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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 ANTHONY DOE**

1 I, Anthony 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. If called as a  
4 witness, I could and would testify competently and truthfully to these matters.

5 2. I am twenty-two years old and a citizen of Cuba.

6 3. I fled my home country because my life was in danger. I am a member  
7 of the opposition group Movimiento X Cuba, which opposes the Cuban  
8 government. I have been arrested several times in Cuba because of my anti-  
9 government activities, and was imprisoned for refusing to participate in compulsory  
10 military service.

11 4. If I am sent back to my country, I fear that I will be arrested, tortured,  
12 and kidnapped by the Cuban government.

13 5. I crossed the U.S.-Mexico border around September 19, 2019 through  
14 Tijuana. After I crossed the border and was approached by U.S. immigration  
15 officials, I told them that I was seeking political asylum. I was detained for two or  
16 three days and the officials said I was being put in a program called MPP, and that I  
17 would have to wait for my first court date with the immigration judge in Mexico.  
18 The U.S. immigration officials gave me a piece of paper that said my first court date  
19 would be on October 8, 2019 at 7:30 a.m. and that I would have to arrive at the San  
20 Ysidro Port of Entry at 4:30 a.m. that day to attend my hearing. They did not tell  
21 me where I was supposed to live or how I was supposed to take care of myself in  
22 Mexico.

23 6. In Mexico, I did not know where I could live or what to do. I had a little  
24 bit of money, so I stayed at a hotel for a couple of nights and started looking for a  
25 place to live. I also started looking for work as quickly as I could so that I had a  
26 way to support myself. It was very hard to find a job because employers did not  
27 believe that I had permission to work in Mexico. They all asked me for a work  
28

1 permit, and they did not accept the documents that the Mexican officials had  
2 provided me as proof of eligibility to work.

3 7. Eventually, I was able to find a job at a restaurant washing dishes. This  
4 allowed me to save enough money to rent an apartment. The neighborhood was  
5 dangerous, and I was afraid of going to work. I had to wake up early in the morning  
6 to get to work – that is when a lot of the drug addicts would be out in the street. I  
7 was afraid of being assaulted by someone every day on the way to work.

8 8. I was fired from my job when the coronavirus pandemic began. All of  
9 the non-Mexicans were let go first when business slowed down. When I lost my  
10 job, I could no longer pay rent and had to look for another place to stay. I worked  
11 for a little while as a bicycle messenger, but the pay was so low I couldn't afford to  
12 rent an apartment.

13 9. For the last four months, a group called the Border Line Crisis Center  
14 has been letting me live in their church in Tijuana. I have to pay the church money  
15 (about 20 Mexican pesos a day) to stay here. There are other migrants who live in  
16 the church with me—some temporarily and others for longer periods of time. There  
17 are typically three to ten other people living in the church on any given day. The  
18 church provides us with a place to shower, a mattress, and a place to put our things.  
19 They also give us a little bit of food, but it is not enough to get by. Unless I buy  
20 extra food, I am hungry. They also have very strict rules. The doors to the church  
21 close at 6 p.m. and you cannot get in the church after that time. The area is very  
22 dangerous, so I worry a lot about going outside. There is a lot of drug activity here.  
23 There are also frequent shootings, kidnappings, and other crimes that happen in this  
24 area. You can go to sleep at night and all of the sudden, you wake up hearing  
25 “Bang! Bang! Bang!” echoing around the church from gunshots outside.

26 10. I was recently able to get a job at a food stand, selling drinks and food  
27 and doing other small tasks, like washing dishes, mopping the floor, going out to get  
28 supplies, and whatever else was needed. I do not work consistently – it just depends

1 on when the food stand owner calls me – so I do not get paid a consistent amount  
2 from this work. I feel I do not have any other options for a better job here.

3 11. I have also been robbed at least three times since I have been in Mexico  
4 and people have tried to assault me countless times. One time, when I was held up  
5 at gunpoint and robbed, the attackers took all of my money and everything I had.  
6 They took my phone, which contained information related to my asylum case. I was  
7 not able to access some of that information after getting robbed.

8 12. There are some men in my neighborhood who act like they own the  
9 area. They use extortion and threaten to kill people if they don't give them money.  
10 The third time I was assaulted they told me that if I didn't pay them, I knew what  
11 would happen next. It is very dangerous to be here. You get up every day and you  
12 don't know if you will be alive at the end of the day.

13 13. I did not go to the police. It's useless - like going to speak to a statue. I  
14 know this from the experience of my friends. Even if you file a police report and  
15 they catch the perpetrator of the crime, the perpetrator can just pay them off to be  
16 released and then come look for you. I did not want to take that risk. The police  
17 will also demand money from you in order to help you. If you don't pay, they don't  
18 help you. I have also heard that police plant drugs on you if you don't pay them.

19 14. Because of the dangers I have faced in Mexico, I told the immigration  
20 judge at one of my hearings that I was afraid to be in Mexico. U.S. immigration  
21 officials detained me for two or three days and interviewed me. They took me to a  
22 room where there was a phone and a table and a camera on the wall. The phone  
23 rings and you have to answer it, but you don't know who you are talking to. The  
24 person who is on the other end of the phone asks questions and tells you to only  
25 respond to the questions they ask, nothing more. I told the person about my fear of  
26 being in Mexico. I did not pass the interview and they returned me to Mexico.

27 15. I have also tried to find an attorney who can represent me in my  
28 immigration case in Mexico, but I have been unable to find one. When I was first

1 returned to Mexico and during my first hearing, I was given a list of attorneys who  
2 might be able to help me on my case. I called the numbers on the list, but no one  
3 answered the phone or accepted my case. It was very difficult for me to prepare my  
4 asylum application without an attorney or anyone to help me.

5 16. I ended up asking an acquaintance in the United States who speaks  
6 English to help me complete my asylum application. The application is all in  
7 English and I do not speak English. The acquaintance who helped me is not a  
8 lawyer and he is not familiar with U.S. immigration law, but he was the only person  
9 I could find who was willing to help. He would ask me the questions on the asylum  
10 application in Spanish and I would give him my response in Spanish back to him.  
11 He then translated those responses into English for me. Because I do not speak  
12 English; I had to trust the he read me the questions correctly, wrote what I told him,  
13 and was accurate in what he read back to me. I submitted this application to the  
14 immigration judge during one of my hearings.

15 17. I still want to find a lawyer to take my immigration case, but I do not  
16 know who to talk to or where to go to find one. It has been so difficult and  
17 exhausting to go through the immigration process from Mexico. I have no family or  
18 friends who are attorneys who can explain the process to me or tell me if I am doing  
19 things correctly. I try to watch videos on YouTube from a lawyer in San Diego to  
20 teach myself about U.S. immigration law and the immigration process.

21 18. A friend of mine also connected me with a U.S.-based immigration  
22 attorney. I spoke to her on the phone and when I told her I am in Mexico, she said  
23 that she would have been able to help me if I was inside the United States.

24 19. I have not been able to speak with any attorneys when I was inside the  
25 United States for my hearings. I have not seen or talked to any lawyers in the  
26 immigration court who might be able to help me or provide me with information. I  
27 did not have any opportunity to speak with any attorney when attending my  
28 hearings.

1           20. Even if I had an attorney for my immigration case, it would be difficult  
2 to communicate. My phone connection can be bad sometimes. There have been a  
3 few times when the attorney on this case has called me and we have been unable to  
4 talk because, even though I could hear her, she would say that my voice was coming  
5 out “grainy” and it was impossible to understand me. I have a lot of paperwork and  
6 documents related to my case. Many of the documents are in English, so I do not  
7 know how important they are and whether she needs them. I also need to buy extra  
8 minutes on my phone in order to communicate with her and there are additional  
9 costs to receive calls from the United States.

10           21. I have had three hearings so far for my immigration case in immigration  
11 court. My first hearing was on October 8, 2019 at 7:30 a.m. I had to arrive at the  
12 border at 4:30 a.m. to attend my hearing. At this hearing, the judge read me my  
13 rights, gave me some papers, and ordered me to return for my next hearing. The  
14 papers included an application for asylum, which is called Form I589, and a list of  
15 attorneys who the judge said might be able to help me with my case. When U.S.  
16 immigration officials returned me to Mexico on October 8, they handed me over to  
17 Mexican immigration. Mexican officials asked me when my next court date would  
18 be in the United States, and gave me a visa that allowed me to be in Mexico for up  
19 to 180 days, until April 5, 2020.

20           22. My second hearing was on October 29, 2019 at 1 p.m. At this hearing, I  
21 submitted my application for asylum to the immigration judge. When I gave the  
22 application to the judge, the judge glanced at it and stamped it with a seal. The  
23 judge told me to find a lawyer to help me. I told the judge I could not afford a  
24 lawyer and that no one on the list they gave me answered the phone.

25           23. My third hearing was on February 3, 2020. At that hearing, the judge  
26 again asked me if I had an attorney. I told him that I could not afford an attorney  
27 and that I tried calling the numbers on that list, but that I could not find anyone  
28 willing to represent me in Mexico. He asked me if I wanted more time or if I want

1 to continue with the process without an attorney. I said that I wanted more time.  
2 When I was taken back to the border, I was given another visa by Mexican  
3 immigration officials for up to 119-days, until my next hearing date on June 1,  
4 2020.

5 24. After the February 3, 2020, hearing, the prosecutor came up to me and  
6 told me that some parts of my application were not completed right and would have  
7 to be corrected. She told me that the evidence I submitted was not acceptable  
8 because the documents were not notarized.

9 25. When I got to the port of entry on June 1, 2020 for my next hearing, I  
10 saw some officials who were dressed in blue. They did not let me pass through and  
11 they told me that the court was closed. I went to the port of entry again on June 2,  
12 2020 to get more information. The Mexican immigration officials told me that  
13 because of the coronavirus, the U.S. was not letting people through. They gave me  
14 a new permit that is valid for up to 180 days, until November 29, 2020. The  
15 Mexican officials said that I have to show up to the port of entry on the first of every  
16 month starting in June to know how the process was going in my immigration case.

17 26. I was not provided any information about my next hearing date. I did  
18 not know when my hearing would be. Around this time, Tijuana went under  
19 lockdown because of the coronavirus, so I was not able to return to the port of entry  
20 at the first of every month to find out my hearing date.

21 27. In order for me to find my court date, I went to a center in Tijuana that  
22 was able to look online and tell me my next hearing date. The person at the center  
23 told me that my next hearing was on September 24, 2020. I went to the port of entry  
24 again on that day, but they again said the border was closed and did not let me cross.

25 28. After September 24, I tried to go to the center again to find out my  
26 hearing date, but no one was able to help me. I was really worried about missing  
27 my court date because I have heard that you can be ordered deported if you do not  
28 show up to court. I was also worried that Mexican immigration officials may not



1 renew my permit, which expires on November 29, 2020, because I did not know  
2 when my next court date was and they always ask for my court date before  
3 renewing my permit.

4 29. For about a month, I did not know anything else about when my next  
5 court date would be. I only found out about my next hearing date when I spoke with  
6 the lawyer who is representing me in this case. She gave me the link to a website  
7 where I can check my next hearing date. The website says that my next hearing  
8 date is January 5, 2021 at 12 p.m. I do not know if this hearing will happen because  
9 the border is still closed, and I do not know when they will open the border again.

10 30. I feel like I cannot leave Tijuana for anywhere else in Mexico because I  
11 do not have the resources to go anywhere. Even if I was able to move somewhere  
12 else, I would not be able to afford to travel to the border for my immigration  
13 hearing. It has been so difficult and exhausting to go through this process.

14 31. There are so many challenges that people are facing here. I see  
15 immigrants who do not have the will to stay in Mexico anymore and they are forced  
16 to give up and accept deportation. I try to stay optimistic, but time keeps passing by  
17 with no clear answers and no one here to help. I am trying so hard to make sure that  
18 I can continue fighting my case from Mexico.

19 32. My friend lives in Miami, Florida. If I was allowed to be in the United  
20 States while my immigration case is pending, I would live with him.

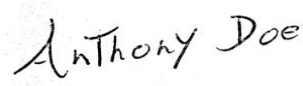
21 33. Given that I have been persecuted in my country, I fear that if my  
22 identity and my status as an asylum applicant are released to the public, my life and  
23 possibly that of my family will be in danger. I do not want my identity to be  
24 publicly disclosed, and I wish to proceed with the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

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

3 Executed on November 6, 2020 at Tijuana, Mexico.

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7 Anthony Doe

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**CERTIFICATION**

I, Joseph Meyers, declare that I am fluent in the English and Spanish languages. On November 6, 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 am an attorney admitted to practice in the State of California, the United States District Court for the Southern District of California, the United States District Court for the Central District of California, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. I declare under penalty of perjury, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on November 6 , 2020.

*/s/ Joseph Meyers*  
JOSEPH MEYERS† (CA SBN 325183) (joseph@nipnlg.org)  
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