Zakirjan_watermelon.mov / Asam, Zakirjan - short clip - watermelon / Duke Digital Repository

- I asked for watermelon, and I pick the seeds from watermelon. I said, what do you think? Can we plant watermelon? Just try because climate was very good. And I decided to try and

Speaker 1: Which camp is this?

- Camp Eguna. We had a little bit more freedom.

Speaker 1: The guards let you?

- Yeah. They, when I asked the commander of the camp, he said, we cannot give it to you, And they are special permission from Washington and from Pentagon from somewhere, and they said, okay, but give them plastic, you know like a net, other things, plastic, not metallic. And I said, okay, but when they gave I should give it back before evening even those plastic instruments, you know and I asked for instruments and we grow, you know and that we had more than 28 watermelons, like this size, you know?

Speaker 1: Woah

- Yeah. And then what happened? You know, Saipanmath, one of the commander of that camp, He was taking by the video camera, but in interview, and he explained, we are working for detainees, we are growing watermelons. He was on the pictures of newspapers. And I saw the picture, that black sergeant was working in. They announced as they're working for the nature, growing watermelon. They are, you know, growing flowers for detainees. That was my job. Not him. Oh, that was terrible.

Speaker 1: Did you ever eat any of your watermelons?

- Oh, most of them. More than 28, I said, because I count them and I grew cantaloupe. It was really sweet. Yeah.

Speaker 1: And you got to eat them too?

- Yes of course.

Speaker 1: Could you share them with the other?

- Yeah, because they were afraid because, with other detainees, yeah, for sure. Because that time we left only four, we were four. And even I fed soldiers, they were afraid because they were prohibited to any food offers, because they afraid of get poison from us. We were terrorists. So we could do anything.