

**United States Court of Appeals**  
**FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT**

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No. 03-1757

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Ibrahim Traore,

Petitioner,

v.

John Ashcroft, Attorney General  
of the United States,

Respondent.

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\* Petition for Review of an  
\* Order of the Board of  
\* Immigration Appeals.  
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\* [UNPUBLISHED]  
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Submitted: August 25, 2004

Filed: August 31, 2004

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Before MURPHY, FAGG, and SMITH, Circuit Judges.

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PER CURIAM.

Ibrahim Traore petitions for review of an order of the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), which affirmed an Immigration Judge's (IJ's) denial of Traore's application for asylum and withholding of removal. After careful review of the record, we conclude the BIA's decision on Traore's asylum application is supported by substantial evidence on the record as a whole. See Menendez-Donis v. Ashcroft, 360 F.3d 915, 918-19 (8th Cir. 2004) (standard of review). Specifically, the IJ discredited Traore's testimony about past persecution he suffered because Traore failed to raise political persecution in a previous asylum application and his explanation for failing to do so was unconvincing, and he failed to present

documentary evidence to support his allegations. We defer to the IJ's credibility finding because it was supported by specific, cogent reasons for disbelief. See Nyama v. Ashcroft, 357 F.3d 812, 817 (8th Cir. 2004) (per curiam) (deference standard). In addition, we find because Traore failed to meet the burden of proof on his asylum claim, he failed to meet the higher burden for withholding of removal. See Francois v. INS, 283 F.3d 926, 932-33 (8th Cir. 2002).

Accordingly, we deny Traore's petition.

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