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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

14 Ms. L., et al.,

Petitioner-Plaintiff,

15 v.

16 U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
17 ("ICE"), et al.,

Respondents-Defendants.

Case No. 18-cv-00428-DMS-MDD

Date Filed: July 25, 2018

**PLAINTIFFS' REPLY IN
SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR
STAY OF REMOVAL**

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INTRODUCTION

1
2 Defendants are seeking to deport Class Members and their children
3 *immediately* upon reunifying them. In their months of separation, these parents
4 have not spoken to their children for more than several minutes on the phone; many
5 if not most have never spoken to a lawyer. And yet within moments of seeing their
6 kids for the first time, Defendants propose to put them on planes, with no
7 meaningful opportunity to receive legal advice and make a considered family
8 decision about whether their children should remain in the United States without
9 them.

10 That remarkable proposal is inconsistent with the Court’s order that parents
11 make knowing and voluntary decisions about reunification. In designing the
12 election form that this Court approved, Plaintiffs never imagined that Defendants
13 would force Class Members to sign it and then deport them *before* they have a
14 meaningful in-person opportunity to consult with their children and attorneys. And
15 during settlement discussions, Defendants only offered, at best, 2.5 days to
16 consult—an impossible demand, especially given the constraints on attorney access
17 and the unprecedented task of advising hundreds of traumatized families all at once.

18 Defendants asserted at yesterday’s status conference that Plaintiffs’ requested
19 relief was based solely on “rumors” of possible removals. To the contrary, prior to
20 requesting relief from this Court, Plaintiffs’ counsel sought assurances from
21 Defendants that they would *not* remove reunified Class Members before they had a
22 meaningful chance for counseling about their legal rights and options—assurances
23 which Defendants refused to provide. Even at yesterday’s status conference,
24 counsel for Defendants did not deny that the Government intended to remove
25 families immediately upon reunification. More importantly, on the afternoon before
26 Plaintiffs sought a stay, the Government finally revealed its plan to reunite children
27 5-17 years old, which suggested that Defendants intended to immediately remove
28 reunified families. Dkt. 109-1. If Defendants do not plan on removing families, they

1 should say so. In short, Plaintiffs had no choice but to seek a stay from the Court.¹

2 As described below, the need for this Court's intervention has only become
3 more clear since Plaintiffs filed their motion. The Court should therefore stay
4 removals until Class Members have had sufficient time to consult about what might
5 be the most consequential decision of their lives. No statute bars the Court from
6 issuing this modest relief to ensure the effectiveness of its reunification order.

7 The Government took children, including babies, from their parents and did
8 not return them for weeks and often many months. As the Court has noted, Ms. C.'s
9 child was not returned for 8 months. And she was not alone. The Government
10 should not now be able to argue that it cannot wait a mere 7 days to remove these
11 families, so that they can be advised on their life-altering decisions.

12 **I. Settlement Discussions.**

13 Defendants have chosen to inform the Court about the contents of the parties'
14 negotiations. Because negotiations have broken down, Plaintiffs will not dwell on
15 the details of the negotiations, other than to correct a few misrepresentations by
16 Defendants. Most importantly, Defendants misstate the number of days for which
17 they agreed to a stay of removal. As an initial matter, Plaintiffs made clear that
18 Defendants could not begin counting the days from when reunification occurred,
19 since the Government has not been informing Plaintiffs when those reunifications
20 occur. As a result, Plaintiffs would not know when or where to send volunteer
21 attorneys to meet with the family. Consequently, Plaintiffs made clear that the
22 number of days could not begin until the Government had informed Plaintiffs of the
23 time and place where a family was reunified. The Government states that it agreed
24

25 ¹ Defendants' most recent class list reveals that Defendants removed one Class
26 Member on July 17—the day after the Court's interim stay of removal—and 17
27 more the same day as the stay, on July 16. Defendants have not informed Plaintiffs
28 of the exact time of day when those 17 were removed, so it is impossible at this
point for Plaintiffs to know if the removals occurred prior to the issuance of the
stay.

1 to 3 days after it provided Plaintiffs with notice of the reunification. While 3 days is
2 not nearly sufficient, Defendants' proposal did not even provide that. As the
3 Government knows, it stated that it would not provide Plaintiffs with notification
4 until 2pm Central time, leaving reunited families at best 2.5 days to find and consult
5 with attorneys. And even that assumes that Plaintiffs' counsel could get volunteer
6 attorneys to meet parents immediately after receiving notice at 2pm, which as
7 explained below is wholly unrealistic.²

8 **II. A Seven-Day Stay of Removals Is Urgently Needed.**

9 Class Members with final removal orders have had no opportunity to make
10 an informed decision about whether to fight their own removal case, leave their
11 children behind in the United States, or make some other decision. The limited
12 phone contact Plaintiffs had with their children before reunification did not provide
13 them with a meaningful opportunity to assess these options as a family. Nor was the
14 election form adequate to serve this purpose, particularly given the way the forms
15 have been administered. As the attached declarations demonstrate, parents plainly
16 had no idea what they were signing or agreeing to orally.

17 Moreover, the evidence shows that, after initial reunification has occurred,
18 providing meaningful counsel to Class Members about the decisions they must
19 make will take time. This is particularly so given that hundreds of traumatized
20 families may show up within a few days at one detention center in South Texas, and
21 given the unique obstacles counsel face in advising recently-reunified families.
22 Seven days is thus more than reasonable, especially given the length of time that
23 the government has subjected the families to separation.

24
25 ² In addition, contrary to Defendants' assertion, they never agreed to allow attorney
26 consultations past 8pm. They stated only that they would inquire about extending
27 the hours. Similarly, Defendants never agreed to allow Plaintiffs full access to the
28 Karnes detention facility to conduct attorney-client meetings. Rather, when
negotiations ended, they had agreed only to allow Plaintiffs to use the 5 attorney
rooms (which, in total, accommodate only 5 attorney-client meetings at a time).

1 **A. Class Members Cannot Make Knowing and Informed Decisions**
2 **Concerning Reunification Before Seeing Their Children.**

3 1. The Pre-Reunification Process Was Inadequate. Defendants claim that a
4 48-hour period after Class Members sign an election—but *before* reunification—is
5 “adequate time to make a sound choice” regarding their reunification rights. Stay
6 Opp., Dkt. 148, at 12. But Plaintiffs never contemplated that Defendants would
7 force Class Members to make this momentous decision concerning whether to be
8 removed without their children before even seeing their children. The opportunity
9 for a brief phone call between parents and their children—to the extent that such
10 communication has even happened—is wholly inadequate. For the government to
11 suggest otherwise (Stay Opp. 13-14) is especially unrealistic given the evidence of
12 the trauma that Class Members continue to experience as a result of the weeks or
13 months of pain and uncertainty without their children *See, e.g.*, Reichlin-Melnick
14 Decl. ¶ 9 (father breaking down in tears as he described son’s circumstances,
15 despairing that he did not even know if his child was safe or healthy); Dkt. 13-1 at
16 96 (Ms. L. describing her depression and inability to sleep or eat).

17 These problems are exacerbated by the coercive and misleading manner in
18 which Defendants distributed the notice of Class Members’ rights and election
19 forms. As illustrated in the attached declarations, the evidence is overwhelming that
20 parents have signed forms they did not understand. Some forms were presented in
21 English to parents who did not speak that language. Shepherd Decl. ¶ 6; Reive
22 Decl. ¶ 5; Reichlin-Melnick Decl. ¶ 11; *see also* Reive Decl. ¶ 11. Some parents
23 with limited or no literacy were not told what they were signing. Suchman Decl. ¶
24 6; Reive Decl. ¶ 10; Mwalimu Decl. ¶ 6. Still others thought they had signed papers
25 stating that they *wanted* reunification. Reichlin-Melnick Decl. ¶ 4. Parents who
26 speak an indigenous language were at a particular disadvantage.

27
28

1 There are numerous examples:

- 2 • Class Members describe being forced to make an election in a room full of
3 dozens of other parents, with only a few minutes to decide whether or not to
4 leave their children in the United States. Cruz Decl. ¶¶ 6-9; Shepherd Decl. ¶
5 8.
- 6 • One father signed a form in English, but had no idea what it said because he
7 is completely illiterate and primarily speaks an indigenous language.
8 Reichlin-Melnick Decl. ¶ 8.
- 9 • Another father, also an indigenous language speaker, thought he was signing
10 a form that would allow him to be reunited with his son. Reive Decl. ¶ 9.
- 11 • Class Members were given incorrect information that their right to reunite
12 was conditioned on giving up their legal claims. Shepherd Decl. ¶ 8-9.
- 13 • Two fathers thought they were signing a form that would allow the
14 government to release their children; one of these fathers burst into tears
15 repeatedly out of fear for his son and said he had signed the form under
16 enormous stress and confusion. Reichlin-Melnick Decl. ¶ 10.
- 17 • One mother was told that signing a form would lead to her reunification with
18 her son, and was surprised to learn that she had allegedly signed away her
19 right to reunification. Mwalimu Decl. ¶ 5.
- 20 • An immigration officer told one father that he would need to pay at least
21 \$500 every time he wanted to see an attorney. Shepherd Decl. ¶ 11.

22 Given these circumstances, it should come as no surprise that numerous
23 Class Members who are on Defendants' list of parents who waived reunification in
24 fact *do* want their kids back. *See, e.g.*, Suchman Decl. ¶ 5 (six parents on
25 "relinquished" list, all want to be reunited with children); Reive Decl. ¶ 3 (nine
26 fathers on "relinquished" list all want reunification with their children); Cruz Decl.
27 ¶ 4 (five fathers on "relinquished" list want reunification); Mwalimu Decl., ¶ 4 (two
28 mothers on "relinquished" list want reunification); Reichlin-Melnick Decl. ¶ 8-11

1 (four fathers who allegedly waived reunification did not realize they had done so or
2 are afraid they made the wrong decision because of lack of information); Gomez
3 Amaya Decl. ¶ 14, Gilliam Decl. ¶ 5-6 (father on “relinquished” list, does not have
4 a final order, wants reunification).

5 2. Phone Contact With Children. Defendants assert that Class Members have
6 had sufficient contact with their children by telephone. Stay Opp. at 13-14. But the
7 evidence shows that Class Members have barely had *any* time to speak with their
8 children during the months they have now spent apart. Most have spoken only
9 briefly by phone once or twice. *See* Fluharty Decl. ¶ 21; Reive Decl. ¶ 6, 9, 10;
10 Reichlin-Melnick Decl. ¶ 9, 11; Cruz Decl. ¶ 8; 13; Suchman Decl. ¶ 5. And some
11 of these phone calls occurred weeks or even months ago. *See* Cruz Decl. ¶ 13;
12 Reichlin-Melnick Decl. ¶ 9.

13 These phone calls allow barely enough time for parents to get basic
14 reassurance that their children are alive and cared for. They are wholly insufficient
15 to allow the parent and child a meaningful opportunity to speak with each other
16 about the grave decision they must make together. And, in any event, they do not
17 allow parents to consult with any *attorney* for their children, leaving their
18 children—in the several minutes they have on the phone—with the impossible task
19 of accurately explaining their own legal options to their parent. That is obviously
20 not sufficient to allow parents to make an informed decision about whether their
21 children should stay behind in the United States alone.

22 3. Counsel Access. Defendants’ counsel access policies have impeded Class
23 Members from speaking with lawyers prior to reunification. Many Class Members
24 have been transferred from facility to facility, sometimes three or four times. *See*
25 Reichlin-Melnick Decl. ¶ 6 (sudden transfers prevented counsel from meeting with
26 eight parents who had allegedly waived reunification rights); Odom Decl. ¶ 7-12;
27 Govindaiah Decl. ¶ 17; Lunn Decl. ¶ 11. Often these transfers occur with no notice
28 to counsel present at the facilities who are trying to meet with the detainees. Odom

1 Decl. ¶ 11-12, 21.

2 Even basic phone access has been a problem, preventing detainees from
3 speaking with lawyers. Odom Decl. ¶ 14-15; Rivera Decl. ¶¶ 3-8; Chavla Decl. ¶12.
4 ICE facilities also impose strict visitation policies and long waits for attorney
5 access. *See* Odom Decl. ¶¶ 7-11, 17, 21, 25-27; Reichlin-Melnick Decl. ¶ 6; Gomez
6 Amaya Decl. ¶ 13; Suchman Decl. ¶ 5.

7 Defendants themselves impeded efforts to get attorneys for Class Members
8 by delaying critical information. Plaintiffs repeatedly asked Defendants to provide a
9 complete list of Class Members who had outstanding removal orders, as well as a
10 list of parents who have allegedly waived reunification, since those groups are
11 obviously at the gravest risk of imminent harm. Defendants waited until Friday,
12 July 20 to provide these lists, preventing Plaintiffs from beginning to arrange
13 counsel for Class Members until the weekend of July 21. *See* JSR, Dkt. 146, at 3.

14 **B. After Reunification, Lawyers Need Time to Counsel Parents and**
15 **Children Effectively.**

16 Plaintiffs have requested a 7-day stay from the time they are notified of a
17 reunification. That time is necessary because of the unique challenges presented by
18 Defendants' separation policy. To begin, the reunification itself is an incredibly
19 emotional and difficult experience. Parents are seeing their children for the first
20 time in weeks or even months. Sometimes initial meetings are too difficult because
21 the parents are too traumatized to even receive basic advisals. *See* Govindaiah Decl.
22 ¶¶ 29-30; Connell Decl. ¶ 10; Fluharty Decl. ¶ 19. Other parents cannot focus on
23 legal advice because they cannot move past their fear of separation; one parent
24 responded to every statement by asking whether he could stay with his son.
25 Govindaiah Decl. ¶ 29. Parents and children do not want to leave each others' sides,
26 which can hinder their parents' ability to discuss persecution or other events that
27 could support asylum claims. Govindaiah Decl. ¶ 25; Fluharty Decl. ¶ 23.

28 Even if a lawyer could assuage these emotional barriers, other practical

1 barriers make these cases unusually difficult. Most families who come to family
2 detention facilities have all their proceedings conducted in that facility, which
3 makes it relatively simple for counsel to track their clients' cases. Connell Decl. ¶
4 7-9. In contrast, the Class Members here have frequently been moved from facility
5 to facility, and have started their immigration cases hundreds or thousands of miles
6 away. They often come without paperwork about their immigration cases. Fluharty
7 Decl. ¶¶ 11-13; Govindaiah Decl. ¶ 15. And so they often do not know the status of
8 their immigration cases, which their lawyers must then investigate. Fluharty Decl. ¶
9 11; Govindaiah Decl. ¶¶ 14, 18. Critically, moreover, the children's immigration
10 cases have proceeded in a separate track this whole time. Effectively advising the
11 entire family therefore requires retracing not only the parent's case, but also the
12 child's. Connell Decl. ¶ 7. Advising families about all of this takes significant time.
13 Govindaiah Decl. ¶¶ 21-22.

14 Moreover, Defendants' counsel access policies make it difficult to do group
15 presentations or meet with numerous clients at once. Connell Decl. ¶¶ 21-22. At
16 Karnes, there are only five confidential meeting rooms, only four of which have
17 phones. Space constraints prevent more than about 17 lawyers from meeting with
18 clients at any given time. Govindaiah Decl. ¶ 37. Counsel at Defendants' family
19 detention facilities do not receive advance notice of arrivals, so it can take days to
20 connect with services. Connell Decl. ¶ 20; *see also* Fluharty Decl. ¶¶ 4-7.

21 Compounding the difficulty of each individual case is the sheer scale at
22 which these services will have to be provided. The Government's most recent status
23 report indicates that there are hundreds of Class Members with removal orders who
24 may be reunited at Karnes in the coming days. The facility has never had to absorb
25 such an influx of uniquely complicated cases. It will take time for providers on the
26 ground to provide even basic advice to these families. *See* Govindaiah Decl. ¶ 45;
27 Fluharty Decl. ¶ 23.

28

1 **III. The Stay Should Extend to All Class Members, Including Those Who**
 2 **Allegedly Have Waived Reunification.**

3 Defendants propose carving out of the stay any parents who Defendants
 4 claim have made a knowing choice not to be reunified with their children. But the
 5 point of the stay is that parents cannot be forced to make that complex and
 6 consequential election *before* they see their children and speak to an attorney.
 7 Nothing in Plaintiffs' opening brief carved out these Class Members. And as the
 8 declarations make clear, many of the parents on Defendants' waiver list in fact *do*
 9 want their children back and did not remotely understand their rights. As already
 10 discussed above, numerous Class Members report being rushed to sign the election
 11 form before reunification, with no legal advice, no time to think, and sometimes
 12 without translation. Not surprisingly, therefore, many parents whom Defendants list
 13 as knowingly waiving reunification in fact want *the opposite*: to be reunited with
 14 their children. *See* Reichlin-Melnick Decl. ¶¶ 4-11; Reive Decl. ¶¶ 4-14; Cruz Decl.
 15 ¶¶ 4-6, 12-14; Mwalimu Decl. ¶¶ 4-6; Gomez Amaya Decl. ¶¶ 7, 14; Suchman
 16 Decl. ¶¶ 4-9; Shepherd Decl. ¶¶ 4, 8, 10. Indeed, many are not even aware that they
 17 signed a form relinquishing their right to reunification. And still others supposedly
 18 knowingly waived reunification even though they do *not* have removal orders, and
 19 therefore would be reunified and *released* with their child under the Government's
 20 published reunification procedures. *See* Dkt. 109-1, at 3, ¶ P.

21 **IV. The Court Has Jurisdiction to Stay Removals.**

22 Defendants do not address this Court's clear equitable authority to ensure
 23 that its orders are properly effectuated. And none of the statutes Defendants invoke
 24 affects the Court's inherent power to enforce its own orders. *See* Scholars Amicus
 25 Brief in Support of Stay.

26 **A. The Court Has Equitable Power to Enforce Its Orders.**

27 The government nowhere addresses the fundamental principle that federal
 28 courts have inherent power to issue all relief necessary to render their orders

1 effective. *See* Stay Mot. at 7. The broad discretion of the district courts to provide a
2 remedy for constitutional wrongs is well-recognized. *See Lemon v. Kurtzman*, 411
3 U.S. 192 (1973) (“In shaping equity decrees, the trial court is vested with broad
4 discretionary power. . . . Moreover, in constitutional adjudication as elsewhere,
5 equitable remedies are a special blend of what is necessary, what is fair, and what is
6 workable.”); *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Bd. of Educ.*, 402 U.S. 1, 14 (1971)
7 (“Once a right and a violation have been shown, the scope of a district court's
8 equitable powers to remedy past wrongs is broad, for breadth and flexibility are
9 inherent in equitable remedies.”); *Orantes-Hernandez v. Thornburgh*, 919 F.2d 549,
10 558 (9th Cir. 1990) (“Once plaintiffs establish they are entitled to injunctive relief,
11 the district court has broad discretion to fashion a remedy.”). And courts have
12 particularly broad inherent authority “to ensure obedience to their orders.” *F.J.*
13 *Henshaw Enters., Inc. v. Emerald River Dev., Inc.*, 244 F.3d 1128, 1136 (9th Cir.
14 2001) (citing *Chambers v. NASCO, Inc.*, 501 U.S. 32, 43 (1991)); *see Travelhost,*
15 *Inc. v. Blandford*, 68 F.3d 958, 961 (5th Cir. 1995) (“Courts possess the inherent
16 authority to enforce their own injunctive decrees.”).

17 Because this power is so central to the judiciary’s inherent authority,
18 Congress must issue an especially clear statement if it seeks to limit this power.
19 *See, e.g., Plata v. Schwarzenegger*, 603 F.3d 1088, 1093-94 (9th Cir. 2010)
20 (recognizing the government’s “high burden” to show that Congress restrained
21 courts’ traditional equitable powers); Stay Mot. at 9-10. Here, the Government
22 cannot come close to making the necessary showing to strip this Court of its
23 inherent powers to ensure that its injunction is properly implemented.

24 **B. The Provisions Defendants Cite Do Not Strip This Court of Power to**
25 **Enforce Its Order.**

26 None of the statutory provisions Defendants invoke remotely contains the
27 necessary clear statement to strip this Court of its historic power to enforce its
28 injunction.

1 1. Section 1252(a)(2)(A)(i). The Government contends that 8 U.S.C. §
2 1252(a)(2)(A)(i) divests this Court of jurisdiction to grant a short stay of removal
3 for Class Members with expedited removal orders. Stay Opp. at 18-20. But this
4 provision, like the other provisions on which the Government relies, concerns cases
5 involving a challenge to an order of removal. Indeed, the provisions on which the
6 Government relies all appear in § 1252 of the Immigration and Nationality Act,
7 which is entitled “Judicial Review of Orders of Removal.”

8 The text of § 1252(a)(2)(A)(i) bars review only over a “cause or claim arising
9 from or relating to the implementation or operation of an [expedited removal]
10 order.” But Plaintiffs’ claims for relief are based on their constitutional right to
11 reunification with their children; in this motion, Plaintiffs have not brought a “cause
12 or claim” attacking their removal orders. The Court is simply being asked to use its
13 standard equitable powers to enforce a previously-issued injunction.³

14 The Government cites a handful of expedited removal cases. *See* Stay Opp. at
15 19-20 (citing *Garcia de Rincon v. DHS*, 539 F.3d 1133, 1140 (9th Cir. 2008);
16 *Avendano-Ramirez v. Ashcroft*, 365 F.3d 813, 818 (9th Cir. 2004); *Pena v. Lynch*,
17 815 F.3d 452, 455 (9th Cir. 2015)). But, unlike the instant request for relief, these
18 cases all involved challenges to the expedited removal order itself.

19 The far more analogous case is *Kwai Fun Wong v. United States*, 373 F.3d
20 952 (9th Cir. 2004), where the plaintiff was not bringing a “challenge to her
21 expedited removal.” *Id* at 965. The Ninth Circuit held that, as a result, none of the

22 ³ Defendants rely on dicta from *Aguilar v. ICE*, 510 F.3d 1 (1st Cir. 2007), to
23 support a sweeping interpretation of “relating to” in § 1252(a)(2)(A)(i). Dkt. 148 at
24 19-20. But *Aguilar* did not even involve § 1252(a)(2)(A)(i), and actually found
25 jurisdiction over the plaintiffs’ substantive due process claims. In any event, the
26 Supreme Court has cautioned that the words “relating to” would “stop nowhere” if
27 they “extended to the furthest reach of their indeterminacy,” and that “context . . .
28 may tug in favor of a narrower reading.” *Mellouli v. Lynch*, 135 S. Ct. 1980, 1990
(2015) (alterations omitted). In light of the courts’ longstanding power to grant
relief to enforce their own orders, context here favors a narrower reading.

1 claims “implicate[d] actions covered by Section 1252(a)(2)(A).” *Id.* Similarly,
2 Plaintiffs’ claims here do not “arise from or relate to” their expedited removal
3 orders. Rather, they concern the Government’s decision to separate them
4 unlawfully from their children.

5 As *Kwai Fun Wong* makes clear, the provisions on which the Government
6 relies could not possibly divest this Court of jurisdiction to remedy other types of
7 constitutional violations. If they could, it would mean that the Government could
8 simply remove individuals before a federal court could remedy a host of
9 constitutional violations that are independent of the removal process.⁴

10 The Government also cites 8 U.S.C. § 1252(e)(1). But that provision likewise
11 appears in a section of the statute about review of removal orders. Moreover, the
12 Supreme Court has distinguished between injunctions and stays, explaining that the
13 former “direct[s] the conduct of a particular actor,” whereas the latter merely
14 “operates upon the judicial proceeding itself . . . by temporarily divesting an order
15 of enforceability.” *Nken v. Holder*, 556 U.S. 418, 428 (2009) (vacating lower
16 court’s order denying a stay of removal). All Plaintiffs seek here is a limited stay
17 *before* Defendants enforce their expedited removal orders, to avert the risk that they
18 gave up their rights or their kids’ without being informed of their options under the
19 injunction.

20 2. Section 1252(g). Plaintiffs have already addressed Defendants’ contentions
21 about § 1252(g). Stay Mot. at 8-10. In a footnote, Defendants attempt to distinguish
22 clear, on-point Ninth Circuit case law (*Walters* and *Barahona*) that rejects the
23 Government’s reading of § 1252(g). Stay Opp. at 21 n.7. Defendants point to the
24 2005 REAL ID Act’s addition of the phrase “statutory or non-statutory” to §

25 _____
26 ⁴ Suppose, for instance, an immigrant were tortured in detention and brought a
27 classic civil rights case. Under the Government’s view, a federal court would be
28 powerless to keep the individual in the country for even a brief period to allow him
to pursue his claim, even if he were not challenging his ultimate removal.

1 1252(g), but they do not explain why that undermines the Ninth Circuit’s reasoning,
2 which distinguished between a court’s equitable relief to enter a stay of removal,
3 and the court’s jurisdiction over a “cause or claim . . . arising from” a decision to
4 execute the removal order. Here, the cause or claim that Plaintiffs raised is a
5 challenge to their family separation, not to the validity of their removal orders. As
6 in *Walters* and *Barahona*, the relief Plaintiffs are seeking is necessary to effectuate
7 the injunctive relief. In those case, as in this case, the Court issued a stay of
8 removal to enforce the injunction. And, as in this case, the injunctions in those
9 cases involved constitutional violations unrelated to a challenge to a removal order.

10 The Government also does not grapple with the Ninth Circuit’s en banc
11 decision in *United States v. Hovsepien*, 359 F.3d 1144, 1155 (9th Cir. 2004). *See*
12 *Stay Mot.* at 10. There, the Ninth Circuit held that § 1252(g) only applies to
13 discretionary decisions. Here, Plaintiffs are enforcing a *non*-discretionary
14 constitutional right. As *Hovsepien* made clear, § 1252(g) was not directed to a case
15 like the instant one. Rather, it was directed at cases where there was no legal
16 violation and a plaintiff was simply challenging the Government’s discretionary
17 decision to execute a removal order at a particular time. *See id.* at 1155 (explaining
18 that § 1252(g) “was directed against a particular evil: attempts to impose judicial
19 constraints upon prosecutorial discretion.”).

20 Defendants also attempt distinguish the decision of Judge Carney in *Chhoeun*
21 *v. Marin*, No. 17-cv-01898, 2018 WL 566821 (C.D. Cal Jan. 25, 2018), and the
22 similar case of *Sied v. Nielsen*, No. 17-Cv-06785, 2018 WL 1142202 (N.D. Cal.
23 Mar. 2, 2018). In both of those cases, the court issued a stay of removal and
24 rejected the Government’s § 1252(g) argument, stressing that the § 1252(g) does
25 not apply to non-discretionary constitutional claims. And notably, in both of those
26 cases, the plaintiffs were seeking to challenge their removal orders. The
27 Government has no answer to these cases other than to assert that the instant case,
28 unlike those cases, does involve a discretionary decision. But that is flatly wrong, as

1 already discussed. It involves a constitutional right to family unity and fair notice.
2 The very basis of *Chhouen* and *Sied* was that the government’s discretion does not
3 include the discretion to violate the law. Here, the government’s removal of
4 Plaintiffs will contravene the Court’s injunctive order that their constitutional right
5 to reunification be exercised independently of their right to raise asylum claims and
6 be waived only in a knowing, intelligent, and voluntary fashion.

7 In sum, Defendants seek to use jurisdictional provisions that are designed to
8 regulate judicial review of removal orders. Those provisions do not do the
9 extraordinary work claimed by Defendants: strip a federal court of power to
10 enforce its own orders involving an independent constitutional violation.

11 **CONCLUSION**

12 For the foregoing reasons, the Court should enjoin Defendants from
13 removing parents until 7 days after notice of reunification.

14
15 Dated: July 25, 2018

Respectfully Submitted,

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**Admitted Pro Hac Vice*

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on July 25, 2018, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk for the United States District Court for the Southern District of California by using the appellate CM/ECF system. A true and correct copy of this brief has been served via the Court’s CM/ECF system on all counsel of record.

/s/ Lee Gelernt
Lee Gelernt, Esq.
Dated: July 25, 2018

Ms. L. et al., v. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, et al.

EXHIBITS TO PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR STAY AND OTHER RELIEF

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EXHIBIT 43

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**Admitted Pro Hac Vice*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

Ms. L., et al.,

Petitioners-Plaintiffs,

v.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
("ICE"); et al.,

Respondents-Defendants.

Case No. 18-cv-00428-DMS-MDD

**DECLARATION OF AARON
REICHLIN-MELNICK**

CLASS ACTION

1 1. I, Aaron Reichlin-Melnick, make the following declaration based on my
2 personal knowledge and declare under the penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §
3 1746 that the following is true and correct:

4 2. I am an attorney employed at the American Immigration Council in
5 Washington, DC. I am a member of the New York State Bar. I have previously been
6 admitted *pro hac vice* before this Court in *Al Otro Lado v. Nielsen*, 3:17-cv-02366-
7 BAS-KSC.

8 3. Since Monday, July 16, 2018, I have been present in El Paso both
9 screening detained parents who were separated from their children, as well as
10 coordinating multiple teams of volunteers who are conducting additional screenings. I
11 have screened detained parents at the West Texas Detention Facility in Sierra Blanca,
12 the Otero County Processing Center in Chaparral, New Mexico, and the El Paso
13 Processing Center in El Paso, Texas.

14 4. I have personally interviewed roughly 30 parents who were separated
15 from their children. In total, volunteers under my supervision met with and
16 interviewed over 90 parents who were separated from their children, including 52
17 parents who the government has identified as having relinquished their right to
18 reunification. Many of these individuals indicated that they felt coerced into
19 relinquishing their rights. Still others appeared totally unaware that they had done so.
20 Indeed, some individuals were adamant that they had signed a paper that said they
21 chose to be reunited with their children.

22 5. On Sunday, July 22, we attempted to meet with an additional eight
23 parents who the government has identified as having relinquished their right to
24 reunification. However, we were unable to do so, as they had been transferred from
25 the El Paso Processing Center to the South Texas Family Residential Center, which is
26 over 500 miles from El Paso. Four other individuals were transferred from the Otero
27 County Processing Center to the El Paso Processing Center mid-day on Sunday,
28

1 preventing us from meeting with them as planned. Of these last four individuals, we
2 were eventually able to meet with three of them on Monday, July 23.

3 6. There are many logistical difficulties involved in interviewing and
4 screening those parents who were separated from their children who are detained in
5 the El Paso area. Only one detention center, the El Paso Processing Center, permits
6 contact visits for attorneys. Neither the Otero County Processing Center nor West
7 Texas Detention Facility were able to provide contact visitation rooms for attorneys
8 conducting screenings. As a result, all screenings had to be conducted through
9 plexiglass windows, which limits attorneys' ability to build a rapport with a potential
10 client. In addition, issues involved in clearance process for interpreters prevented us
11 from using an interpreter who could translate Qanjobal to English. Finally, the West
12 Texas Detention Facility is located roughly 1.5 hours from El Paso, which inherently
13 makes visitation more difficult.

14 7. On Sunday, July 22, 2018, I met with eight fathers detained at the Otero
15 County Processing Center who the government has identified as having relinquished
16 their right to reunification.

17 8. One of those fathers is an indigenous Guatemalan man who primarily
18 speaks Akatek (Acateco). He came to the United States with his 8-year-old daughter
19 and was separated from her after crossing the border sometime in May. Since being
20 separated, he has only talked with his daughter three times. He passed a credible fear
21 interview in June and is currently in removal proceedings. I have met with this father
22 two times, and I believe that his Spanish is quite limited. He appears to understand
23 very little of what is happening in his case and has expressed that he is very confused.
24 Roughly two to three weeks ago, some immigration officials came to talk to him about
25 his daughter. They asked him to sign a form that would allow his daughter to be
26 released to family members in the United States. He has no idea what this paper said
27 as he is completely illiterate, and the form was in English. Although language was a
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1 barrier when talking to him, this father was extremely clear that he wishes to be
2 reunited with his daughter. He expressed confusion at the concept that he may have
3 signed a paper relinquishing reunification.

4 9. I talked to another father who was also an indigenous man from
5 Guatemala. He came to the United States with his 14-year-old son in May 2018. His
6 primary language is Poqomchi', but he is fluent in Spanish as well. He has only talked
7 to his son a single time since being separated on May 28, 2018. The last time he talked
8 to his son was over a month ago. This father remembers signing some form, that was
9 in English, about agreeing to have his son sent to live with family in the United States.
10 However, he said that he signed the form under enormous amounts of stress and
11 confusion. He is extremely worried for his son's wellbeing and burst into sobs
12 repeatedly throughout our interview when he expressed how horrible the separation
13 has made him feel. He wishes to be reunited with his son but indicated that he does
14 not know his son's wishes or what options he has. Because the last time he had spoken
15 with his son was a month ago, he is extremely afraid that he might have made the
16 wrong decision because of lack of information.

17 10. A third father I talked to twice attempted to lawfully present at the El
18 Paso Port of Entry and ask for asylum. Both times, CBP officers stationed at the U.S.-
19 Mexico border line refused to inspect and admit him, rebuffed his repeated entreaties
20 to be processed for asylum, and ordered him to return to Mexico. The following day,
21 May 18, he entered the United States without inspection along with his 7-year-old son.
22 CBP officers then separated him from his son. He has recently passed a credible fear
23 interview and has been placed into removal proceedings. This father stated that some
24 time ago, immigration officials asked him to sign paperwork in English that he
25 understood allowed them to release his son from detention to go live with his family.
26 He has no recollection of signing paperwork relinquishing his rights to reunification
27 and indicated a strong desire to be reunified with his son.
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11. A fourth father I spoke to is an indigenous Guatemalan man who was separated from his 8-year-old son on May 18. His first language is Chuj, and he is fluent in Spanish. Since they were separated, he has talked with his son only two times. He has passed a credible fear interview and has been placed in removal proceedings. Some time ago, officials came to him and told him that he had two options: reunification, or relinquishing his right to reunification and agreeing to leave his son with a family member in the United States. When he said he wanted to be reunified with his son, he was given a paper in English and told that if he signed that paper he would be reunified with his son. He is adamant that he did not agree to relinquish his right to reunification and that he still wants to reunify with his son.

12. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, based on my personal knowledge. Executed in El Paso, TX on July 23, 2018.


AARON REICHLIN-MELNICK

Exhibit 44

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**Admitted Pro Hac Vice*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

Ms. L., et al.,

Petitioners-Plaintiffs,

v.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
("ICE"); et al.,

Respondents-Defendants.

Case No. 18-cv-00428-DMS-MDD

DECLARATION OF LUIS CRUZ

CLASS ACTION

1 1. I, Luis Cruz, make the following declaration based on my personal
2 knowledge and declare under the penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 that
3 the following is true and correct:

4 2. I am an Attorney at the law firm Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton &
5 Garrison LLP. I am a member of the New York State Bar. I am a native Spanish
6 speaker.

7 3. I, along with other attorneys from our law firm, have been volunteering at
8 the Otero County Processing Center in Chaparral, New Mexico (“Otero”), where I
9 have been meeting with detained parents who were separated from their children.

10 4. In connection with this work, I was provided with a list of parents who
11 the government has identified as having relinquished their right to reunify with their
12 children. On July 22, 2018, I met with five fathers who had been placed on this so-
13 called “relinquishment list,” but who told me that they did not understand the
14 implications of what they were signing. All of the five fathers wish to be reunited
15 with their children.

16 5. All of the five fathers told me that they were not able to read or write in
17 Spanish nor English. One of the fathers told me that he was only shown the form that
18 he signed in English with no explanation; as such, he was surprised to learn that it
19 may have relinquished his rights to reunification with his son.

20 6. Four of the fathers told me that they signed the form in a large group of
21 other fathers in detention, many of whom described signing the form in a group of 30-
22 50 people in a room that is used as a Church at Otero (the “Church”). All five told me
23 they felt intimidated when they signed this form.

24 7. The first father told me that he was taken to the Church with a group of
25 50 fathers in detention on or around July 17, 2018. He said that the process of being
26 addressed and signing the form lasted no more than 4 minutes. He described not
27 having spoken to a lawyer, and that he has not been in front of a judge or court. He
28

1 has received an order of removal dated June 4, 2018. He said he wants to be reunited
2 with his son.

3 8. The second father, who came to the United States with two children, told
4 me that he was also taken to the Church with a group of approximately 50 other
5 fathers in detention. He said that there was no explanation of the form that he signed
6 at this time. He said that he has no way to contact his children and has only spoken to
7 them one time since he detained on May 28, 2018. He told me that he has a court date
8 on July 26, 2018, but that he does not know what it is for. He has not received an
9 order of removal. He told me he wants to stay in the United States with his children.
10

11 9. The third father said that he was taken to the Church with around 25-30
12 other fathers in detention. He said that there were more people coming in after he left.
13 He said that he was given a form, that it was not explained to him, and that the entire
14 process lasted no more than three minutes. He said that he felt sad and intimidated
15 during this process. He expressed that he believed he had no choice but to sign the
16 form. He said he has not received a final order of removal, and he does not know
17 what the status of his case is. In fact, he has received an order of removal which is
18 dated June 3, 2018.

19 10. The fourth father described signing something at the Cibola Detention
20 Center before being transferred to Otero. He signed this form with three other fathers
21 in detention. He said this process was very quick, no more than a few minutes, and
22 that he was frightened. He said that the official intimidated him and told him where to
23 sign, even though he did not know what it was he was signing. He told me that he has
24 not spoken to a judge or been to court and he does not know what the status of his
25 case is. He has not received an order of removal. He said that he wants to be
26 reunified with his son, and that he wants to fight his case.

27 11. The fifth father described signing two forms while in a detention facility
28 in Yuma, Arizona before being transferred to Otero. He said that the forms were in

1 English both times, that they were not explained to him. He said that an official made
2 him sign both forms. He expressed surprise and concern to me when he understood
3 from my questions that these forms may have had to do with not reunifying with his
4 son. He said that he had a court appearance on July 12 in which he was told he could
5 proceed with an appeal, but that he would need an attorney. He told me that he cannot
6 afford an attorney and does not understand where his case stands. He has not received
7 an order of removal. He told me that he wants to stay in the United States with his
8 son.

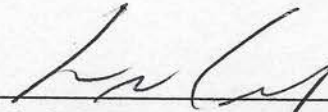
9
10 12. Based on my discussion with these fathers, it appears that none were told
11 the implications of what they were signing or had an understanding of what they were
12 signing. Each of the fathers told me that they were not given the opportunity to ask
13 questions. The manner in which they signed these forms was universally described as
14 intimidating and very stressful. Each described feeling hopeless and believing that
15 they had no alternative but to sign the form.

16 13. Finally, none described having the option to discuss the form with their
17 separated children before signing. Indeed, none reported having communicated with
18 their children on more than one or two occasions since their separations, some as
19 much as two months ago. One described his despair because he did not know even if
20 his child was safe and healthy; another broke down in tears as he described not having
21 spoken to his son in 25 days and being unsure of his location.

22 14. None of the fathers I spoke with said that they had been furnished with a
23 copy of the form, or forms, that they signed. Thus it was difficult for both myself and
24 for them to understand what exactly they signed. Each expressed confusion and
25 visible distress because they do not know when they might be able to see their
26 children again.

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15. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct,
based on my personal knowledge. Executed in El Paso, Texas on July 23, 2018.



LUIS CRUZ

Exhibit 45

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**Admitted Pro Hac Vice*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

Ms. L., et al.,

Petitioners-Plaintiffs,

v.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
("ICE"); et al.,

Respondents-Defendants.

Case No. 18-cv-00428-DMS-MDD

**DECLARATION OF SOFIA
REIVE**

CLASS ACTION

1 1. I, Sofia Reive, make the following declaration based on my personal
2 knowledge and declare under the penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 that
3 the following is true and correct:

4 2. I am an Associate with the law firm Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton &
5 Garrison LLP. I am a member of the New York Bar. I am a native Spanish speaker.

6 3. I, along with other attorneys from our law firm, have been volunteering at
7 the Otero County Processing Center in Chaparral, New Mexico (“Otero”), where I
8 have been meeting with detained parents who were separated from their children.

9 4. In connection with this work, I was provided with a list of parents who
10 the government has identified as having relinquished their right to reunify with their
11 children. During the weekend of July 21–22, 2018, I met with nine fathers who had
12 been placed on this so-called “relinquishment list.” Every one of these fathers told me
13 that they did not want to be deported; they had no idea that they had signed a
14 document that relinquished any rights to be reunited with the children. Every father I
15 met with wants to be reunified with his children and remain in the United States.

16 5. One of these fathers on the relinquishment list, a man from Guatemala,
17 has not received an order of removal, and was told that he had passed his credible fear
18 interview—he has a court date scheduled for August 7. He told me that he was taken
19 to a room at Otero approximately 10 days ago to meet with immigration officials. The
20 officials told him he was definitely going to be deported and then asked him whether
21 he wished to be deported with his daughter or by himself—the officials did not ask
22 him if he wished to be reunified with his daughter in the United States. The father
23 told them that he wished for his daughter to remain in the United States—this is
24 because, as he told me, it is not safe for his daughter to return to Guatemala due to
25 extreme and specific threats from a powerful and dangerous man who has demanded
26 to “buy” her. The officials then gave him a document in English (which he does not
27 understand), and told him that the only way his daughter could stay in the United
28

1 States was if he signed this document. He had no opportunity to review the document
2 or ask any questions about it. He told me that he signed this document because he felt
3 pressured to do so and because he felt like he had no other choice. This entire
4 interaction lasted approximately one minute.

5 6. Later, officials told him to sign another document in Spanish
6 acknowledging that he had understood the contents of the English document that he
7 had previously signed. He told me that he signed this document because he again felt
8 pressured to do so and because he wanted his daughter to be able to remain in the
9 United States, even though he had in fact not understood the English document he
10 previously signed. He told me that, about two days later, officials informed him that
11 he had passed his credible fear interview. He has a pending court date. He has only
12 spoken with his daughter twice since they were separated. He told me that he wants to
13 be reunified with his daughter in the United States.
14

15 7. Lastly, I spoke with a father on the relinquishment list who told me that,
16 about 20 days ago, officials told him that he was going to be deported, and to choose
17 whether to be deported with his daughter or be deported alone and his daughter would
18 remain in the United States. At that time, he was not given the option to be reunited
19 with his daughter in the United States. He recalled selecting the option that allowed
20 his daughter to remain in the United States, but that he later changed his mind and
21 now wants to be reunified with her even if he is to be deported. He has not had a
22 credible fear interview, and has not appeared before an immigration judge. He
23 received an order of removal on June 17, 2018. He wishes to be reunified with his
24 daughter in the United States, but told me that if he is deported he wants his daughter
25 to come with him.

26 8. I also met with four fathers on the relinquishment list who speak limited
27 Spanish, and whose first language is an indigenous language.
28

1 9. One of these fathers on the relinquishment list told me that he has only
2 spoken to his son twice since they were separated two months ago. The last time he
3 spoke to his son was approximately 20 days ago. He told me that he signed a paper
4 that he thought would allow him to be reunited with his son. He also told me,
5 however, that he cannot read or write. His first language is Mam, but he has not been
6 provided with an interpreter who speaks Mam while detained. He has had two court
7 dates, but both times his hearing was adjourned because no Mam interpreter was
8 available. He has not received an order of removal. He told me that he does not want
9 to be deported—he wants to be reunified with his son and remain in the United States.

10 10. I met twice with another one of these fathers on the relinquishment list.
11 He speaks extremely limited Spanish. He had difficulty communicating with me in
12 Spanish given his limited knowledge of the language. His first language is Mam. He
13 also told me that he cannot read or write. This father told me that he signed a
14 document that he thought would allow him to be reunited with his son. He could not,
15 however, understand the document because he is illiterate and no interpreter was
16 provided to explain its contents to him in Mam. He has only spoken to his son twice
17 and he does not know where his son is presently located. He has not received an order
18 of removal. This father told me that he wants to remain in the United States with his
19 son.

20 11. Lastly, I spoke with a father on the relinquishment list whose first
21 language is Mam—he speaks limited Spanish. He also appeared to me to be unable to
22 read or write. This father told me that he was asked to sign a document in Spanish,
23 but was unable to explain to me what he had signed. This father told me that he wants
24 to remain in the United States with his son. He told me he has not a credible fear
25 interview, and he had not appeared before a judge. He has not received an order of
26 removal. He told me that he submitted a request to ICE stating that, in the event that
27 he is deported, he wants to be reunified with his son.
28

Exhibit 46

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**Admitted Pro Hac Vice*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

Ms. L., et al.,

Petitioners-Plaintiffs,

v.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
("ICE"); et al.,

Respondents-Defendants.

Case No. 18-cv-00428-DMS-MDD

**DECLARATION OF E. GAIL
SUCHMAN**

CLASS ACTION

1 1. I, E. Gail Suchman, make the following declaration based on my personal
2 knowledge and declare under the penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 that
3 the following is true and correct:

4 2. I am a partner at the law firm of Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP. I am
5 a member of the New York State Bar.

6 3. I have been volunteering at the El Paso Processing Center in El Paso,
7 Texas, where I have been meeting with detained parents who were separated from
8 their children.

9 4. Between July 20 and 22, 2018, I met with at least four mothers and two
10 fathers who were separated from their children and who have been identified by the
11 government as having relinquished their right to be reunified with their children. All
12 of them wish to be reunited with their children.

13 5. One of the mothers came from El Salvador on or about June 1, 2018,
14 with her 17 year old son. She was apprehended after crossing the border and, after a
15 day, she was separated from her son and taken to federal prison in El Paso in
16 handcuffs and chains. Since then, she has been moved to three other detention
17 centers, ending up in the El Paso Processing Center on July 19, 2018. She was not
18 told where her child was located for at least a month. She spoke to him once two
19 weeks ago and now the phone number she was given does not work. She believes she
20 had a Credible Fear Interview on July 5, 2018, and has not heard anything in response.
21 According to the government's list, she does not have a final removal order.

22 6. While this mother was in detention, an agent gave her a paper to sign and
23 she was told it said that she wishes her son to stay in the United States. The paper was
24 in English and she does not speak or read English. She also demonstrated difficulty
25 writing her name, even in Spanish. She said she does not want her son to go back to
26 El Salvador because he is very dark skinned and suffered a great deal of
27

1 discrimination there. She wants to be reunited with her son but is afraid the
2 government will not reunite her with him.

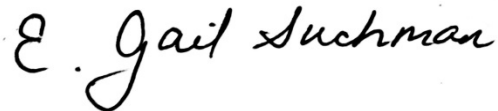
3 7. Another mother from Guatemala crossed into the United States on May
4 22, 2018, with her 13 year old son. They were picked by border patrol within five
5 minutes and were brought to the “hielera.” The next day, she was separated from her
6 son and sent to another detention facility. She did not sign anything. She came to the
7 El Paso Processing Center on June 22 or 23, 2018, where she said an ICE agent told
8 her she could not ask for asylum because of where she crossed: it was too far from a
9 Port of Entry. The agent said she had no options. She did not want to sign anything
10 but believed she had no option. She signed a paper that the agent told her would allow
11 her son to stay here if she were to be deported. However, as far as she knows, she has
12 no final removal order. And according to the government's list, she does not have a
13 final removal order. She wants to be considered for asylum and to be reunited with
14 her son while she pursues her case.

15 8. Another mother from Honduras crossed the border with her two children,
16 ages 14 and 9, on June 4, 2018. They were picked up by border patrol and taken to
17 the immigration office. The next day the mother was separated from her children and
18 taken to a detention facility. She believes her children were taken to a shelter in New
19 York. She has spoken with them only twice. On June 27, 2018, at the El Paso
20 Processing Center, she was given a paper to sign and was told it was about her asylum
21 claim. She signed. She said she was told she had a Credible Fear Interview scheduled
22 for 15 days ago but it never happened. She does not have a final removal order. She
23 has heard nothing about being reunited with her children but she wants to be reunified
24 while she pursues her asylum claim.

25 9. Another mother from Honduras arrived in the United States on May 16,
26 2018, crossing at Laredo with her daughter (10 years old) and son (6 years old). They
27 were picked up by border patrol and stayed together in the “icebox” for 5 days. After
28

1 Laredo, she was taken to two more detention facilities. On May 21, 2018, the mother
2 was taken to immigration court and was told she would be deported with her children.
3 She was asked to sign a form but refused and was then represented by counsel. She
4 had a Credible Fear Interview on June 20, 2018, which she passed. She wants to be
5 reunified with her children while she pursues her asylum claim.

6 10. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct,
7 based on my personal knowledge. Executed in New York, New York, on July 23,
8 2018.

9
10
11 

12 E. Gail Suchman
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Exhibit 47

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**Admitted Pro Hac Vice*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

Ms. L., et al.,

Petitioners-Plaintiffs,

v.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
("ICE"); et al.,

Respondents-Defendants.

Case No. 18-cv-00428-DMS-MDD

**DECLARATION OF CHARLES
MWALIMU**

CLASS ACTION

1. I, Charles Mwalimu, make the following declaration based on my personal knowledge and declare under the penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 that the following is true and correct:

2. I am an Associate at the law firm Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP. I am a member of the New York State Bar.

3. I, along with other attorneys from our law firm, have been volunteering at the Western Texas Detention Facility at Sierra Blanca, where I have been meeting with detained parents who were separated from their children.

4. On July 22, 2018, I met with two mothers who had signed a form relinquishing their right to reunification, but who were not told what they were signing. Both of them wish to be reunited with their children.

5. One of the mothers came from Honduras with her 16 year-old son. She was apprehended after crossing the border, and her child was taken away from her. She said that while in custody, government officers told her to sign a form, which they explained would lead her to be reunified with her son. She could not read the form herself because her Spanish literacy is minimal. Only later did she learn that she had signed away her right to be reunified with her child. She said that she wants her son to be returned to her.

6. The other mother came from Guatemala in May 2018. Her native language is Q'anjob'al. She was apprehended after crossing the border, and her son was taken away. She said that government officers later gave her a form to sign, but they did not read it to her, and so she did not know what she was signing. She now wants to reunite with her child, but because of the form she signed, she is worried that she will be deported without him.

18cv0428

7. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, based on my personal knowledge. Executed in El Paso, Texas on July 22, 2018.



CHARLES MWALIMU

18cv0428

Exhibit 48

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2 Judy Rabinovitz*
3 Anand Balakrishnan*
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**Admitted Pro Hac Vice*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

Ms. L., et al.,

Petitioners-Plaintiffs,

v.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
("ICE"); et al.,

Respondents-Defendants.

Case No. 18-cv-00428-DMS-MDD

**DECLARATION OF KATHRYN
E. SHEPHERD**

CLASS ACTION

1 I, Kathryn E. Shepherd, make the following declaration based on my personal
2 knowledge and declare under the penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 that
3 the following is true and correct:

4 2. I am National Advocacy Counsel for the Immigration Justice Campaign, a joint
5 initiative between the American Immigration Council and the American Immigration
6 Lawyers Association. I focus on legal advocacy and policy related to individuals held
7 in ICE custody and asylum-seeking women and children detained in family detention
8 centers around the country. I am a member of the State Bars of New York and Texas.

9 3. I, along with two other volunteers from our organization, spent four days from
10 Monday, July 9, 2018, through Thursday, July 12, 2018, meeting with parents
11 separated from their children. These individuals were detained in the West Texas
12 Detention Facility in Sierra Blanca, Texas (“Sierra Blanca”); the Otero County
13 Facility (“Otero”) and the Otero Prison in Chaparral, New Mexico; and the El Paso
14 Service Processing Center in El Paso, Texas.

15 4. I personally interviewed approximately 15 separated parents during this time
16 period. Many of these individuals stated that they had signed paperwork they did not
17 understand concerning their right to reunification with their children. None of the
18 parents with whom we met were given a copy of the paperwork they were asked to
19 sign. One father was told that if he didn’t sign the form presented to him, then he
20 would not see his daughter again.

21 5. A typical scenario relayed to me by detained parents was that ICE officers told
22 the parents that in order to see their children, they had to sign the form that was
23 presented in front of them. The parents reported that they were not permitted to ask
24 any questions regarding the forms they were being asked to sign.

25 6. Some parents do not read or write in Spanish. One parent reported that ICE
26 officers read the form to him in English (not Spanish), even though he could read and
27 write in Spanish, but not English.
28

1 7. For example, I interviewed one asylum-seeking parent from Guatemala who
2 does not read or write in any language. At the time that an ICE officer approached her
3 to sign paperwork regarding her deportation and relinquishment of the opportunity to
4 reunify with her child, the parent had not yet spoken to her child or know the child's
5 whereabouts. When an ICE officer presented the deportation and relinquishment form
6 to her, the officer did not read the form aloud to her. The parent told the officers that
7 she wanted to apply for asylum, but the ICE officer responded that applying for
8 asylum would take six to eight months and that she would not see her daughter during
9 that time period. Because the parent could not bear being separated from her daughter
10 and detained for so many additional months, the parent signed the form. The next day,
11 officers from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) met with her and
12 gave her information about where her daughter was, and gave her numbers where she
13 could reach her daughter.
14

15 8. Some parents were also told about their rights to reunification in large group
16 presentations by ICE. Just before I visited the Otero Facility on July 12, 2018, a large
17 group of fathers had been transferred in the prior day or two to Otero from Sierra
18 Blanca. According to at least three transferred fathers with whom we met in Otero, a
19 large group of fathers in Sierra Blanca had been called together by ICE on July 11,
20 2018 and instructed to sign paperwork. By one man's account, about 63 men were
21 called, though they were broken up into smaller groups. The men were told that they
22 had three options: (a) be removed without their child; (b) be removed with their child;
23 or (c) continue to fight their claims for asylum.

24 9. Critically, these parents were not clearly informed and did not actually
25 understand that they could both continue to fight their asylum claims *and* be reunified
26 with their children.

27 10. I, along with other members of our team, heard from multiple parents at Otero
28 that ICE officers and detention center guards at Otero and Sierra Blanca told them that

1 they had no rights; that it would take at least six to eight months to fight their asylum
2 claims; that they would not see their children during this entire time; and that they
3 would be deported when they lost.

4 11. One father also told us that an ICE officer told him that if he wished to fight his
5 asylum case, that it would cost him at least \$500 every time he wished to see any
6 attorney.

7 12. Several parents told us that they did not apply for asylum or related forms of
8 protection, despite having a fear of return to their home country, because they were
9 told by ICE or Customs and Border Protection officials that they were not allowed to
10 apply due to having had been deported from the United States in the past.

11 13. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of
12 America and the District of Columbia that the foregoing is true and correct, based on
13 my personal knowledge. Executed in Washington, D.C. on July 23, 2018.
14

15
16 
17 _____
18 KATHRYN E. SHEPHERD

Exhibit 49

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2 Judy Rabinovitz*
3 Anand Balakrishnan*
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**Admitted Pro Hac Vice*

10 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
11 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

12 Ms. L., et al.,

Petitioners-Plaintiffs,

Case No. 18-cv-00428-DMS-MDD

13 v.

14 U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
15 (“ICE”); U.S. Department of Homeland Security
16 (“DHS”); U.S. Customs and Border Protection
17 (“CBP”); U.S. Citizenship and Immigration
18 Services (“USCIS”); U.S. Department of Health
19 and Human Services (“HHS”); Office of
20 Refugee Resettlement (“ORR”); Thomas
21 Homan, Acting Director of ICE; Greg
22 Archambeault, San Diego Field Office Director,
23 ICE; Joseph Greene, San Diego Assistant Field
24 Office Director, ICE; Adrian P. Macias, El Paso
25 Field Director, ICE; Frances M. Jackson, El Paso
26 Assistant Field Office Director, ICE; Kirstjen
27 Nielsen, Secretary of DHS; Jefferson Beauregard
Sessions III, Attorney General of the United
States; L. Francis Cissna, Director of USCIS;
Kevin K. McAleenan, Acting Commissioner of
CBP; Pete Flores, San Diego Field Director,
CBP; Hector A. Mancha Jr., El Paso Field
Director, CBP; Alex Azar, Secretary of the
Department of Health and Human Services;
Scott Lloyd, Director of the Office of Refugee
Resettlement,

**DECLARATION OF LAUREN
CONNELL**

CLASS ACTION

28 *Respondents-Defendants.*

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1 1. I, Lauren Connell, make the following declaration based on my personal
2 knowledge and declare under the penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 that
3 the following is true and correct:
4

5 2. I am a licensed attorney and Pro Bono Counsel at the law firm Akin Gump
6 Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, based out of New York. In 2014, I was seconded by Akin
7 Gump for four months to our San Antonio office to work full-time counseling families
8 detained at the Karnes County Residential Center, which at the time had recently
9 opened as an immigrant family detention facility housing women and children. After
10 returning to New York at the end of 2014, I have made several trips to the Karnes
11 facility in the intervening years to counsel detained families.
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15 3. My most recent trip took place last week, from July 17 to July 20, 2018. During
16 that trip I saw a level of disarray that I have not seen since my initial days at the
17 facility when it first opened in 2014.
18

19 4. Just prior to my arrival, the family reunification process had led to a mass
20 transfer of hundreds of women and children out of Karnes in order to make space to
21 reunify families who had been separated. Throughout the week, the facility was
22 repopulated in waves with men being reunited with their children in detention at
23 Karnes. Any women remaining at the facility during the week were swiftly
24 transferred out with no notice to counsel. Then, inexplicably, at the end of the week, a
25 new group of women without children were brought to the facility.
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1 5. The upending of the Karnes population due to family reunification has created a
2 multitude of challenges for pro bono attorneys providing legal services to the families
3 detained at the facility. The pro bono legal program at Karnes is run by an
4 organization RAICES with the help of volunteer attorneys such as myself. That
5 program was designed to serve families who recently entered the country and
6 remained together throughout the length of their detention. This meant that we were
7 able to advise the women from the outset and, in most cases, before they were given a
8 credible fear interview.
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12 6. In the typical case we previously saw at Karnes, the parents were all at an early
13 stage of their immigration proceedings and had not yet received credible fear
14 interviews. Therefore, it was easy to hold group intake sessions for the parents where
15 we gathered biographical information and immigration history and to determine
16 whether the detained parents had been scheduled for a credible fear interview. These
17 group intake sessions lasted for approximately 30 to 45 minutes, depending on the
18 size of the group. From there, the next step was to counsel families individually on
19 how to prepare for their upcoming credible fear interview. All told, we spent perhaps
20 30 minutes to an hour consulting with each individual parent in the typical Karnes
21 case.
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26 7. The new families being relocated to Karnes, on the other hand, are in a
27 completely different situation. These families are comprised of fathers and their
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1 children who had been present in the United States for several weeks or months prior
2 to entering Karnes, which meant that we were not seeing them at the outset of their
3 legal proceedings. All but one of the fathers I met with had already been given a
4 credible fear interview without first having a chance to consult with a lawyer and had
5 been found not to have a credible fear of returning to their home country. Since their
6 children had been separated from them, the children's cases were bifurcated from that
7 of their parents, which does not happen if the families remain intact during detention.
8 Complicating matters further, these families endured the recent trauma of being
9 forcibly separated after entering the United States.
10

11 8. Advising these reunified families is a much more time-intensive undertaking
12 than the representation of the women and children who typically are detained at
13 Karnes.
14

15 9. Since these families entered the country at varying times and are at different
16 stages of expedited removal, we were not able to do group intake sessions for these
17 families. Some parents may not have had credible fear interviews; others may have
18 been found by asylum officers not to have a credible fear of return so were awaiting
19 review by an immigration judge; others have even had their negative credible fear
20 finding affirmed by an immigration judge. We therefore had to meet individually with
21 each family to do an intake. This intake was far more time-intensive than in the
22 typical Karnes case. At a minimum, these intakes lasted for several hours. But a
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1 number of factors can lead the intake process to extend over a period of days: level of
2 trauma, language abilities, complexity of the case, whether families have paperwork,
3 and the sophistication of the clients.
4

5 10. First, the parents with whom I met last week seemed even more traumatized
6 and disoriented than the parents I met during my other visits, most likely due to their
7 recent separation from their children. As a result, I needed to spend time at the outset
8 of each meeting building rapport to make sure they trusted me and felt comfortable.
9

10 11. Second, we needed to spend additional time reviewing all legal documents in
11 the family's possession to ascertain the stage of their legal proceedings. Some parents
12 and children may have come to the facility with paperwork, but have to go back to
13 their living quarters to get it – increasing the amount of time for an intake
14 considerably. Given facility security requirements, moving between visitation areas
15 and personal space can take 15 to 20 minutes. Additional time may be needed if, as
16 with last week, men were required to be escorted individually by GEO staff members
17 due to the presence of women in the facility. But, it is also possible that men do not
18 have their paperwork as they may have not been able to bring it when transferred. Or,
19 they may have some paperwork, but it is incomplete. In these situations, this will
20 extend the period of an intake even longer, as lawyers have to make a request to the
21 government to obtain the documents. This, again, is markedly different from the
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1 typical Karnes case we saw before because we usually saw those parents before they
2 had received many immigration documents or paperwork.
3

4 12. Third, we then needed to counsel the clients on next steps for their legal case.
5 We discovered that most of the recently-reunited parents already had received credible
6 fear interviews and were found not to have a credible fear of return. We also found
7 that, for many of these men, their paperwork reflected that they had not requested to
8 have this decision reviewed by an immigration judge. We therefore had to explain the
9 process of immigration judge review and answer the client's questions. I found that
10 the clients I saw had not previously met with a lawyer and had been given
11 misinformation about the process before reaching me, so I had to correct these
12 misunderstandings. Also, I believe that the trauma they endured from the recent
13 separations likely led to skepticism that caused them to ask additional questions.
14 After this lengthy conversation, if the client decides that he wants an immigration
15 judge review, this causes another scramble to notify the government and get
16 paperwork re-served on the client that properly reflects his preference for an
17 immigration judge review, leading to a delay of at least a day.
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23 13. Fourth, we had to collect the typical biographical information and immigration
24 history that we traditionally had collected from clients.
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1 14. Fifth, we needed to collect information about the circumstances of their
2 separation, so that we could be sensitive to their needs and best counsel them given
3 the trauma endured.
4

5 15. Sixth, we needed to meet with the children separately from their fathers to
6 understand the procedural posture of their cases and ensure that their interests were
7 aligned with that of their parents.
8

9 16. After this lengthy intake was completed, we generally dismissed the family for
10 the day so that we could move on to serve other families. Then, the next day, for
11 those fathers who had negative credible fear interviews, we had to start the process of
12 preparing a declaration to use as supporting evidence in their review hearing before
13 the immigration judge. This has to be done immediately, because once you request a
14 hearing before an immigration judge, the hearing by regulation should be scheduled
15 within 7 days and it is hard to delay. This means that time and space in the facility
16 will have to be dedicated to more complete interviewing of a parent and child. The
17 declarations are multiple pages in length and describe why they fear returning to their
18 country and the reasons they found it difficult to express themselves in their credible
19 fear interview.
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24 17. These declarations usually take two days to draft and finalize assuming there
25 are no unforeseen delays. This is because they require at least two client meetings
26 each lasting 1 to 2 hours, as well as a period of time away from the client to develop a
27
28

1 working draft of the declaration. The declarations require a high level of detail, and it
2 has been my experience that clients who have undergone trauma have a more difficult
3 time expressing themselves articulately and remaining focused when asked to recount
4 traumatic events. Therefore, after the initial meeting where we gather information
5 from the clients, we often need to have a follow-up meeting to clarify details and
6 finalize the declaration. Sometimes, even a third meeting is required.
7

8
9 18. Then, once the declaration is drafted, another multi-hour meeting is needed to
10 prepare the client for the hearing before the immigration judge.
11

12 19. Creating additional delays is the fact that client meetings must be spaced out to
13 give traumatized clients time to recover between meetings and to give pro bono
14 attorneys time to meet with the multitude of clients at the facility. Moreover,
15 meetings are frequently interrupted due to meal times, appointments with GEO,
16 appointments with consular officials and other unforeseen circumstances.
17

18
19 20. Moreover, legal representation can only begin once the client is connected to
20 pro bono legal services, which may take up to 2 days after they arrive at Karnes. The
21 recent shifting population at Karnes means that it is harder than usual for pro bono
22 attorneys to know who is in the facility and to ensure that the recent arrivals are aware
23 that free legal services are available. Even in typical circumstances, it is challenging
24 to effectively communicate the availability of pro bono legal services since the facility
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1 does not provide a list of recently-arrived detainees to RAICES. Frequent turnover
2 only compounds this fundamental issue.

3
4 21. Moreover, this timeline assumes that there is sufficient space and an adequate
5 number of pro bono attorneys in the facility to serve these families. Space for
6 attorney-client meetings at Karnes is extremely limited. The visitation area has only
7 five private rooms available for attorney-client meetings. These private rooms are
8 located off of a larger general visitation area, which contains a few tables with hard
9 plastic chairs, a children's play area, a television, and a desk which is manned at all
10 times by a GEO employee. At times, there are family members of detained
11 immigrants at some of these tables visiting with their loved ones. If the private rooms
12 are full, we are forced to meet with clients in this general area, where there is no
13 privacy and considerable background noise from other meetings, children playing, the
14 television in the background, intercom announcements and noise from GEO staff's
15 walkie-talkies. Meetings that take place in the general area simply take longer due to
16 these distractions.
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21 22. These space constraints place a hard limit on the number of attorneys who are
22 able to enter the facility and provide counsel to these families. Last week, the space
23 constraints were exacerbated by the arbitrary decision that attorneys could not meet
24 with men and women in the visitation area at the same time, which is the type of
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1 unforeseen circumstance that can add a day or more to the timeline to provide
2 adequate legal representation.

3
4 23. Moreover, with the Karnes population expected to swell by hundreds of
5 families over the next few days, additional days will need to be accounted for in the
6 timeline because pro bono attorneys will not have sufficient time each day to hold
7 these lengthy meetings with every family that needs to be served. Even if lawyers
8 held group meetings with recently-reunited families, which would not be appropriate
9 in these circumstances given the personalized nature of these intakes and the level of
10 trauma experienced by these families, at most 30 detainees can fit in the general
11 visitation space at any given time. Even if one or two of these large groups could be
12 processed per day in this manner, with an influx of hundreds of families at one time, it
13 would take a period of several days for every family to have some sort of meaningful
14 interaction with an attorney.

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19 24. Because of these unique challenges in representing reunited families in
20 detention, at least 7 days to meet with these families once they arrive at Karnes is
21 crucial in order to ensure that these families have access to counsel so that they can
22 understand their rights and adequately articulate their claims for protection in the
23 United States. However, this is the bare minimum amount of time that would be
24 needed, and additional days to meet with these families would be helpful to ensure
25 effective counseling of these families.
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1 25. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of
2 America that the foregoing is true and correct, based on my personal knowledge.
3

4 Executed in New York, New York, on July 24, 2018.
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8 LAUREN CONNELL
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Exhibit 50

1 Lee Gelernt*
2 Judy Rabinovitz*
3 Anand Balakrishnan*
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Attorneys for Petitioners-Plaintiffs
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**Admitted Pro Hac Vice*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

Ms. L., et al.,

Petitioners-Plaintiffs,

v.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
("ICE"); U.S. Department of Homeland Security
("DHS"); U.S. Customs and Border Protection
("CBP"); U.S. Citizenship and Immigration
Services ("USCIS"); U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services ("HHS"); Office of
Refugee Resettlement ("ORR"); Thomas
Homan, Acting Director of ICE; Greg
Archambeault, San Diego Field Office Director,
ICE; Joseph Greene, San Diego Assistant Field
Office Director, ICE; Adrian P. Macias, El Paso
Field Director, ICE; Frances M. Jackson, El Paso
Assistant Field Office Director, ICE; Kirstjen
Nielsen, Secretary of DHS; Jefferson Beauregard
Sessions III, Attorney General of the United
States; L. Francis Cissna, Director of USCIS;
Kevin K. McAleenan, Acting Commissioner of
CBP; Pete Flores, San Diego Field Director,
CBP; Hector A. Mancha Jr., El Paso Field
Director, CBP; Alex Azar, Secretary of the
Department of Health and Human Services;
Scott Lloyd, Director of the Office of Refugee
Resettlement,

Respondents-Defendants.

Case No. 18-cv-00428-DMS-MDD

**DECLARATION OF H [REDACTED]
G [REDACTED] A [REDACTED]**

CLASS ACTION

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1 I, H [REDACTED] G [REDACTED] A [REDACTED], make the following declaration based on my
2 personal knowledge and declare under the penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §
3 1746 that the following is true and correct:
4

5 2. My name is H [REDACTED] G [REDACTED] A [REDACTED]. I am a national of Honduras. I am 51
6 years of age.
7

8 3. I speak and read Spanish. I do not speak or read English.

9 4. I currently suffer from serious vision problems and because of this I can no
10 longer read any papers that are put in front of me. I have never had glasses and I have
11 not been provided any glasses while in detention. Because of this the only way that I
12 am confident in what a document says is if someone I trust reads the document to me.
13

14 5. When I crossed the border on June 1, 2018, I was accompanied by my son,
15 M [REDACTED] N [REDACTED] G [REDACTED] A [REDACTED], who is 17 years of age. I turned myself in to the border
16 patrol immediately and asked for asylum. Immigration officers told me soon after that
17 they were going to separate me from my son.
18

19 6. I am currently fighting my case for asylum. On Saturday, July 21, 2018, I had a
20 credible fear interview. I do not have any results yet.
21

22 7. I have talked to my son three times while I have been detained. We have
23 discussed whether we want to be reunified with each other, and we both agree that
24 being together as a family is the most important thing for us. We do not wish to
25 separate, and I do not want to be apart from him any longer.
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1 8. Some time ago, immigration officials came and asked me whether or not I
2 wanted to be reunified with my son. They showed me a form and told me that I
3 needed to sign the form so that I could be reunified with my son. I told them about my
4 vision problems and that I could not read the form. The officers then read the form to
5 me out loud. However, because I did not trust the officials, I do not know if they were
6 reading the form accurately to me.
7

9 9. I asked the officials who wanted me to sign the form if I could call my son right
10 then to consult with him. They did not allow me to call him. As a result, I refused to
11 sign the paper. However, I made sure to tell the officials that I wanted to be reunified.
12

13 10. Some time after that, a different group of officials came to ask me again about
14 reunification with my son. They showed me a form and told me I needed to sign this
15 form. The officials told me that the purpose of the form to was to allow information to
16 be shared with another agency so that I could be reunified with my son. However, I
17 was suspicious that it was the same form from before.
18

19 11. When I asked them to read the form to me, they did so. However, because I still
20 did not trust these officials and could not confirm they were telling the truth, I did not
21 sign this form either. I also told them for a second time that I want to be reunified with
22 my son.
23

24 12. A third time, the officials came to talk to me. These officials told me that if the
25 person I designated as a sponsor "did not qualify," then I would have to find another
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1 sponsor. I did not have any other individuals that I could think of who I wanted my
2 son to live with, so I was not able to give them any other names. Again, I did not sign
3 anything and I told the officials I wanted to be reunited with my son.
4

5 13. I have never been told that I could have a lawyer with me. I wish to have a
6 lawyer for myself and for my son, and I do not want to sign anything from the
7 government without a lawyer who can tell me what the form is.
8

9 14. I wish to be reunited with my son. He is incredibly important to me and we
10 want to be together. This has always been my wish and continues to be so.
11

12
13 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that
14 the foregoing is true and correct, based on my personal knowledge. Executed on 23 of
15 July, 2018.
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19 H [REDACTED]
20 H [REDACTED] G [REDACTED] A [REDACTED]
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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION

1. My name is Rosa M. Garcia, and I am fluent in Spanish and English.
2. I translated the foregoing document from English to Spanish and read it to the declarant, H [REDACTED] in Spanish before it was signed.
3. H [REDACTED] affirmed that the contents of the declaration were true and correct to the best of his/her knowledge.

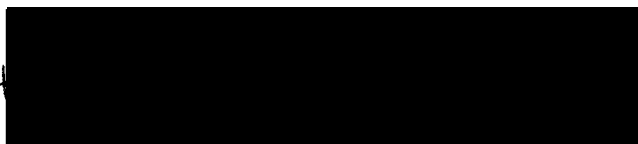
I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 23rd day of July, 2018 in El Paso, TX.

Rosa M. Garcia
TRANSLATOR'S SIGNATURE

Ms. L v. ICE Waiver

I authorize that information I provide and my written testimony may be shared with the American Civil Liberties Union and used in connection with the litigation in *Ms. L, et al. v. ICE, et. al.*, 3:18-cv-00428. An interpreter or other individual has read this waiver to me in a language that I understand.

Signed: H



Date: 7) 23 - 18

Location El Paso Processing Center

Interpreter Signature:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rafael Garcia".

Date: 7/23/2018

Location: El Paso Processing Center

Exhibit 51

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2 Judy Rabinovitz*
3 Anand Balakrishnan*
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8 *Attorneys for Petitioners-Plaintiffs*
9 *Additional counsel on next page*

**Admitted Pro Hac Vice*

10 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
11 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

12 Ms. L. et al.,

13 *Petitioners-Plaintiffs,*

14 v.

15 U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
16 (“ICE”); U.S. Department of Homeland Security
17 (“DHS”); U.S. Customs and Border Protection
18 (“CBP”); U.S. Citizenship and Immigration
19 Services (“USCIS”); U.S. Department of Health
20 and Human Services (“HHS”); Office of
21 Refugee Resettlement (“ORR”); Thomas
22 Homan, Acting Director of ICE; Greg
23 Archambeault, San Diego Field Office Director,
24 ICE; Joseph Greene, San Diego Assistant Field
25 Office Director, ICE; Adrian P. Macias, El Paso
26 Field Director, ICE; Frances M. Jackson, El Paso
27 Assistant Field Office Director, ICE; Kirstjen
28 Nielsen, Secretary of DHS; Jefferson Beauregard
Sessions III, Attorney General of the United
States; L. Francis Cissna, Director of USCIS;
Kevin K. McAleenan, Acting Commissioner of
CBP; Pete Flores, San Diego Field Director,
CBP; Hector A. Mancha Jr., El Paso Field
Director, CBP; Alex Azar, Secretary of the
Department of Health and Human Services;
Scott Lloyd, Director of the Office of Refugee
Resettlement,

Respondents-Defendants.

Case No. 18-cv-00428-DMS-
MDD

Date Filed: June 25, 2018

**DECLARATION OF SHALYN
FLUHARTY**

Class Action

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1 1. I, Shalyn Fluharty, make the following declaration based on my personal
2 knowledge and declare under the penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746
3 that the following is true and correct:

4 2. I am the Managing Attorney of the Dilley Pro Bono Project ("DPBP"), where
5 I provide pro bono representation to families who are detained at the South Texas
6 Family Residential Center ("Dilley") in Dilley, Texas. DPBP represents the
7 overwhelming majority of families who are detained in Dilley, with the assistance
8 of a rotating weekly group of between 30 and 45 volunteers. I oversee
9 approximately seven full-time employees and supervise and train a national
10 network of volunteers.

11 3. On or around Thursday, July 19, 2018 reunited mothers and children arrived
12 at Dilley for the first time. As of the end of the day on July 23, there were 31
13 families detained in Dilley.

14 4. We did not receive any notice that these families were going to arrive. We
15 were not informed after they arrived.

16 5. We only heard about the reunified mothers and children because our existing
17 clients at the facility told us. Our clients said that they were seeing families with
18 different kinds of institutional shoes, a sign that they had been transferred from
19 elsewhere. They informed us the newly arrived families were separated from the
20 rest of the general population, and placed in an area of the facility alone, far from
21 the other detained families. This meant that it was likely harder for these families
22 to get learn about legal services.

23 6. When we heard about the families, we wanted to find them and help them.
24 Because we did not know their names or their identities, we had to ask our clients
25 for help. Our clients then tracked down the reunified parents, told them about our
26 services, and where they could go to speak with us.

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1 7. My best guess is that it took at least 24 hours, if not more, between the arrival
2 of a family and when we heard about them, and then additional time before we
3 were even able to meet with the family to begin counseling them.

4 8. I still do not know whether these families will be joined by others over the
5 course of the next twenty-four hours. At points over the past week, I have heard
6 rumors that hundreds of families will be moved here. But I still do not know when
7 they will arrive, or how many, let alone their identities.

8 9. This lack of notice makes it difficult to plan on how to deploy volunteer and
9 pro bono attorneys to assist in representation. Counseling these reunified families
10 is very challenging. It requires a different allocation of our resources and the use of
11 different intake and counseling strategies.

12 10. Counseling these reunited families is unlike anything and far more difficult
13 than anything I have encountered during the more than two years that I have
14 represented families detained in Dilley.

15 11. As an initial matter, it has been challenging – if not impossible – to
16 determine the procedural posture of each mother and child’s case. Mothers and
17 children are profoundly confused. Most arrive with no documents from any prior
18 proceedings. Mothers are unable to confirm whether they spoke with an asylum
19 officer, or immigration judge. Some mothers who can confirm seeing an asylum
20 officer or immigration judge were transferred before they were issued a decision in
21 their case, and do not know whether or not they received a positive or negative fear
22 determination. Many report being told by immigration officials they would be
23 deported, even though they do not appear to have final orders of removal.

24 12. Mothers report being forced to sign documents in English that they did not
25 understand, and not being given a copy. Some mothers state their legal paperwork
26 was taken away from them, either in transit, or upon arrival to Dilley.

27 13. The same is true for children. Most have arrived to meet with us without
28 their own case files. Many say their paperwork was taken away from them when

1 they arrived to Dilley. Thus, we do not know what stage the children's case was in,
2 nor do they have information as to whether they had a lawyer previously, or even
3 the name of the lawyer or child advocate at the ORR facility where they were
4 previously held.

5 14. The scant paperwork that parents and children do have only creates more
6 confusion. Some children have copies of Notices to Appear in removal
7 proceedings. However, when I call the automated immigration court system hotline,
8 it states the child's A# is not in the system. Many parents have copies of signed
9 documents confirming they will be released on their own recognizance from
10 detention with a Notice to Appear. However, rather than being released, the
11 mothers were transferred to Dilley and then placed in detention.

12 15. Finding out the status of these families' cases is extremely important. In fact,
13 it is a basic part of counseling these families. More than half of the reunited
14 mothers we have seen in the past few days do not have final orders of removal.
15 Some are waiting for CFI or IJ decisions (or, more troublingly, may be the subject
16 of a decision that they do not know of). Some may have never known to request a
17 CFI determination. Some of them report having signed documents in English
18 which may have waived their right to an IJ review of a negative credible fear
19 determination, a right that they wish to reinstate while they are with their children.

20 16. Because lawyers cannot get this information from clients, a single meeting is
21 not enough. Instead lawyers have to then spend time tracking down the child's
22 lawyer or advocate, or the mother's previous attorney, and try to speak to them. IN
23 a few cases, we are waiting for records to be sent to us from other lawyers across
24 the country who have decided to terminate their representation of a mother or child
25 because they have been transferred far away from where the lawyer is able to
26 provide services.

27 17. I have made a written request for every reunited child to ICE, requesting a
28 copy of the child's A file, including any and all removal orders and charging

1 documents. These written requests have gone unresponded to. I have spoken
2 personally with our local Assistant Field Office Director, requesting that all
3 documents confiscated from my clients upon entry to the facility be returned to
4 them. It has been nearly a week, and we have not seen the documents returned. We
5 have also sent emails requesting clarification regarding the procedural posture of
6 numerous mother's cases, and have yet to receive a response.

7 18. Trauma and lack of trust have created additional impediments to providing
8 legal assistance. Mothers state they have been lied to, coerced, and threatened while
9 in government custody. Daily, mothers receive new disclosures from their children
10 regarding their experiences in government shelters throughout the country. Children
11 have expressed being deprived food, experiencing physical violence, and suffering
12 ongoing depression during their separation from their parents. Some parents state
13 they did not recognize their child upon reunification, because their child lost so
14 much weight.

15 19. These realities require, as a part of our assistance, considerable time, and
16 deliberate and focused efforts to build rapport and trust with each mother and child.

17 20. Conversations regarding separation have proven unbearable for many of our
18 clients. The topic itself produces overwhelming emotion, prohibitive of discussing
19 the potential options a mother or child may have, such that they can make an
20 informed decision regarding how they would like their case to proceed. Even
21 benign questions – like the question asking mothers to list the names and locations
22 of their children on our intake form – produce tears and paralysis. The trauma not
23 only ends a meaningful conversation regarding the mother and child's decision-
24 making in their case, but also impedes their ability to accurately recount basic
25 events in their legal cases.

26 21. It is nearly impossible to interview parents and children separately because
27 they have only been reunited for such a short period of time, and have a palpable
28 fear they will soon be separated yet again. This presents a barrier to fact-gathering

1 regarding the mother and child's underlying asylum claims. Parents need to be able
2 to describe the harm they have experienced before coming to the United States so
3 that lawyers know if they have a claim for asylum, or if that claim was waived in
4 the belief that waiver was necessary for reunification to occur. Speaking to an
5 asylum seeker about the physical and sexual violence they have fled is difficult
6 enough. Parents are understandably reluctant to speak about these subjects in the
7 presence of their children. But these families are seeing each other for the first time
8 after months apart. They fear separation, and is a struggle to make a family
9 comfortable enough that a child is willing to leave their parent's presence, and vice
10 versa.

11 22. The families have not even been able to meaningfully discuss their legal
12 options with each other. They do not yet understand their own cases or rights, and
13 are therefore incapable of making a decision together. The phone calls that some of
14 the mothers and children had with each other before being reunified was simply
15 inadequate for that purpose. Furthermore, the calls that were facilitated while the
16 families were separated were monitored by officials, preventing disclosures of
17 important information. Mothers have said that they were able to speak to their
18 children once or twice, for very short periods of times. They were so overwhelmed
19 with emotion that making informed legal decisions was simply not possible.

20 23. In some cases, mothers were represented by lawyers prior to their transfer,
21 however, they were transferred in the middle of the night away from their facilities
22 and their lawyers to Dilley. In these cases, because they are still represented, I am
23 limited in my ability to interact or counsel the client until I am able to contact the
24 prior attorney and get their consent, which – again – takes time. At least a day will
25 be lost as we speak to the prior attorney and then, again, call a client back for
26 another legal meeting.

27 24. Under these conditions, counseling these families as to the decisions they
28 have to make is extraordinarily difficult. Even *if* we had access to their

1 immigration files and were able to easily ascertain basic information such as
2 whether a parent had requested a credible fear hearing, had received a negative
3 decision, or had requested or waived review before an Immigration Judge, we still
4 need to speak to the child's advocate or lawyer, the parent's lawyer if they had one,
5 or at the very least access the records. Even then, we would have to spend time
6 with extremely traumatized families to explain their choices and rights. It is
7 challenging to find time to meet with the client while also tracking down records
8 and advocates, especially because we are prohibited from bringing cell phones into
9 the facility and are therefore unable to receive call backs from lawyers and
10 advocates with whom we urgently need to communicate about a case.

11 25. The advocates at Dilley are committed to ensuring that every family gets the
12 counseling they need. Given the state that these families are in when they arrive,
13 without any notice, or any information, in the facility, this process will require time.
14 Even seven days from the time when we first meet with the family (as opposed to
15 when the family arrives, unbeknownst to us) presents challenges. Less time runs the
16 risk that these families will be deported or separated without any understanding of
17 their rights or those rights they may have been led to unknowingly or involuntarily
18 waive.

19 26. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of
20 America that the foregoing is true and correct, based on my personal knowledge.

21 Executed in Dilley, Texas on July 25, 2018.

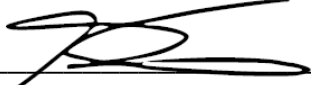
22 
23 _____
24 Shalyn Fluharty

Exhibit 52

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Judy Rabinovitz*
Anand Balakrishnan*
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**Admitted Pro Hac Vice*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

Ms. L., et al.,

Petitioners-Plaintiffs,

v.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
("ICE"); et al.,

Respondents-Defendants.

Case No. 18-cv-00428-DMS-MDD

**DECLARATION OF SUSANNE
GILLIAM**

CLASS ACTION

1 I, Susanne Gilliam, make the following declaration based on my personal
2 knowledge and declare under the penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 that
3 the following is true and correct:

4 2. I am a solo practitioner and member of the state bars in Massachusetts
5 and New Hampshire.

6 3. I have been volunteering since Friday July 20, 2018, at the El Paso
7 Processing Center and have been meeting with detained parents who were separated
8 from their children.

9 4. On July 22, 2018, and July 23, 2018, I met with H [REDACTED] G [REDACTED] A [REDACTED],
10 a father from Honduras who is on the list of parents who have purportedly
11 relinquished their right to reunify with their children. Mr. G [REDACTED] A [REDACTED] and his 17-
12 year-old son, M [REDACTED] N [REDACTED], crossed the border and turned themselves in to the border
13 patrol on or about June 1, 2018. Immigration officials then separated him from his
14 son.

15 5. Mr. G [REDACTED] A [REDACTED] appears on a government list as having relinquished
16 his child but not having executed a letter of designation for the child. Mr. Gomez
17 Amaya is adamant that he wants to be reunited with his son, even if he were
18 ultimately to be removed from the country. He is also adamant that he has always told
19 immigration officials that he wishes to be reunited with his son.

20 6. Mr. G [REDACTED] A [REDACTED] had his credible fear interview on Saturday, July 21.
21 He does not have a final order of removal. He had not consulted with any lawyer prior
22 to my meeting with him on July 22, 2018.

23 7. Mr. G [REDACTED] A [REDACTED] has told me that various times since his detention,
24 immigration officials have come and presented him with a form and told him to sign
25 that form to be reunified with his son. Mr. G [REDACTED] A [REDACTED] has told me that he cannot
26 read the forms and did not trust the immigration officials; thus he did not sign such
27

28

1 forms when they were presented to him. He denies ever having expressed any desire
2 to relinquish reunification with his son.

3 8. From my conversation with Mr. G [REDACTED] A [REDACTED] it is readily apparent that
4 he cannot see well and cannot even read normal-sized print. He does read Spanish, but
5 could not read a privacy form that I showed him that was in Spanish and had normal-
6 sized print; he required instead that my interpreter read the form to him. He is thus
7 utterly dependent on the person reading a form to him to tell him its contents.

8 9. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct,
9 based on my personal knowledge. Executed in El Paso, Texas on July 24, 2018.
10

11
12 
13 SUSANNE GILLIAM
14

Exhibit 53

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2 Judy Rabinovitz*
3 Anand Balakrishnan*
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**Admitted Pro Hac Vice*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

Ms. L., et al.,

Petitioners-Plaintiffs,

v.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
("ICE"); et al.,

Respondents-Defendants.

Case No. 18-cv-00428-DMS-MDD

**DECLARATION OF MARIA
ODOM**

CLASS ACTION

1 1. I, Maria Odom, make the following declaration based on my personal
2 knowledge and information relayed to me by my staff, and declare under the penalty
3 of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 that the following is true and correct to the
4 best of my belief and understanding:

5 2. I currently serve as Vice President for Legal Services at Kids in Need of
6 Defense (KIND). KIND is a national non-profit organization with ten field offices
7 providing free legal services to unaccompanied immigrant children who face removal
8 proceedings in Immigration Court.

9 3. I previously submitted a Declaration in this litigation, dated July 15, 2018.
10 Since then, I have continued to supervise teams of KIND attorneys in locating and
11 counseling parents and children separated by the government. Our effort has also
12 been in collaboration with other volunteer attorneys on the ground in Texas, to whom
13 we have helped provide technical assistance and support.

14 4. Our work with separated parents has continued to focus on those held by
15 Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at Port Isabel Service Detention Center
16 (Port Isabel) in Texas. Our teams have met with over 200 separated parents in Port
17 Isabel. I have personally met with at least five separated parents held at Port Isabel.

18 5. In addition, a team of KIND attorneys and staff based in New York has met
19 with 98 separated children who were referred to KIND.

20 6. KIND attorneys and other volunteers also had a brief opportunity to meet with
21 reunited parents and children released from Port Isabel to the Basilica of Our Lady of
22 San Juan del Valle, operated by Catholic Charities and located at 400 N. Virgen de
23 San Juan Boulevard, in San Juan, Texas 78589.

24 7. The difficulties accessing and counseling parents and children described in my
25 July 15, 2018 Declaration remain as of today, July 24, 2018. Government practices
26 have not ameliorated or improved the conditions relating to challenges in
27 communicating with detainees, and, have in some instances, created additional
28

1 barriers described below. It continues to be difficult to locate and meet with parents at
2 Port Isabel, as parents are constantly arriving in transfers from other facilities, and
3 Port Isabel does not provide lists of new arrivals to compare against any lists from the
4 government of Class Members. We thus continue to rely on lists compiled by private
5 and nonprofit attorneys in the area, detainees referring separated parents to us, or
6 inquiries from media and other advocates.

7
8 8. Beginning approximately Tuesday, July 17, 2018, guards at Port Isabel began to
9 notify volunteer attorneys requesting to meet with detainees that many of the detainees
10 were no longer present at the facility. When attorneys asked where the detainees were
11 located, the Port Isabel staff did not provide that information. When volunteer
12 attorneys asked for clarification whether the detainees were released from detention or
13 transferred to another ICE facility, Port Isabel staff would not or could not provide
14 that information.

15
16 9. When KIND and volunteer attorneys would look up detainees that the Port
17 Isabel staff described as no longer present at Port Isabel, in some instances the online
18 ICE detainee locator would indicate the detainee was still present at Port Isabel, and in
19 other instances would have no information regarding the detainee at all. This lack of
20 clear information regarding the location of detainees made it extremely difficult, and
21 at times, impossible to locate the detainee and provide follow-up legal guidance or
22 information about that detainee's rights in their legal process.

23
24 10. KIND attorneys met with parents that were notified that they would be
25 reunified with their child on Monday July 16th, and still have not been reunified as of
26 July 22nd, without receiving an explanation or reason for the delay.

27
28 11. A volunteer attorney collaborating with KIND met with a detainee moments
before his departure from the facility. During that meeting the detainee indicated that
the government did not provide any information as to where he was going, who he
would be seeing, or whether or not he was leaving the facility for deportation. He

1 begged the attorney to explain what was happening, but due to the lack of information
2 available, the attorney could neither explain where the detainee was going nor the
3 legal or procedural ramifications of the next steps in his legal process. This is one
4 example of a larger pattern commonly observed by KIND and volunteer attorneys
5 throughout the week of July 16 to 22, undermining the effectiveness of the one-on-one
6 legal consultations during that time period.

7 12. Further, KIND attorneys met with detainees at Port Isabel who the government
8 had processed for apparent release from the facility. These individuals wore plain
9 clothes and not the jumpsuits issued to detainees at Port Isabel. The KIND attorneys
10 reviewed Orders of Release on Recognizance issued to those individuals by the U.S.
11 Department of Homeland Security. While those documents are normally issued upon
12 departure from ICE custody, they were issued to the detainees earlier in the week even
13 though they still remained without freedom to leave the detention facility. Separated
14 parents in these circumstances were at times told that they could not be released until
15 their children arrived but were not provided reasons or explanations as to any delay in
16 reunifications and release. The ICE detainee locator would in some instances indicate
17 that these parents were not at Port Isabel and, in others, indicate the parent was still at
18 the facility.

19 13. KIND attorneys spoke directly with at least 8 separated parents in plain clothes
20 that were supposedly already processed for release at Port Isabel who indicated
21 negative treatment and deteriorating conditions upon receiving release paperwork,
22 including:

- 23 a. Telephone access revoked;
- 24 b. Commissary account revoked;
- 25 c. Denied access to showers;
- 26 d. Towels for drying taken away; and
- 27 e. Revocation of daily 1-hour recess to which other detainees are entitled.
- 28

1 14. The lack of telephone access for detainees in limbo prior to departure to an
2 unknown location under unknown circumstances was particularly troubling to the
3 detainees and creates significant, material barriers to accessing counsel at a critical
4 step in the process.

5 15. KIND attorneys and other volunteers serving Port Isabel from approximately
6 July 17th through July 22nd, 2018, also received an influx of requests from advocates
7 all over the country representing both separated parents and children noting that
8 contact with their clients, which had previously been regular, was suddenly and
9 noticeably absent.

10 16. The documents provided to detainees upon release, including, but not limited
11 to, the Orders of Release on Recognizance, and Notices to Appear in Immigration
12 Court are provided in English only. Separated parents both inside Port Isabel and
13 those released at the Basilica confirmed with KIND attorneys that they received those
14 documents, but that no one explained the nature and content of the documents to them.

15 17. There is no group legal orientation or coordinated opportunity for counsel to
16 explain the legal ramifications of the release, reunification, or transfer of the separated
17 parents at Port Isabel. There is also no designated area where volunteer counsel may
18 keep open office hours for separated parents to “drop in” to seek advice. We
19 understand that this model exists in at least one ICE-contracted detention facility.

20 18. KIND attorneys or volunteers met with a number of individuals at Port Isabel or
21 the Basilica who were issued Orders of Supervision or Orders of Release on
22 Recognizance requiring them to report to ICE offices within the coming several
23 weeks. Most were instructed to report to ICE offices in Harlingen, Texas, even though
24 the detainees’ final destinations were clearly far outside the Harlingen area and spread
25 throughout the U.S.

26 19. KIND attorneys and other volunteer lawyers were present at the Basilica release
27 site for one afternoon on Thursday, July 19th to provide post-release legal orientation
28

1 and change of address and change of venue assistance. In that afternoon, KIND
2 attorneys reviewed the documents of approximately 14 families and explained what
3 they said, the dates and locations of upcoming hearings and appointments, and offered
4 *pro se* change of address and change of venue forms. A KIND attorney also provided
5 oral group legal orientation presentations to approximately 40 individuals.

6 20. KIND attorneys and other volunteers requested to return to the Basilica Friday
7 morning, July 20th, to continue post-release legal assistance and KIND was denied
8 access to return to the Basilica by the administrator of the facility due to stated
9 concerns for solicitation by attorneys seeking money from the families. Counsel's
10 access to clients at the Basilica continues to be extremely limited, severely restricting
11 the opportunity to offer legal assistance to the families before they are scheduled to
12 leave on buses and airplanes to final destinations all around the United States.

13 21. Without knowing when or where a separated parent or child is going to be
14 released or transferred, and without access to the documents issued upon release,
15 attorneys cannot provide meaningful counsel to the separated parents or children
16 about a number of critical rights and processes, including, but not limited to: the status
17 of any requests for immigration relief, the consequences of documents they may have
18 signed, the next step in the immigration process, any required upcoming ICE check-
19 ins, the next steps in the reunification process, and the relationship between the
20 parents' case and the children's case.

21 22. The continued confusion and lack of transparency has a particularly grave
22 impact on those separated parents who remain in detention who see large numbers of
23 detainees around them leaving, without an explanation or understanding as to why
24 they remain detained. The separated parents are experiencing severe stress,
25 uncertainty and concern about their children, such that it is impacting their mental and
26 physical health. KIND attorneys met with separated parents who reported the
27

1 following medical issues: incapacitating headaches, severe depression, blood sugar
2 imbalances, and changes in blood pressure.

3 23. The strain upon separated detained parents is also affecting their decisions
4 regarding seeking immigration relief. For example, a KIND attorney met with one
5 detainee, a mother, who reported that fear of continued separation from her child
6 along with coercion by a Deportation Officer caused her to withdraw her request for a
7 Reasonable Fear Interview, even though she does fear returning to her home country.

8 24. Further, beginning on or around July 18th KIND and other volunteer attorneys
9 began hearing from detainees at Port Isabel that staff at the facility began widely
10 distributing documents for detainees to sign agreeing to deportation. The detainees
11 reported that the document was not explained to them and that many officers
12 encouraged them to sign it if they wanted to see their child again.

13 25. In addition, KIND attorneys representing separated children in New York and
14 Seattle have experienced similar difficulties remaining in contact with child clients
15 once they leave the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) shelters and are transferred
16 to adult ICE facilities or family detention facilities.

17 26. Some children have apparently been transferred through Port Isabel; however,
18 attorneys are not able to meet with children at Port Isabel and it is unclear how long
19 they are remaining at that facility prior to release or transfer.

20 27. Coordinating communication between the attorney for the child and the
21 attorney for the parent is extremely difficult under these circumstances.

22 28. KIND attorneys, both through direct interaction with detainees and those
23 recently released, as well as through communication with other attorneys assisting
24 separated families across the United States, are not able to ascertain a clear pattern
25 with regard to which detainees (parents and children) may expect release, which may
26 expect transfer to another facility, and which may expect imminent deportation. That
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lack of clarity and transparency makes it very difficult to provide clear and accurate counsel to the class members.

29. The result of these continuing – and in some cases, new – complications described above is that attorneys will continue to need significant time to locate and counsel all parents who have been separated from their children.

I declare under penalty of perjury that to the best of my knowledge the above facts are true and correct. Executed this 24th day of July 2018, in Washington, D.C.


MARIA ODOM

Exhibit 54

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8 *Attorneys for Petitioners-Plaintiffs*
9 *Additional counsel on next page*

**Admitted Pro Hac Vice*

10 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
11 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

12 Ms. L. et al.,

13 *Petitioners-Plaintiffs,*

14 v.

15 U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
16 ("ICE"); U.S. Department of Homeland Security
17 ("DHS"); U.S. Customs and Border Protection
18 ("CBP"); U.S. Citizenship and Immigration
19 Services ("USCIS"); U.S. Department of Health
20 and Human Services ("HHS"); Office of
21 Refugee Resettlement ("ORR"); Thomas
22 Homan, Acting Director of ICE; Greg
23 Archambeault, San Diego Field Office Director,
24 ICE; Joseph Greene, San Diego Assistant Field
25 Office Director, ICE; Adrian P. Macias, El Paso
26 Field Director, ICE; Frances M. Jackson, El Paso
27 Assistant Field Office Director, ICE; Kirstjen
28 Nielsen, Secretary of DHS; Jefferson Beauregard
Sessions III, Attorney General of the United
States; L. Francis Cissna, Director of USCIS;
Kevin K. McAleenan, Acting Commissioner of
CBP; Pete Flores, San Diego Field Director,
CBP; Hector A. Mancha Jr., El Paso Field
Director, CBP; Alex Azar, Secretary of the
Department of Health and Human Services;
Scott Lloyd, Director of the Office of Refugee
Resettlement,

Respondents-Defendants.

Case No. 18-cv-00428-DMS-
MDD

Date Filed: June 25, 2018

**DECLARATION OF LEAH
CHAVLA**

Class Action

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1 1. I, Leah Chavla, make the following declaration based on my personal
2 knowledge and declare under the penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746
3 that the following is true and correct:

4 2. I am a lawyer and a Policy Advisor with the Migrant Rights and Justice
5 program of the Women's Refugee Commission.

6 3. I recently counseled reunited families at the South Texas Family Residential
7 Center ("Dilley") in Dilly, Texas.

8 4. Counseling these families about their rights is one of the most challenging
9 tasks I have undertaken as an attorney.

10 5. The families I met with arrived in Dilley without paperwork. They are
11 disoriented and overwhelmed from a rapid reunification with a child they have not
12 seen for months and an equally rapid transfer. They do not even know what stage
13 their cases are at.

14 6. For example, many families had not had credible fear interviews, and
15 believed that they were waiting to receive an interview even though they were
16 detained for over a month. One mother I spoke with said she was asked to sign a
17 document she could not read. She could not remember everything that was
18 explained to her about the document, only that she refused in that moment to be
19 deported without being reunified with her son. However, I do not have the ability to
20 confirm this with DHS or to quickly get a copy of the paperwork that she was
21 given.

22 7. It is necessary to spend hours with families to determine even what stage
23 their cases are at. Because of the family's trauma, it is difficult to get even this
24 basic information from them.

25 8. For example, in one case I met with a mother and her eleven year old son.
26 The boy would barely speak through the entire interview, only sometimes slightly
27 nodding or shaking his head to answer simple - yes or no - questions. He only
28

1 stared forward with an intent expression that looked like he was concentrating so as
2 to not cry. His mother repeatedly told him to speak to us, but he could not speak.

3 9. The children I spoke to were difficult to counsel because they were still
4 processing the separation and reunification with their mothers. The interviews were
5 very emotional.

6 10. Communication between children and parents during their separation was
7 difficult and not conducive to anything more than simple expressions of care and
8 loss.

9 11. One mother explained that another mother at the facility where she was held
10 had been put in touch with a child who was not hers when she called. The mother
11 kept saying to the child that he did not sound like her son until she realized she was,
12 in fact, talking to a different child. After hearing this story, the mother I spoke with
13 said that on the two occasions she spoke with her child during their two-months'
14 separation, she first asked for him to tell her his middle name and his siblings'
15 names to be sure she was speaking with her child.

16 12. Some parents reported only having spoken to their child only once. ORR
17 facilities do not accept collect calls, the time period for any call is limited, and calls
18 are expensive.

19 13. Counseling these families is a very time consuming process that must
20 account for delays as interviews end because of the family's trauma, or because the
21 lawyer needs to call and request information from other sources.

22 14. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of
23 America that the foregoing is true and correct, based on my personal knowledge.

24
25 
26 LEAH CHAVLA -

Exhibit 55

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9 *Additional counsel on next page*

**Admitted Pro Hac Vice*

10 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
11 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

11 Ms. L., et al.,

12 *Petitioners-Plaintiffs,*

Case No. 18-cv-00428-DMS-MDD

13 v.

14 U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
15 ("ICE"); U.S. Department of Homeland Security
16 ("DHS"); U.S. Customs and Border Protection
17 ("CBP"); U.S. Citizenship and Immigration
18 Services ("USCIS"); U.S. Department of Health
19 and Human Services ("HHS"); Office of
20 Refugee Resettlement ("ORR"); Thomas
21 Homan, Acting Director of ICE; Greg
22 Archambeault, San Diego Field Office Director,
23 ICE; Joseph Greene, San Diego Assistant Field
24 Office Director, ICE; Adrian P. Macias, El Paso
25 Field Director, ICE; Frances M. Jackson, El Paso
26 Assistant Field Office Director, ICE; Kirstjen
27 Nielsen, Secretary of DHS; Jefferson Beauregard
28 Sessions III, Attorney General of the United
States; L. Francis Cissna, Director of USCIS;
Kevin K. McAleenan, Acting Commissioner of
CBP; Pete Flores, San Diego Field Director,
CBP; Hector A. Mancha Jr., El Paso Field
Director, CBP; Alex Azar, Secretary of the
Department of Health and Human Services;
Scott Lloyd, Director of the Office of Refugee
Resettlement,

DECLARATION OF LAURA RIVERA

CLASS ACTION

Respondents-Defendants.

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2 Judy Rabinovitz*
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9 *Additional counsel on next page*

**Admitted Pro Hac Vice*

10 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
11 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

11 Ms. L., et al.,

12 *Petitioners-Plaintiffs,*

Case No. 18-cv-00428-DMS-MDD

13 v.

14 U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
15 ("ICE"); U.S. Department of Homeland Security
16 ("DHS"); U.S. Customs and Border Protection
17 ("CBP"); U.S. Citizenship and Immigration
18 Services ("USCIS"); U.S. Department of Health
19 and Human Services ("HHS"); Office of
20 Refugee Resettlement ("ORR"); Thomas
21 Homan, Acting Director of ICE; Greg
22 Archambeault, San Diego Field Office Director,
23 ICE; Joseph Greene, San Diego Assistant Field
24 Office Director, ICE; Adrian P. Macias, El Paso
25 Field Director, ICE; Frances M. Jackson, El Paso
26 Assistant Field Office Director, ICE; Kirstjen
27 Nielsen, Secretary of DHS; Jefferson Beauregard
Sessions III, Attorney General of the United
States; L. Francis Cissna, Director of USCIS;
Kevin K. McAleenan, Acting Commissioner of
CBP; Pete Flores, San Diego Field Director,
CBP; Hector A. Mancha Jr., El Paso Field
Director, CBP; Alex Azar, Secretary of the
Department of Health and Human Services;
Scott Lloyd, Director of the Office of Refugee
Resettlement,

**DECLARATION OF LAURA
RIVERA**

CLASS ACTION

28 *Respondents-Defendants.*

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1 I, Laura Rivera, make the following declaration based on my personal
2 knowledge and declare under the penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 that
3 the following is true and correct:
4

5 1. I am a Staff Attorney at the Southern Poverty Law Center’s Immigrant Justice
6 Project (“SPLC”). I am an active member of the State Bar of Georgia.
7

8 2. My office represents several fathers who were transferred from Folkston
9 Processing Center in Folkston, Georgia, to Port Isabel Detention Center (“PIDC”) in
10 Los Fresnos, Texas, to be reunited with their children.
11

12 3. On Tuesday, 7/17/18, and Thursday, 7/19/18, I called PIDC’s main number
13 (956-547-1700). I was prompted to press “6.” I spoke with an operator in the control
14 center. Each time, I requested instructions for scheduling a legal phone call with a
15 client. Each time, the response was that PIDC does not have a process to schedule
16 legal phone calls. Instead, the operator informed me, the control center operator on
17 duty would take my name and phone number and have a guard pass it along to the
18 detainee. Then the detained person would have to call me from any of the phones
19 inside the housing units, which are all monitored and/or recorded. The operator said
20 the only alternative for a confidential conversation is an in-person visit.
21
22

23 4. At least two of our clients have told us they cannot place phone calls to us from
24 the detention center. On Tuesday, 7/17/18, SPLC got a call from client and class
25 member A.G.F. He said that of the dozen or so men in his housing unit that had been
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1 moved from Folkston to PIDC, he was the only one who was able to place calls. He
2 said many had tried to place calls using their own Personal Identification Numbers
3 (“PINs”), but did not succeed. Mr. F. passed the phone to another client and class
4 member, J.C.A.A., who told me that he had been unable to call me because of the
5 restrictions on phone calls in the facility. On Thursday, 7/19/18, SIFI received a call
6 from client and class member A.F. He told SIFI that he had placed the call by using
7 another person’s PIN, because he was unable to place calls using his own.
8

9
10
11 5. On Thursday, 7/19/18, my colleague Gracie Willis attempted to speak with an
12 ICE officer regarding a client and class member, J.P.E., concerning whether he had a
13 final removal order. She dialed the main facility number (956-547-1700) and pressed
14 the option “3” for lawyers, and “6” for inquiring about a detainee. After several
15 attempts, she was not able to connect with anyone. She then dialed the control center
16 number (956-547-1765). The operator connected her to the extension 1800, where
17 there was no option to leave a voicemail. She called the control center again, and the
18 operator connected her to the extension for Mr. P.E.’s deportation officer, Officer
19 Robert Cantú. She left a message with Mr. P.E.’s name, A-number, her name, and a
20 call-back number, along with a request that if a G28 was not immediately available to
21 the DO, she would send one upon request. She has yet to receive a return call. Mr.
22 P.E. was released with no notice to Ms. Willis.
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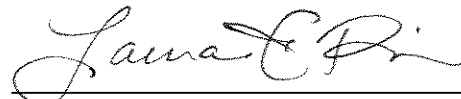
1 6. On Thursday, 7/19/18, Ms. Willis requested that another attorney, Jodi
2 Goodwin, near PIDC, meet with client and class member J.V.S. to collect paperwork
3 necessary for an emergency filing with the immigration court in Stewart Detention
4 Center. Ms. Goodwin was told that he was in processing to be released and that he
5 could not be brought to the lawyer's area. Ms. Goodwin returned on Friday, 7/20/18,
6 and attempted to meet with Mr. V.S. again. She was told he would not be released,
7 but was being processed to be moved to Karnes County Residential Center with his
8 child, and that he could not be brought to the lawyer's area. On Monday 7/23/18, Ms.
9 Willis received a reply email from the ICE Office of Chief Counsel in San Antonio
10 indicating that Mr. V.S. had been released on Saturday 7/21/18 without notice to Ms.
11 Willis.
12

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15
16 7. On Thursday, 7/19/18, I contacted the ICE Field Office in San Antonio to report
17 the problem detainees had placing phone calls from inside PIDC. The officer told me
18 there is no way that only some of the detainees were having trouble with their PINs –
19 outgoing calls were either disabled or not, but it would apply to all detainees. I then
20 spoke with a guard in a housing unit at PIDC, who told me PIDC was having some
21 problems with outgoing calls, and they had sent for someone to address the issue.
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1 8. On Tuesday, 7/24/18, SPLC received a phone call from a class member, E.R.L.,
2 who said that he had been transferred from Folkston and unable to use his PIN. He
3
4 said he was using someone else's PIN. He told us he had not spoken to his 6-year-old
5 child in 20 days and had not been given any information about reunification. He has
6
7 been given a piece of paper to sign in English and told it was his voluntary
8 deportation. He believed he was going to be removed without his child.
9

10
11 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of
12 America that the foregoing is true and correct, based on my personal knowledge.

13 Executed in Atlanta, Georgia, on July 25, 2018.
14

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17 LAURA RIVERA
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Exhibit 56

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2 Judy Rabinovitz*
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**Admitted Pro Hac Vice*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

Ms. L., et al.,

Petitioners-Plaintiffs,

v.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
("ICE"); et al.,

Respondents-Defendants.

Case No. 18-cv-00428-DMS-MDD

**DECLARATION OF
LAURA P. LUNN**

CLASS ACTION

1 I, Laura P. Lunn, make the following declaration based on my personal
2 knowledge and declare under the penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 that
3 the following is true and correct:

4 1. I am the Detention Program Managing Attorney at Rocky Mountain Immigrant
5 Advocacy Network. I am an active member of the State Bar of Oregon. I

6 2. My office represents, pro bono, two parents who were transferred from the
7 Denver Contract Detention Facility located in Aurora, Colorado to Port Isabel
8 Detention Center (“PIDC”) in Los Fresnos, Texas, to be reunited with their children.

9 3. My office placed about a dozen cases with pro bono counsel of other parents
10 who were at the Denver Contract Detention Facility who are designated class
11 members. Those Class Members were also transferred to the Port Isabel Detention
12 Center.

13 4. On July 19, 2018 I attended a master calendar hearing before the Executive
14 Office for Immigration Review with my client, who is a Class Member. The
15 Immigration Judge notified me that the Department of Homeland Security had filed a
16 notice indicating that the Department intended to transfer my client on July 20, 2018. I
17 was not told where my client would be transferred. I subsequently spoke to
18 Enforcement and Removal Operations for Immigration and Customs Enforcement,
19 asking them not to transfer my client.

20 5. On the evening of July 19, 2018, I met with my client as well as a second client
21 who is impacted by the family separation policy and is a designated class member. I
22 provided them with my cell phone number and asked them to call me as soon as they
23 had the opportunity.

24 6. On July 20, 2018, I called the Denver Contract Detention Facility and was told I
25 could not speak to my client because she was no longer there. I then asked to speak
26 with my second client and was informed that she was no longer at the Denver
27 Contract Detention Facility. I confirmed with the Department of Homeland Security
28

1 on the ground. At 3:00 am on July 24, 2018, she was awakened and taken to reunite
2 with her son.

3 11. Today is July 25, 2018 and I have yet to speak with my second client since she
4 was taken from the Denver Contract Detention Facility. The last time we spoke was
5 on July 19, 2018 when I warned her that she may be transferred. On July 24, 2018, an
6 attorney attempted to visit her at the Port Isabel Detention Center, but he was told that
7 she was no longer detained. I then checked the ICE detainee locator, which said she
8 was still located at the Port Isabel Detention Center. I also confirmed with the Office
9 of Chief Counsel that she is still detained in Port Isabel. The pro bono attorney who I
10 asked to visit my client intends to visit her today. I have tried reaching her on two
11 separate phone numbers listed for Enforcement and Removal Operations in Port
12 Isabel, but no one answers the phone and the mailbox is full. I am unable to leave a
13 voicemail requesting that my client be permitted to contact me. I have received no
14 updates about her procedural posture, about the Department of Homeland Security's
15 intentions regarding her continued detention or possible release, and I have yet to
16 connect with her son's case worker to determine his whereabouts.

17
18 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of
19 America that the foregoing is true and correct, based on my personal knowledge.
20 Executed in Westminster, Colorado, on July 25, 2018.

21
22 
23 Laura Patricia Lunn

Exhibit 57

1 Lee Gelernt*
2 Judy Rabinovitz*
3 Anand Balakrishnan*
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8 *Attorneys for Petitioners-Plaintiffs*
9 *Additional counsel on next page*

**Admitted Pro Hac Vice*

10 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
11 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

12 Ms. L. et al.,

13 *Petitioners-Plaintiffs,*

14 v.

15 U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
16 (“ICE”); U.S. Department of Homeland Security
17 (“DHS”); U.S. Customs and Border Protection
18 (“CBP”); U.S. Citizenship and Immigration
19 Services (“USCIS”); U.S. Department of Health
20 and Human Services (“HHS”); Office of
21 Refugee Resettlement (“ORR”); Thomas
22 Homan, Acting Director of ICE; Greg
23 Archambeault, San Diego Field Office Director,
24 ICE; Joseph Greene, San Diego Assistant Field
25 Office Director, ICE; Adrian P. Macias, El Paso
26 Field Director, ICE; Frances M. Jackson, El Paso
27 Assistant Field Office Director, ICE; Kirstjen
28 Nielsen, Secretary of DHS; Jefferson Beauregard
Sessions III, Attorney General of the United
States; L. Francis Cissna, Director of USCIS;
Kevin K. McAleenan, Acting Commissioner of
CBP; Pete Flores, San Diego Field Director,
CBP; Hector A. Mancha Jr., El Paso Field
Director, CBP; Alex Azar, Secretary of the
Department of Health and Human Services;
Scott Lloyd, Director of the Office of Refugee
Resettlement,

Respondents-Defendants.

Case No. 18-cv-00428-DMS-
MDD

Date Filed: June 25, 2018

**DECLARATION OF MANOJ
GOVINDAIAH**

Class Action

NO HEARING DATE

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1 1. I, Manoj Govindaiah, make the following declaration based on my personal
2 knowledge and declare under the penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746
3 that the following is true and correct:

4 2. I am an attorney and the Director of Family Detention Services at RAICES.
5 I oversee a staff of approximately 10 employees and supervise all of RAICES'
6 immigrant family detention work. RAICES runs the Karnes Pro Bono Project, a
7 nationwide pro bono project that provides legal services to families detained in ICE
8 custody at the Karnes County Residential Center ("Karnes detention center" or
9 "Karnes"), in Karnes City, Texas. We represent approximately 90% of the families
10 at Karnes.

11 3. Since the Karnes detention center opened in August 2014, it has exclusively
12 held mothers and children, most of whom had been recently apprehended and had
13 never been separated. That changed on or about July 15, 2018, when families who
14 had been separated and were now being reunified pursuant to the *Ms. L* injunction
15 began arriving at the Karnes detention center. These families included mothers
16 reunified with their children, as well as fathers reunified with their children. On or
17 about July 17, all of the mothers and their children were transferred to the family
18 detention center in Dilley, Texas. As of yesterday, we are aware of approximately
19 55 families (fathers reunified with their children) held at Karnes.

20 4. We received no notice from ICE that these reunited families had arrived in
21 the facility. We only knew about their arrival because of our presence in the
22 facility.

23 5. We are now anticipating the arrival of hundreds of reunited families at
24 Karnes. Beyond this general sense, we have received no specific information about
25 who will arrive, how many people, when, or the procedural posture of the parents'
26 or children's cases.

27 6. I want to be clear: We at RAICES are ready to work around the clock to
28 represent these families, and can depend on the commitment of pro bono support

1 from across the United States. We have recruited and trained large numbers of pro
2 bono attorneys who are standing by and awaiting our word as to their involvement.
3 However, no matter how many competent or experienced lawyers we have, without
4 sufficient time it is simply impossible for these families to get the advice and
5 counsel they need, given the space constraints in the detention facility and the
6 unique and complex needs of this population.

7 7. In the past week, we have better learned the needs of reunited families and
8 the effect that the trauma of these separations has on a lawyer's ability to efficiently
9 and accurately advise families to ensure that they have accurately understood their
10 rights under the injunction.

11 8. Based on our recent experience, I am concerned that not even seven days will
12 be sufficient to meet with and advise the hundreds of detained families that we are
13 expecting to arrive at Karnes.

14 9. When we first learned that some subset of reunified families would
15 potentially be sent to Karnes, while other reunified families would be reunified and
16 released, we believed that most of these families sent to Karnes would have final
17 orders of expedited removal – having failed a credible fear interview and a
18 subsequent IJ review of that decision. We therefore believed that for most parents
19 the principal remaining legal option, should they want to challenge removal, would
20 be to request reconsideration of their credible fear denial (i.e., the opportunity for a
21 new interview). Moreover, we did not know the extent to which parents had made
22 unknowing or involuntary waivers of their rights to immigration relief, or their
23 children's rights to relief.

24 10. The past week has demonstrated a very different picture. First, many of the
25 families who are being moved to Karnes are not at a final stage of the CFI process.
26 And second, many have not made a knowing, intelligent, and voluntary waiver of
27 their right to seek asylum.

28

1 11. Of full intakes of 18 reunified families done on Friday July 20, 2018, 10 had
2 never even begun the CFI process, and 4 had not yet completed the IJ review
3 process, because they believed they had to waive their right to review in order to
4 speed up reunification with their children. Only 3 class members were actually at
5 the request for reconsideration stage. The final class member had already been
6 placed in removal proceedings, outside of the expedited removal process.

7 12. This immediately changed the nature of the counseling that the population
8 would require and the time such counseling would reasonably be expected to take.

9 13. *First*, the relative complexity of the parents' immigration cases -- coupled
10 with their lack of paperwork and knowledge about their cases -- creates significant
11 delays in the counseling process.

12 14. The fact that parents fall in different stages of expedited removal proceedings
13 (or even 240 proceedings, as in one case), makes it more difficult to advise parents
14 to their rights. It creates a greater set of options that the parent must understand. At
15 the most basic level, both the parent and lawyer need to know what stage of the
16 process family members are in. Our experience over the past week has
17 demonstrated that most parents do not have a clear understanding of the procedural
18 history of their cases and often do not even know if they received a credible fear
19 hearing, or an Immigration Judge hearing.

20 15. Compounding the confusion, many parents do not have any paperwork from
21 either their or their children's proceedings, and if they do, it is incomplete or
22 outdated. Parents have said that while they did have the paperwork at some point in
23 the past, they either lost it or it was taken from them in the course of transfers.
24 Many children do not have any paperwork or records from their time separated
25 from their parents.

26 16. The confusion and lack of records creates significant delays in counseling,
27 because lawyers cannot rely on a family's recollection about their proceedings, but
28 instead must perform independent investigation.

1 17. This is compounded by the fact that most of the parents who have arrived at
2 Karnes for reunification have not met with lawyers before. Indeed, because many
3 have been transferred multiple times between detention centers, it would have been
4 difficult for a lawyer to meet with them, and then keep in communication with
5 them.

6 18. For example, a RAICES staff member asked one father – who did not have
7 any paperwork with him when he was reunified – if he had seen an immigration
8 judge or asylum officer, and he said yes. Later, when our staff was able to get a
9 copy of his immigration records, we learned that he had not seen an immigration
10 judge or an asylum officer, but had been criminally prosecuted for illegal entry, and
11 was confusing his criminal case and his immigration case. Without our having
12 found his immigration files, no lawyer could have accurately advised him as to his
13 rights whether under immigration law or this court’s injunction.

14 19. Another father told us he had his credible fear interview in Spanish, even
15 though he speaks Mam, but we later confirmed that he had actually already
16 concluded the credible fear process and the event he believed was an interview was
17 in fact a master calendar hearing in removal proceedings.

18 20. Our investigation of a case’s procedural history typically requires a detailed
19 interview of the individual, and contacting both ICE and USCIS. Because ICE and
20 USCIS offices at Karnes are only open between 8 A.M. and 3 P.M., this work can
21 only be done on weekdays, and not weekends. And because interviews must be
22 interrupted and then begun again after receiving relevant and accurate information,
23 the time necessary to counsel families expands.

24 21. *Second*, because parents and children have separate proceedings, this creates
25 a need for additional time. Lawyers for the family must consult with the child’s
26 lawyer or prior child advocate, who may be in another part of the United States.
27 After finding the child’s lawyer or advocate and consulting with them, the lawyers
28 must then explain the child’s choices to the parent. Because of the varying

1 proceedings and procedural postures, our staff at Karnes also needs to speak with
2 the children in addition to their parents, to fully uncover the child's wishes.

3 22. Multiple parents have told me that they were only able to speak to their
4 children once on the phone before being reunited transferred to Karnes. Even
5 where there was a second or even third call over a two month period of separation,
6 they were short – sometimes less than five minutes in length – and parents spent
7 them comforting their children. These calls were recorded, and so some parents did
8 not even feel comfortable speaking openly with their child.

9 23. *Third*, the trauma of separation, and the emotions that these families are
10 experiencing immediately upon reunification, creates an atmosphere where legal
11 advisals require even more time.

12 24. I want to provide a snapshot of what providing legal advice looks like after
13 families have been reunified in detention, drawn from my experiences on July 22
14 when I personally counseled families who been reunified and detained at the
15 Karnes detention center for at least two days.

16 25. The first thing I noticed was that children did not want to leave their father's
17 side. Typically when families enter the visitation room, the children go to one side
18 of the open space where there are toys, books, and a television, while we meet with
19 the parent in one of the private visitation rooms. The ability to interview the parent
20 by themselves is crucial for our provision of legal services since parents are
21 typically unlikely to fully disclose abuse, trauma or persecution that they have
22 experienced in front of their children. Without even knowing if they have this
23 information, it is impossible to even advise them as to whether they can raise a
24 credible fear claim, if they haven't, or if they should exercise their right to
25 challenge a credible fear denial.

26 26. On July 22, however, nearly all the children refused to play with the toys or
27 watch television. They wanted to stay with their fathers at all times. Several young
28 boys—between ages 6-8—sat on their father's laps at various points of our

1 meetings despite them having their own seat in the visitation room. Another boy, I
2 believe age 13, asked numerous questions of me, many focused on whether he
3 would be separated from his dad.

4 27. The relationship between parents and their children has clearly been
5 complicated by separation. Parents have reported to us that their children look
6 different than before. They have said that their children have grown, are thinner,
7 don't act the same. I have seen children that have appeared angry at their fathers,
8 but simultaneously relieved to be with them. This means that we are attempting to
9 talk to a family at the same time they are relearning how to communicate with each
10 other.

11 28. The experience of separation has also inculcated families with skepticism and
12 distrust to a level that far exceeds any that I have previously experienced with our
13 clients. Many fathers needed extended coaxing in order to believe that I was not
14 there to take their children away from them. One father asked me multiple times to
15 prove who I was (when I introduced myself as a lawyer from RAICES), and
16 showing him my bar card, my business card, and my driver's license was
17 insufficient. It was only when I went through our database and listed the names of
18 all the RAICES staff and volunteers that I believe he had previously met with that
19 he appeared to believe I was who I said I was. At the conclusion of our meeting,
20 when I asked him why he was distrustful of me at first, he said something along the
21 lines of since he and his son entered this country, they have been lied to, that he
22 doesn't know who is government and who isn't, and now that he has his son back,
23 he will not let his son go anywhere without him.

24 29. Trauma has made it difficult for parents to even comprehend or focus on
25 what lawyers advise. One father could not comprehend anything I was saying.
26 Any statement I made would elicit a response of "but my son and I can stay
27 together, right?" When we discussed his legal options, his repeated response was
28 "but as long as I'm with my son, I'll be ok. I'll be with my son that whole time,

1 right?” The meeting ended without any meaningful information being developed
2 from the client or advice being provided because the father could not move past his
3 fear of re-separation.

4 30. Meetings with at least two fathers ended unproductively because they were
5 too emotional to continue. In one case, we had been discussing the complicated
6 procedural posture of the father’s and his son’s cases, that he had received a
7 negative expedited removal order and was facing deportation, while his son could
8 still apply for asylum. When he asked for clarification of what that meant, I
9 explained that it could result in his son remaining in the United States without him.
10 We could not complete our meeting because his crying prevented us from
11 effectively discussing his legal case. We of course scheduled another meeting, but
12 without a second visit, I cannot say that these families understand their choices.

13 31. The trauma these families have experienced as a result of the separation
14 cannot be underestimated. Typically, we can proceed through an initial meeting
15 with a detained family relatively quickly; this process includes asking basic intake
16 questions, assessing their legal options, and educating them about the credible fear
17 process.

18 32. With these families, the complexity of the case and the trauma have
19 combined to create a very slow process. Each dad appears to be in a unique
20 procedural posture, and each child is in a different procedural posture. Many of the
21 parents have indicated that they may have initially agreed to deportation, but only
22 because they incorrectly believed it was the fastest way to get their children back.
23 Others had all but given up hope of fighting their cases, until they had an
24 opportunity to be reunited with their children, and now want to pursue their cases.

25 33. But these decisions are taking time: families are just reacquainting
26 themselves with their children after weeks or months of separation, and – on top of
27 the confusion and lack of information about the legal system – are having difficulty
28 focusing on the decisions they have to make.

1 34. These discussions cannot occur over a single meeting in many instances, and
2 decisions are taking more than a meeting, and are stretching over multiple days.

3 35. Space constraints make this slow process even slower. In the visitation area
4 at Karnes, there is an open visitation room with several tables and chairs where we
5 can meet with clients. However meeting with clients in the open area means that no
6 conversations are confidential, since other detainees and GEO staff are regularly
7 present and nearby in the open area. ICE staff may also be present in the visitation
8 area and may overhear conversations.

9 36. Within the larger visitation area, there are five confidential meeting rooms,
10 and only 4 have telephones. Karnes has placed an occupancy restriction on the
11 private rooms--three rooms are limited to four people (so that means parent and
12 child, plus an attorney, and you are already at 3. If there is a team of attorneys, or
13 law students or in person interpreters helping, that may not be permissible). Two of
14 the confidential meeting rooms allow for up to 7 people.

15 37. Generally, the maximum number of pro bono attorneys and volunteers and
16 RAICES staff that can be accommodated in the visitation area (including individual
17 visitation rooms and the group area) is around 17. Any more than that and the lack
18 of meeting space, especially confidential meeting space, becomes very apparent.
19 Without sufficient phones or meeting space, it is difficult to use pro bono attorneys
20 and volunteers in an efficient manner.

21 38. Language difficulties compound the space issues. Although our staff is
22 bilingual in English and Spanish, some Ms. L class members speak indigenous
23 languages. We are currently working with Ms. L class members who speak Mam,
24 Ixil, Lxil, and Kiche. We therefore need to arrange for interpreters in these
25 languages, often by phone. Given that there are only 4 confidential meeting rooms
26 with phones, if we are working with telephonic interpreters often we have no
27 confidential meeting space to meet with any of our remaining clients.
28

1 39. Even *if* the entirety of Karnes is used only for Ms. L class members, there
2 will be space issues. This will come, in part, because the counseling of the
3 hundreds of families will have to happen in parallel with whatever representation
4 occurs of parents who choose to reinstate their rights to challenge removal.

5 40. For example, we have seen parents who have waived their right to a credible
6 fear hearing or an IJ review of a negative credible fear determination only to want
7 to reinstate those rights after being reunified with their child and learning for the
8 first time that they can remain reunified while they seek to stay in the United States.
9 In these cases, after we determine that the parent wishes to continue to litigate their
10 immigration case, and we alert the asylum office (as to a credible fear claim) or the
11 immigration court, those families may remain detained at Karnes.

12 41. Once a request for a CFI or IJ hearing is made, an individual's removal is
13 stayed until the process ends. If the person remains detained through the stay, then
14 lawyers will work to represent them in their credible fear proceedings and IJ
15 reviews, as we do with all of other detained family clients outside of the Ms. L
16 injunction. Because of the trauma separated families have experienced,
17 representation is more important – without significant time developing their
18 testimony and overcoming the emotions resulting from separation, a fair hearing
19 will be extremely difficult. Representation through this process requires drafting
20 detailed declarations with the class member and potentially their family, gathering
21 country conditions documents, and often putting together written arguments.

22 42. These must be done in in-person meetings in the facility itself, and they must
23 be done quickly. For example, a credible fear hearing is typically scheduled within
24 3 or 4 days of the request being made. And pursuant to 8 U.S.C. §
25 1225(b)(1)(B)(iii)(III), IJ review must take place within 7 days of the detainee's
26 receipt of a negative credible fear finding.

27 43. The lawyers who are working to represent families in their actual
28 immigration proceedings will be “competing” for space with the lawyers who are

1 doing the screening and counseling the reunified families to determine what their
2 options are under the Ms. L injunction.

3 44. These problems are compounded by the fact that we do not get notice of
4 when a reunified family arrives at Karnes, and that it usually takes more than a day
5 between a family's arrival and when we hear about them and can arrange for a legal
6 consultation. Part of the delay is attributable to the fact that when families arrive at
7 Karnes, there are put through an institutional intake process that involves medical
8 screenings and orientations that can take several hours. Thus, if families arrive on a
9 Thursday morning it will not be until sometime on Friday that we will even be able
10 to speak to them.

11 45. There are many factors involved in projecting how long it will take to advise
12 the hundreds of reunified families who are arriving at Karnes. Some of these are
13 legal: The relatively complex procedural histories of parents, the separate
14 proceedings of the children, the lack of documentation and confusion about where
15 parents are in the expedited removal process, and the recurring pattern that parents
16 have not pursued their rights to relief in the belief that to do so would delay
17 reunification. Some of the factors are personal to the families who have gone
18 through separation and reunification: the need for parents and children to
19 reacclimatize to their relationships after months spent apart, and the sequelae of the
20 trauma, which interferes with the counseling process. Others are specific to the
21 space that lawyers and advocates have to work with in a detention center. When
22 taken together, it is unlikely that even a period of seven days will allow for
23 adequate counseling to ensure that the Court's injunction has been implemented as
24 intended and that families have made choices with a proper understanding of their
25 rights.

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Antonio, Texas.



MANOJ GOVINDAIAH