

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

HELEN SARAHI FUNES GAMEZ,

Petitioner,

-v-

LaDeon FRANCIS, in his official capacity as
Acting Field Office Director of New York,
Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Kristi
NOEM in her official capacity as Secretary of
Homeland Security; Pam BONDI, in her official
capacity as Attorney General of the United
States.,

Respondents.

Case No. 1:25-cv-07429-PAE

DECLARATION OF HELEN SARAHI FUNES GAMEZ

I, Helen Sarahi Funes Gamez, declare as follows:

1. I make this declaration of my own personal knowledge, and, if compelled to testify, I could and would competently testify thereto.

Events of September 8, 2025 and September 9, 2025

2. On September 8, 2025, I appeared at 26 Federal Plaza at 7:00 a.m. for a check-in under my Order of Supervision, with my 2 year old son and my lawyer Livia Santoro. I was directed to the 5th Floor.
3. On the 5th Floor, the ICE officer conducting check-ins informed me and my lawyer that I would be detained. He stated that all individuals with final removal orders would be detained that day.
4. My lawyer asked why I was being detained, since I had consistently complied with my check-ins, had a pending request for a Reasonable Fear interview, an I-730 petition

pending, and the absence of any change in my case. The officer responded, in substance, that I had a final order and that there was a new government now.

5. I was informed that, if I wanted to remain with my 2 year old, I would have to be transferred to a family detention center in Texas, and that otherwise I would be detained in New Jersey, Long Island, or Pennsylvania, depending on availability. I felt like I was being ordered to quickly choose whether to stay with my son or be detained close to my husband and five year old daughter; I found the decision excruciating. My attorney asked if I could have a week to decide, but the officer refused.
6. I messaged my husband, Erick Cruz Villanueva, and we decided that my son would remain in his care upon my detention.
7. After conferring with my counsel, we stated to the officer that I wanted to leave my children in my husband's care and that I wanted a reasonable fear interview.
8. Erick arrived at 26 Federal Plaza at approximately 10:00 a.m. My lawyer Ms. Santoro went to the lobby to meet him, and returned to the 5th Floor, where I and my son were waiting.
9. I did not speak to anyone, and no one spoke to me, while Ms. Santoro was away.
10. Upon my husband's arrival, the ICE officer approached me and indicated that he would make a note again requesting a Reasonable Fear interview, noting that I was represented by counsel and had two minor children, in the hope I might remain detained locally.
11. At around 11:00 am, Erick, my baby, and Ms. Santoro left the 5th Floor and I was handcuffed and taken to the 10th floor where I was held in detention.

12. At around 6:41 p.m., I was briefly given access to my phone. I informed Ms. Santoro by WhatsApp voice message that I would soon be fingerprinted and that I would be transferred to another facility the following day.
13. I then had to give the phone back to ICE.
14. Some time later, the same ICE officer I spoke with handed me a paper in English entitled "Notice of Revocation of Relief."
15. The document I received was digitally signed on September 8, 2025 at 19:50PM.
16. I did not receive any document entitled "Notice of Revocation of Release" at any time before this officer handed me this paper.
17. I know that the officer did not hand me that paper until some time after I sent the message to my lawyer at 6:41 p.m, or I would have told my lawyer about it.
18. Nobody spoke to me on September 8, 2025, or at any other time since, about revoking my order of supervision, or about any reasons for revoking it.
19. I spent the night of September 8, 2025 at 26 Federal Plaza. It was horrible. I felt like I was being treated as a criminal.
20. On September 9, 2025, restraints were placed on my wrists and ankles, and I was transferred to an airport in New Jersey, and then to Louisiana. During the flight, I remained restrained at both my hands and ankles.

Conditions in detention in Louisiana

21. I am currently being detained in the Richwood Correctional Facility in Richwood, Louisiana.
22. This is a correctional-type facility. I share a large room with about 80 other women.

- 23. I have to purchase bottled water at (\$0.75 per small bottle) because the tap water tastes strange and other detained women tell me they became sick from drinking the tap water.
- 24. I miss my children and family so much. I cry often thinking about them. I feel like being detained is really affecting me mentally. The days feel long and heavy, and I often feel cut off from the outside world. Fortunately, they have some books here, including the Bible, and I read it when I can. It helps me calm my mind and find some peace.
- 25. I am allowed to make as many phone calls per day as I want, but each call costs \$3 for only 15 minutes. Because of the high cost, I cannot afford to call my family as often as I would like. This makes me feel isolated and disconnected from my loved ones. I understand that these calls are recorded.
- 26. I am not allowed to make a private, privileged call with my lawyer when I want to. My lawyer has to schedule calls to speak with me, at least 24 hours in advance.

Reasonable Fear Interview

27. I stated when I arrived in the United States in 2023 that I was afraid I would be harmed or even killed if I were returned to Honduras, and I requested a reasonable fear interview at that time.

28. In Honduras, my husband Erick [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

29. [REDACTED]

30. I am still afraid I or my family will be attacked or killed in Honduras.
31. I intend to state my fear in my reasonable fear interview, when it is held.
32. On September 17, 2025, I was called in for what I believe was a reasonable fear interview. The officer told me it was to discuss my fear of returning to my country.
33. Before I was called in, I had not received notice that any interview had been scheduled for this date. My immigration attorney was also not notified. I stated that I wanted my attorney present for the interview, and the interview did not proceed. I also told them that I had a hearing scheduled for September 24th.

Order of Supervision.

34. To my knowledge, I have never failed to comply with any condition of my order of supervision.
35. If restored to an order of supervision, I will again comply with all of its conditions.
36. I want to be restored to my order of supervision so that I can help care for my family while I await the results of my immigration applications.
37. I would not take any actions that would jeopardize my ability to stay with my family.
38. I would love to return to be with my family and to share in my children's lives as they grow up alongside my husband. I want to be involved in my daughter's kindergarten — to see what she learns, to participate in her school activities, and to support her education. I was also a teacher in Honduras, and I have always loved that moment when children learn something new for the first time. It brings me joy to give children the tools they need to become independent in the future.
39. I also want to be present in my church community. Before being detained, I was volunteering at the café run by our church, and that experience gave me a sense of

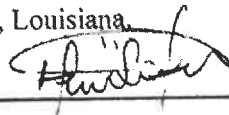
belonging and purpose. Being part of these family, school, and community activities is very important to me, and I wish to contribute to them again.

Supplementation

40. It is difficult to review and sign declarations under my current detention. If I can, I may supplement my declaration if I receive a reasonable fear interview after the date of this declaration.
41. Also, if I can, I may supplement my declaration to inform the court about any changes to the conditions of my detention.

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

Executed this 22nd day of September, 2025 in Monroe, Louisiana.



Helen Sarahi Funes Gamez