to go, eventually. But I remember being on a plane and given toys: given kid's toys and trying to keep us a bit happy.

I had got this massive truck that was hollow in the middle and it had little cars in it. I think I played with that since I was about 15. I don't know where it is now, I think it might be somewhere at home. But that was a good memory, just trying to keep us happy, really: that's when we felt a bit safe.

We didn't know where we were going to go. There was an area where you had to sign up. All I remember is your family trying to show as much documentation as you could to prove you are the person. And I think it

was kind of assigned to it, you kind of had areas of, "Ok you're going to... your family is going to the U.K.", "Your family is going to Germany", "You're going to Canada". I think it was a bit like that. But up to the point... to the airport, we had no idea where we were being sent. It's only after registering that... waiting a few hours for your name to be called, your family name to be called, and they'd ask you to step up.

I don't...for some reason... I remember them giving us the option and my dad saying, "U.K., we want to go to the U.K."

And I think that's why they sent us to the U.K. because my dad chose it.

(16:40) We had to wait, I think, in the terminal area where they had sent us for the planes going towards the U.K. because at that point there was a lot of people being sent. I think it was two flights a day of a group of people being sent. I remember it being British Airways and I remember thinking, "Oh, this will be a nice plane."

But no, I think it wasn't straight away, we had to wait; you had to wait for your turn. It was a bit of a queue so you had to wait, obviously, until it got to you, to get onto a plane and then be sent off.

Having lived in the camps for about two or three weeks - being changed again - at that point I had been in about four or five different houses before I got to the terminal. So I was just thinking: *Great, more friends, another place, you know.* But obviously for us kids it wasn't as real as we thought, you know, because we had not experienced that before: you know, life and death. For my parents, it was life and death. For us it was: *Ok, I'm going to my cousins' house. Now I'm going to my other cousins' house. This is a lot of fun!*

(17:54) It's only when there was bombings and you could hear the bombings² that'd wake you up in the middle of the night, when you're really crying and trying to figure out what's going on. And they tried to keep us as quiet as possible, especially at night because a lot of kids would get up screaming and crying at night when there was gunfire and, obviously, not to bring attention to you, they kept us quiet.

But yeah... No, I think we were kind of given sections where we had to go and to keep the kids quiet, I remember, they used to bring in these massive bags, aid bags. I used to run in and just try and grab what I can.

(18:30) I don't remember coming off the plane but I remember being in a bus. I think it might have been a double-decker bus and we were sat at the top and I'd never seen... I'd probably been in a car once or twice then, but I'd never been in a bus or a plane... so everything here was like a different world. I remember going past houses that were full of lights and thinking: *Oh my God, what's this?* Because back home we probably have electricity for two or three hours a day and then the rest of the day it was off. But seeing streets full of electricity, full of lights, it was just a different world, it was. I remember thinking: *Wow, there's day at night!* During the night there is day here because there's so much light, you know³.

And no, I don't remember coming off it. I remember being in a bus and we had arrived late at night, I think it was five o' clock, at the council apartments in Blakeley. I was really tired. I just remember being really

² During the 78-day war, NATO crews flew 33,000 combat missions over the region, dropped more than 20,000 laser or satellite-guided weapons and concluded that 99.6% found their targets. Of the more than one thousand planes used in the operation, 725 were American. Four hundred and fifty precision Tomahawk and 90 air-launched Cruise missiles were used. All told, 79,000 tons of explosives were dropped, including 152 containers with 35,450 cluster bombs, thermo-visual and graphite bombs.

³ See also Rina Ahmetaj recording in this archive

tired and my mum picking me up and telling me to get up now because we've come to our new home. I didn't like the buildings. They were so big, I remember thinking: *Wow, it's so big!* And they smelt a bit weird when you went into them. They smelt of... it's weird... it's like a concrete smell. I hated the lifts. Especially my little brother, he used to hate getting stuck in the lifts. And they used to break down really often. Terrifying!

(20:02) We were quite luck because we were given one on the first floor so there wasn't that many stairs to go up to but I remember a friend of ours who lived on the eleventh floor, tenth or eleventh floor - and they old people with them - so when the lift wasn't on they had to walk to the eleventh floor. But no, I think we were quite lucky, really. Our family... my little brother, he never came out, for the one year we lived in Blakeley⁴. He was scared to come out.

NH: Oh.

QM: Yeah, we're still not sure why he would do that. I remember playing outside and looking and he was through the window, looking through the window.

NH: Wouldn't come out?

QM: Never. It's weird.

He was young, like, he was probably still scared. We'd moved around so much at that point, he probably just wanted to stay in.

⁴ North Manchester

(20:48) The whole block, the whole tower was full of Kosovans. I think this is... there are still quite a few that live around here now. I remember it being quite fun, actually. Quite a lot of friends I made back then, a lot of families still keep in touch now. But eventually everyone's moving away. Some people were sent to London. We were sent close to the city centre, to try and be closer to our uncle, who now lives next door to us.

But yeah, it was full of other families that had come the same way, pretty much, as us.

(21:23) And for us, I think we were a bit lucky because we managed to escape. There's a lot of people that couldn't, and a lot of people had, sort of, deaths in the family. And a lot of people that I know have lost loved ones which is really sad if you think about it because everything is going to stay with you forever. I remember seeing as a kid... I was only seven years old... and I still have these memories. Quite a lot of black outs, I think. I don't remember a lot of situations that happened but I can't imagine what that would have felt like to actually lose someone who was in my family.

But yeah... the apartments have now been demolished so it's kind of sad when you go past it and you think that we lived there for a year when we first came here. But I remember it felt like a paradise: even though it's a council flat, to us it felt like a paradise because we'd never had such a nice house. We'd never had a two bedroom house. We used to have a kitchen in the middle, it wasn't a kitchen, it was more like a sink. And then one room where we'd eat and the other would be the room where we'd sleep. So, four or five people would sleep in one room that was probably as big as this.

(22:32) I remember 'em bringing a TV upstairs, we used to have a TV in Kosovo that only worked once a day and we could only watch one movie a week. And it was probably a movie that was made in the sixties (laughs). But I remember bringing a TV and every time the TV would break, they'd ask me to fix it. I don't remember what I used to do to it - I think the antenna at the back. They used to make me hold it so they could get a better signal but I remember bringing the heating as well, because it's cold, the flats. So they brought in heating but apart from that, the carpet and everything was all there before we got in. So everything was nicely arranged for us, the beds were there as well. The sheets, I think, they bought later on because we used to sleep on bed just on its own without a sheet on.

But no, it was quite nice to finally be somewhere where you felt safe and you didn't have to sleep in your clothes, in your shoes, because since the war began that's all I remember. I just remember being really heavy because I always had the same clothes on all the time. So I just remember being really heavy and we showered, like, once a week because we couldn't afford to obviously heat up the water, because we didn't have hot water, we had to get water from the well, heat it up and bath the kids with that.

But no, it was really comfortable, I think. Some good memories.

(24:04) I was... I didn't like going to school. Back in Kosovo I think I was in school for about a month before the war broke out so I had to leave it. And I think it might have been up to a month after we arrived; I think they let us adjust first, before they put us to school. The school wasn't far, Crumpsall Lane, it was maybe twenty minutes walk from where the flats were. And I remember everyone walking up; it was really exciting, first day of school. They'd give us these little books and little bags and

we had to wear the uniform. And they had this system where they'd give you a card, different kinds of cards, and if your colour's called out then you had to go and have lunch.

And I remember leaving school a few times, coming home crying, saying, "I don't want to go to school." So my dad had taken me at nine o' clock and I'd be back by ten on my own.

NH: You just left school, just walked out? Oh!

QM: Yeah, he used to take me back and I'd come again at twelve, "I really don't want to stay because..."

I think I was kind of scared. I didn't know the language at all and the people; there was a few bullies around the area because there was a council estate, you know. I don't know why I didn't like it. A lot of my friends loved being there. But I think it's a lot to do with having a fear of not being good enough in the school because I was seven years old and I had not been in school before. Everyone else could count and read and everything. I couldn't. So it was kind of scary. I think it was that kind of, I remember not telling my dad why. I just remember, "I don't want to go to school!"

But I couldn't tell him that I was scared that I can't learn.

(25:49) There's this kid that was stuck in my head... his name was Thomas. He was really nice. There were a few neighbours that were really nice. They'd take us to fishing at a pond that was nearby and take us to their house and there was a little dog that we used to play around with. People were really nice, but you know in every area you get a bully. It was this ginger, really big kid - compared to us - and he

used to chase us. I think there was times when we were scared to get out of the flat. But then, in the building there were bigger boys than us, you know, Kosovar boys who had come as well. And they protected us, the little ones. They'd play football with them and the bullies wouldn't come then because these were much bigger lads. But they used to wait for us near the school and, obviously, I think that's what kept me in the school more, because I used to think: *If I leave now, they're going to catch me. My dad's not here to...* My dad would take me to the school but he wasn't there when I was leaving. So I used to bear school for a few days.

But no, I just remember my dad, really, yeah. We laugh about it now, he used to say, "I'd send you there and you'd come back an hour later on your own saying 'I don't want to go to school!'".

I'd think: Wow!

(27:05) So we lived there until... we went there in 1999... 2000 'til about 2001... so just over a year. I think it had come to the point where I had just about settled into the school, that we had to move again. I think it was six months. It took me about six months to really settle in the school and make friends. But then after a certain period, we had to leave, again.

We were sent to this area now, closer to the city centre. But yeah, it took a while, I think. I think it might have been mostly because of my stubbornness to actually learn, than anything. I think if I'd have gave it a try I probably would have settled in much more quicker. Like, my sister has done so well, and everyone else and it was kind of a totally different environment to Kosovo, where you could run around free, do what you want really.

Whereas here, there were so many rules: you weren't allowed out after a certain time. Everything was really restricted.

And here education was free so my parents wanted me to go straight away whereas over there they couldn't really take me to school because first they would have to pay for my food, then for my clothes, then for my educational books and so on. So they couldn't afford it that's why it was up until about seven years old that I kind of started to go to school there.

But I remember thinking: *Well, my brother's not going through school.* He was only three. *I don't want to go to school!* I remember making so many excuses not to go to school but none of them worked (laughs). They still sent me in the mornings to school.

I remember meeting Thomas, actually. It's really weird. He went to my college. So this was after about eight or nine years after I'd left Crumpsall Lane Primary School. And he'd remembered me perfectly. He said, 'What's your name?'

I said, "Qendrim Mustafa."

He goes, "We went Crumpsall Lane together."

I was like, "Really... I don't remember you"

It's really weird how things change in such a small period of time. I couldn't remember him but eventually I was like, "Oh yes... yes... I remember you! We used to play football in the little hilly park outside school. Yeah..." It took me a while to adjust, I think. It took me a bit longer than the other kids around who were also in the same building.

Our primary school was further down. The teacher that was at the other primary school in Blakeley, she was an Albanian teacher who was translating for a lot of the families. So she was asked to relocate to the primary school here because a lot of that community from the tower got moved to this area: so it was about ten families, I would say. So there was quite a lot of kids going to the school now. Yeah, so she had to re-locate and I adjusted to this area much easier. I got used to it, really. I remember my granddad laughing, saying... because I'd gained quite a lot of weight when I came here, I didn't use to run about as much... saying, "He's jealous of all the other kids because they were fat before him so now he wants to catch up!"

I put quite a lot of weight on because, you know, back home in Kosovo I was always running around farms and climbing trees and climbing a barn. I remember getting stung by bees because I was that naughty. But here, I didn't have much to do. I used to sit here, come back from school, watch the TV, eat. Eventually it catches up with you (laughs).

(30:43) After primary school I obviously went to high school, did my G.C.S.E.s, got a place in college and did my A levels. I gained a place in the University, Manchester Metropolitan University, where I studied Business Management. Did my degree, it was a three year long degree: managed to get a first, so I was really proud of myself.

After that, in our culture, the more you learn the better chance of you getting a job, you're guaranteed to get a job in Kosovo, you know, if you've got an education. Whereas by the point I'd graduated it was 2013 and it was really challenging to get employment. So I think I spent a year trying to find a job.

And I was thinking that I want to further my education, I want to do my masters and eventually either a PhD or something: a research area.

But now I'm an underwriter for commercial insurance. I've been there for two years now, settled in quite nicely. A lot of nice people who are really shocked to think that I'm from a different country because they say to me, "You're really well spoken, I can't believe your English is so good!" It's only after they hear my name and they're like, "Oh, where are you from?" When I tell them, "Kosovo", it's surprising how many people know about Kosovo because, obviously, it must have been in the news quite a lot in 1999-2000. And a lot of people say, "I remember when all that was going on." They ask about, you know, "How did you get here? Is your family all here or are they back home?"

So yeah, at the moment I'm working, looking to further my education, hoping that, one day, I can go into a finance area.

So that's pretty much it.

(32:42) Obviously, I've been around the U.K. a few times since we've moved here but I find Manchester just perfect: not too busy, not really quiet. I couldn't see myself living in another city, really.

When I go to London I just find it really busy. I find it really claustrophobic and then when I go to other areas - like I went to Wigan the other day - it felt really small compared to Manchester. So I think it's perfect and where we live it's not that far from the city centre so on a day out you can walk there, fifteen minutes walk; I think it's perfect.

(33:19) I work in the city centre, as well. You've got so many options. Right now, it's becoming much more popular, I think, because a lot of

developments are going on. And they call it the Northern Powerhouse now, so a lot of restaurants; a lot of food; different types of food. You know, I think at one point it was just Italian and Chinese and now you've got Mediterranean; you've got Balkan food; you've got Persian; every type of food. So yeah, I really enjoy it here.

And you've got a lot of potential of developing a good career. I hope that I don't really get to move. I'd like to stay here... just not really ambitions of moving elsewhere like London. I wouldn't prefer it. I'd prefer to settle down in Manchester.

NH: How do you feel about Kosovo now?

(34:04) QM: It is a lot different than it was! Over the years everything has started to slowly change. It's becoming more developed. The roads were once rocky and dirt are now concrete roads. Obviously I'm really happy for that but, at the same time, that was my childhood and it's so sad to see all that go.

No one really does... it's really rare to see people in Kosovo now looking after cows... they usually just put a cow in the garden and it just circles around. But before they used to go with the cows in the fields and have quite a lot of fun: used to go and meet up with the friends and stay out quite late. Whereas now, everyone is working, so every time I go back there, although it's a holiday for me, when I go there, my cousins, my friends - they're all working.

So before five or six o' clock, I don't really see them. So over the years, it's really changed. I guess you've got to be happy for it as well because this is what we fought for: this was the freedom. So it's great to see it develop. A lot of people - a lot of Kosovans nowadays - I see on

TV, making a name for themselves. And you're kind of proud, you know, because you're from the same country as them.

NH: Where do you see as home, really, what would you say?

QM: It's hard to say because I was only seven years old. Everyone's changed, it's not the same.

The way I see it is: I was in Kosovo for seven years but I've been in England for sixteen, so more than double. With heart, I guess, Kosovo. But I wouldn't want to go and live there forever. A holiday would do for me.

So if I was going to pick a home, I'd say England, U.K., Manchester. That's probably my home now. Only because - it's kind of strange, you know - if you go to Spain and go and live there for twenty years, you're going to find Spain as a home: you know what I mean? And people have been very nice to us here. You know... neighbours. We made a lot of friends and because I only go there once a year in Kosovo, there's not a lot of people I know - obviously from family and friends that I've known before the war - but it's kind of difficult to make new friends, if you know what I mean.

So yeah, I'd say Manchester is definitely home.