

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
for the Fifth Circuit

No. 92-4814
Summary Calendar

KHALED MOHAMMAD AWDE,

Petitioner,

VERSUS

IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE,

Respondent.

Petition for Review of Order of the
Immigration and Naturalization Service
(A28 328 391)

(November 15, 1993)

Before DAVIS, JONES and DUHÉ, Circuit Judges.

PER CURIAM:¹

Petitioner, Khaled Mohammad Awde, seeks review of an order of the Board of Immigration Appeals ("the Board") finding him deportable and rejecting his claims for asylum and withholding of deportation. Based on our review of the record, we find that the Board's determination that Awde is not eligible for asylum or withholding of deportation is supported by substantial evidence, and we therefore affirm the Board's decision.

¹Local Rule 47.5 provides: "The publication of opinions that have no precedential value and merely decide particular cases on the basis of well-settled principles of law imposes needless expense on the public and burdens on the legal profession." Pursuant to that Rule, the Court has determined that this opinion should not be published.

Awde argued before the Immigration Judge that he possessed a well-founded fear that, if returned to Lebanon, he would be singled out for persecution based on one of the statutory grounds. In support of this claim, Awde principally relied on his own testimony, which the Immigration Judge found not to be credible. In particular, the Immigration Judge found a number of inconsistencies in Awde's testimony which reflected negatively on his truthfulness. Relatedly, Awde admitted that he contracted a fraudulent marriage in order to remain in this country, and that he severed this relationship and remarried his first wife only after the fraud was discovered.

We find first that the record fully supports the Immigration Judge's credibility determination, and that the Board properly deferred to that determination. Awde's argument that the Immigration Judge was required to accept his testimony is simply without merit. Second, we find that the other evidence presented by Awde, aside from his own testimony, is conclusory and lacking in important detail, and that this evidence standing alone is not so compelling that the Board was required to accept it.

Because we find that the Board's conclusion that Awde is not a "refugee" is supported by substantial evidence, we affirm the Board's denial of asylum and withholding of deportation.

AFFIRMED.