

Judge Coleman,

I cannot express how sorry I am for my actions. I knew something was wrong, but in my ignorance I went through with it anyway. Since I've been locked up, I had time to think about everything; specifically I had a chance to study why I acted the way that I did. I concluded that I was naïve, gullible, and confused. I thought my religion obligated me to accept the invitation of any Muslim to fight in the Cause of Islam. I look back now, and I think: How was it possible for me to come to such an interpretation? I know now that nobody, Muslim or not, can just send me off to do anything! I thought being suspicious of people for any reason was sinful! Again, I misinterpreted the text, and I should have known at the time that I had every reason to be suspicious, good reasons, and there was nothing sinful about it! I thought Jihad can only mean war. While incarcerated, I read a book by an esteemed Islamic scholar. It meant a different kind of Jihad that's also referenced in our holy book which includes a verbal confrontation rather than a physical one. The greatest Jihad can be speaking against the injustice of a tyrant. It's also Jihad to speak against hypocritical Muslims. I had other problems too. While I gave the UCE 101 excuses for my hesitancy, I never used the word, "No." Shyness is not always good, and I should have been more assertive. It was never too late to back up from the plan until I pushed the button. I didn't realize that. At the time I thought it was too late to turn back. I learned that I have to make my own decisions and not let someone else make them for me. I don't want to kill people or join a terrorist group whether this is something condoned by my religion or not. Injustice anywhere is injustice everywhere, and killing innocent people in one place doesn't compensate for innocent people killed somewhere else. I get irritated when I listen to myself in my discovery. Sometimes I laugh at my stupidity. Was that really me? I learned and I've been practicing to shut up for a change and listen to what someone else has to say. I also try to think more before I speak. I said horrible things that I wish I never said. The prosecutors play my statements, and try to show you what a horrible person they portray me to be. Maybe I was a horrible person, but the way I see myself in 2012 is some idiot trying to make friends. The accusations against me are very serious, but please don't make my sentence a payback for events, or to people around the world that have nothing to do with me. This is the first time I've been in jail, and this is the last time I'll be in jail. For whatever part I took in the events, I'm sorry. I'm also sorry for attacking the other prisoner. I do not think I would have done that on the medication I am now taking. I never entertained the thought nor will I ever to attack Hancock or/and his family when I get out. If he was here, I'd apologize to him personally and let him know we really were friends, but I blew it. I think I was crazy for God knows how long, and everyone seems to notice me change with the medication. Now that I'm aware of my mental disorders I'm working to make better decisions. I'm sorry for taking the court's time, for making my parents cry, for making a bad name for the Muslim community, and I'm sorry to the United States of America. God bless you.