

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

CANDIDA RAMIREZ LOPEZ,

Petitioner,

v.


DONALD J. TRUMP; *et al.*,

Respondents.

No. 25 Civ. 04826 (JAV)

DECLARATION OF DEPORTATION
OFFICER MATTHEW ALEXANDER

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I, Matthew Alexander, hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the following is true and correct:

1. I am a Deportation Officer at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”). I joined ICE in September 2019, and have served my current capacity since I started. As a Deportation Officer, I manage the cases of aliens who are in immigration proceedings. Once an alien is ordered removed from the United States, I facilitate the alien’s removal by coordinating with the government of the alien’s country of removal to obtain proper travel documents.
2. I have prepared this declaration in connection with the Petition for a Writ of Habeas Corpus filed by the petitioner Candida Ramirez Lopez (“Ramirez Lopez”). Ramirez Lopez has been assigned the following Alien Number:  I am the deportation officer who has been assigned to Ramirez Lopez. The following representations are based on my review of Ramirez Lopez’s temporary file,¹ consultation with my colleagues, and ICE electronic records and databases.

¹ As of the date of this declaration, ICE does not have the complete administrative file available, and thus ICE compiled a temporary administrative file based on the information contained within ICE’s databases.

3. Ramirez Lopez is a native and citizen of Honduras.
4. On April 23, 2005, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”) encountered Ramirez Lopez near the Port of Entry in Hidalgo, Texas. Ramirez Lopez admitted to Border Patrol that she unlawfully entered the United States, that she did not possess or present any valid entry documents, and that she was not admitted or paroled into the United States.
5. On April 23, 2005, CBP served Ramirez Lopez with a Notice to Appear (“NTA”) charging her with removability pursuant to Immigration and Nationality Act (“INA”) section 212(a)(6)(A)(i), 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(A)(i), as an alien present in the United States without being admitted or paroled, or who arrived in the United States at any time or place other than as designated by the Attorney General. The NTA advised Ramirez Lopez that she was to appear before an Immigration Judge in Harlingen, Texas, for a hearing scheduled for October 21, 2005. The NTA further advised Ramirez Lopez of the requirement that she immediately provide (or have provided) the Immigration Court with a written record of an address and telephone number (if any) at which Ramirez Lopez may be contacted concerning removal proceedings.
6. On April 23, 2005, after processing, CBP released Ramirez Lopez from custody on her own recognizance due to lack of bedspace at the border facility.
7. On October 21, 2005, Ramirez Lopez failed to appear for the initial master calendar hearing before an Immigration Judge in Harlingen, Texas. DHS made an oral motion to proceed in absentia pursuant to INA § 240(b)(5)(A), 8 U.S.C. § 1229a. The Immigration Judge granted DHS’s motion. During the hearing, DHS submitted documentary evidence to establish Ramirez Lopez was removable as charged. After reviewing the evidence in the record, the Immigration Judge determined that DHS met its burden to establish Ramirez Lopez was

removable as charged. Accordingly, the Immigration Judge issued an in absentia order of removal. The Immigration Court was unable to forward the order to Ramirez Lopez because she had not provided an address following her release from CBP custody.

8. On March 9, 2019, CBP encountered Ramirez Lopez in the Rio Grande Valley near Roma, Texas. Ramirez Lopez was accompanied by her eleven-year-old son and admitted to Border Patrol that she and her son unlawfully entered the United States, that she did not possess or present any valid entry documents, and that she was not admitted or paroled into the United States.
9. On March 14, 2019, Ramirez Lopez provided a sworn statement to CBP about her illegal re-entry. Ramirez Lopez signed a Form 1-215B Record of Sworn Statement, reflecting the statement provided. In her statement, Ramirez Lopez declared that she departed the United States to Honduras on September 15, 2005, and last entered the United States on March 9, 2019.
10. On March 14, 2019, CBP served Ramirez Lopez with a Notice of Intent/Decision to Reinstate Prior Order, Form I-871, pursuant to INA § 241(a)(5), 8 U.S.C. § 1231.
11. On March 15, 2019, Ramirez Lopez was transferred from CBP custody to ICE custody and was housed with her son at the South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, Texas.
12. On March 24, 2019, ICE released Ramirez Lopez on her own recognizance, subject to conditions which included reporting as directed by ICE. Ramirez Lopez provided ICE with her address in Memphis, Tennessee. ICE directed Ramirez Lopez to report to the ICE office in Memphis, Tennessee as directed.

13. On or about October 1, 2019, Ramirez Lopez provided ICE with a new address in Staten Island, New York. ICE transferred Ramirez Lopez's case to the ICE office in New York, New York.
14. On or about June 2, 2025, ICE directed Ramirez Lopez to report to ICE's Intensive Supervision Appearance Program (ISAP) office in New York, New York.
15. On June 4, 2025, Ramirez Lopez reported to ISAP and was taken into ICE custody following the issuance of a Warrant of Removal, Form I-205, dated June 4, 2025, based on the reinstated prior order of removal, and brought to 26 Federal Plaza in New York, New York.
16. ICE's only detention facility in the Southern District of New York, the Orange County Jail, no longer houses female detainees.
17. After Ramirez Lopez was detained on June 4, 2025, ICE made requests for bed space for her to the Newark and Houston Field Offices.
18. The night of June 5 to June 6, 2025, ICE temporarily transferred Ramirez Lopez to the Elizabeth Detention Center, in Elizabeth, New Jersey, while awaiting bedspace approval. At the time, the facility could only house Ramirez Lopez temporarily as it was over capacity for her risk assessment level. Ramirez Lopez returned to 26 Federal Plaza later in the morning on June 6.
19. ICE's bedspace request for Ramirez Lopez at the Houston Detention Facility in Houston, Texas was approved.
20. On June 7, 2025, ICE learned that while Ramirez Lopez was temporarily detained at the 26 Federal Plaza holding facility, Ramirez Lopez filed a Petition for a Writ of Habeas Corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241.

21. On June 8, 2025, on account of the aforementioned lack of available bed space for Ramirez Lopez within this district and in neighboring districts, ICE transported Ramirez Lopez and booked her into the Houston Detention Facility in Houston, Texas.
22. On June 16, 2025, ICE rescinded the Notice of Intent/Decision to Reinstate Prior Order, Form I-871, dated March 14, 2019, upon concluding that it was improvidently issued because Petitioner had departed the United States in September 2005, before the October 2005 removal order was issued by the Immigration Court.
23. On June 16, 2025, ICE served Ramirez Lopez with a Warrant of Removal/Deportation, Form I-205, and a Warning to Alien Ordered Removed or Deported, Form I-294.
24. ICE intends to remove Ramirez Lopez pursuant to the October 2005 removal order as soon as practicable, once there is no legal impediment to its execution.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed at New York, NY
This 16th day of June, 2025.

MATTHEW B ALEXANDER
Digitally signed by
MATTHEW B ALEXANDER
Date: 2025.06.16 22:23:29
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Matthew Alexander
Deportation Officer
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
U.S. Department of Homeland Security