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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
EASTERN DIVISION**

IMMIGRANT DEFENDERS LAW CENTER,
et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

CHAD WOLF, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:20-cv-09893-JGB-SHK

DECLARATION OF JESSICA DOE

1 I, Jessica Doe, hereby declare under the penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §
2 1746:

3 1. I make this declaration based on my personal knowledge except where I
4 have indicated otherwise. If called as a witness, I could and would testify competently
5 and truthfully to these matters.

6 2. I am 41 years old and was born in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. I am
7 married to Benjamin Doe, who is also a plaintiff in this case. We have three sons
8 together; they are seventeen, twelve, and five years old. I also have a 21-year-old son.

9 3. On June 2, 2019, my family and I left Honduras after receiving death
10 threats from the gangs MS-13 and Mara 18. Members of MS-13 shot my husband and
11 then later killed my brother thinking that he was my husband. Gang members also
12 tried to recruit my oldest son. When we reported the danger to the police and the local
13 Office of Human Rights in Honduras, they told us that they could not help us. The
14 Office of Human Rights advised us to leave the country.

15 4. On October 7, 2019, my family and I crossed the Rio Colorado into the
16 United States to seek asylum. U.S. immigration took us into custody and detained us
17 for one day and two nights in the “hielera.” We asked to seek asylum, but U.S.
18 immigration sent us back to Mexico and gave us a court date for February 28, 2020.
19 They gave us a list of attorneys that they said we could call to try to get help with our
20 case.

21 5. My oldest son was separated from us after we crossed the border. He
22 was sent to a detention center in the United States, and after about six months of being
23 detained, he gave up hope and accepted deportation to Honduras. He got sick in
24 detention and did not receive proper medical treatment. In Honduras, he lives in
25 hiding because of the danger that our family faces.

26 6. When we were returned to Tijuana, Mexico, we did not know what to do.
27 We did not have anywhere to go. We had given immigration officers our phone
28 number, but we did not know how to find a place to stay or how to buy food for our

1 children. We stayed for many months at a shelter called Movimiento Juventud 2000.
2 The shelter was crowded, uncomfortable, and very hard on our family. All five of us
3 slept in a single tent.

4 7. While we were at the shelter, our twelve-year-old son got chicken pox.
5 We could not afford to bring him to a private clinic, so we waited for volunteer
6 doctors to come see him. It was so hard for me to watch my son suffer while we
7 waited for medical treatment.

8 8. Around the end of June 2020, we were able to move into a small two-
9 bedroom apartment that we shared with about 15 other people. The apartment was
10 dirty and crowded. There were cockroaches. My husband I both worked cleaning
11 buildings six days a week. We paid a woman we lived with to watch our children
12 while we were working.

13 9. It was very difficult for us to find work because we did not have work
14 permits. It is hard to get a job without permanent residence or a work permit in
15 Mexico. Additionally, our visitor identification documents, which are our only forms
16 of photo identification from the Mexican government, expired on August 5, 2020. We
17 have tried to renew these documents several times, but all of the offices are closed for
18 COVID. We have called immigration many times to try to get the visas renewed, but
19 no one answers the phone. We traveled to the San Ysidro port of entry in June 2020
20 to get new Formas Migratoria Multiple (FMMs), which are valid for 180 days.

21 10. In July 2020, my oldest son began to receive threats from a cartel. They
22 tried to kidnap him. We went to the Mexican police, who told us that they would call
23 us once an agent had been assigned to our case. No one called us, so we went back in
24 person to follow up. They told us we would have to keep waiting because that was the
25 law. I asked if we would have to wait until they kidnapped our son to get help? And
26 the receptionist said yes, that is how the law is in Mexico. We never received a call,
27 and as far as we know no one was assigned to our case.

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1 11. After the threats to our son began, I stopped working so I could be with
2 my children and keep them safe. With only my husband working, we began to worry
3 more and more about supporting our children. Because of the danger we were in, a
4 nonprofit provided us with housing at the beginning of September 2020. We felt much
5 safer in that housing than we did at the shelter or the apartment, but the housing was
6 only temporary. Recently, we moved out of the housing into the home of a local
7 pastor. Our family shares one bedroom. In the future, I do not know where we will
8 go, how we will pay for food, or how we will keep my son safe. My husband and I
9 sometimes feel hopeless.

10 12. We also feel confused about what is happening with our asylum case.
11 We had one hearing on February 28, 2020. We had to arrive at the bridge at 3 AM
12 with our whole family, to make sure we were there by 4 AM when immigration
13 officials called us. Our pastor friend gave us a ride. You have to be very punctual or
14 else immigration officials will not take you to your hearing. The judge told us to
15 bring an attorney to court with us at our next date and gave us a paper with the names
16 and phone numbers of lawyers. We called every number. Only one organization
17 answered, and said they would call me back but they never did. None of the other
18 lawyers answered the phone when we called.

19 13. Luckily, a friend gave us the phone number for her immigration attorney.
20 That attorney was not able to take our case, but she referred us to an attorney who
21 began representing us in March 2020. We are so grateful because we see many people
22 who never find an attorney.

23 14. At our hearing in February, we were given a paper that told us that our
24 next hearing would be on March 31, 2020. Our lawyer called us to let us know that
25 the hearing was cancelled and that we had a new hearing date of April 28, 2020. But
26 we did not have court on April 28- we were rescheduled for July 16, 2020; then
27 August 27, 2020; then October 15, 2020; and finally December 10, 2020. Our lawyer
28 tells us that it is not likely that we will have a hearing on that date because the court is

1 not open. The U.S. government has never given us any notice that our hearing date
2 was moved. Each time it was moved, we only knew because our lawyer told us.

3 15. We have never met our attorney in person. It is difficult to work
4 remotely with an attorney because it is hard to explain everything by phone when we
5 are talking about such sensitive subjects. It is also hard because I am always with my
6 children, and I do not want to discuss painful subjects in front of them. Additionally,
7 my husband and I share a cell phone, so I can only communicate with our attorney
8 when he is home from work.

9 16. We are afraid in Mexico. Our son is in great danger. Our lawyer has
10 tried to help us get an interview to be allowed to seek asylum from inside the United
11 States, but U.S. immigration has refused to interview us or review our parole
12 applications.

13 17. If we are allowed to go to the United States, we will live in Georgia. My
14 husband's aunt has agreed to let us live with her and support us while we seek asylum.

15 18. My children want a stable life. They want to be free; for them, it is not a
16 life to be locked up in our house. It is too dangerous for them to go outside. It is also
17 hard for me to stay inside almost all of the time. I am losing hope, and sometimes I
18 feel sick because I am so hopeless. Sometimes I even want to give up on our case, but
19 I know I can't do that because there is no other way for us to find safety.

20 19. Given the threats I received in my country, I fear that if my identity and
21 my status as an asylum applicant are released to the public, my life and possibly that
22 of my family will be in danger. I do not want my identity to be publicly disclosed,
23 and I wish to proceed with the use of a pseudonym in any federal action.

24 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of
25 America that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and
26 recollection. This declaration was read back to me in Spanish, a language in which I
27 am fluent.

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Executed on October 21, 2020 at Tijuana, Mexico.

Jessica Doe

JESSICA DOE

CERTIFICATION

I, Jordan Cunnings, declare that I am fluent in the English and Spanish languages.

On October 21, 2020, I read the foregoing declaration and orally translated it faithfully and accurately into Spanish in the presence of the declarant. After I finished translating the foregoing declaration, the declarant verified that the contents of the declaration are true and accurate.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on October 21, 2020 at Portland, Oregon, United States.



JORDAN CUNNINGS