

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

XIAOQUAN CHEN

Petitioner,

v.

JUDITH ALMODOVAR, *et al.*,


Respondents.

Case No. 25-CV-08350 (MKV)

DECLARATION OF DEPORTATION
OFFICER LIGE HAMPTON

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

1. I am a Supervisory Detention and Deportation Officer at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”). I have served in this capacity since August 2021. Prior to this, I was a Deportation Officer since May 2012. As a Supervisory Detention and Deportation Officer, I oversee the management of 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 that alien’s country of removal to obtain proper travel documents.

2. I have prepared this declaration in connection with a Petition for a Writ of Habeas Corpus filed by the petitioner, Xiaoquan Chen (“Chen”). Chen has been assigned the following Alien Number:  The following representations are based on my review of ICE electronic records and databases, Chen’s documents, consultation with my colleagues, and my personal knowledge of the case.

3. Chen, a native and citizen of the People’s Republic of China, unlawfully entered the United States without inspection at or around Tecate, California, on December 13, 2023.

4. On December 13, 2023, United States Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”) apprehended Chen.

5. On December 15, 2023, CBP issued and served Chen with a Notice to Appear (“NTA”) charging him as removable 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. Chen was then released on his own recognizance due to lack of available bed space and ordered to appear before an immigration judge at 26 Federal Plaza, New York, New York, on March 12, 2024.

6. On February 27, 2024, H. Esteban Figuero-Brusi of the Samokhleb & Bitterman Law Group, P.C. filed Form EOIR- 28, Notice of Entry of Appearance as Attorney or Representative Before the Immigration Court. In doing so, counsel noted that he would be representing Chen in “All proceedings other than custody and bond proceedings.”

7. On February 28, 2024, Chen filed written pleadings where he conceded the allegations and the charge of removability in the NTA. In addition, Chen filed a defensive application for asylum as relief from removal.

8. On March 4, 2024, Chen filed a Motion to Consolidate, seeking to combine his immigration court case with that of his spouse.

9. On March 12, 2024, Chen, with counsel, appeared for his first Master Calendar hearing. At the hearing, the Immigration Judge concluded pleadings and reset the matter, without setting a new date, for an Individual Hearing date on Chen’s relief application.

10. On February 26, 2025, the Immigration Judge issued a scheduling notice, scheduling Chen’s individual hearing date for December 4, 2028.

11. On June 12, 2025, Chen filed Form EOIR-33 Change of Address Contact

Information Form updating the Immigration Court with his new address in Brooklyn, New York.

12. On August 27, 2025, ICE requested that Chen report to ICE at 26 Federal Plaza, New York, New York on October 8, 2025, at 8:00 a.m.

13. On October 8, 2025, Chen reported to ICE, as directed, and was taken into custody pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1225. At the time, ICE issued Forms I-200, FD249, Online Detainee Locator (ODLS) Privacy Notice and List of Pro Bono Legal Service Providers. A Form I-286 was not issued notwithstanding a typographical error on the Form I-213 indicating it was.

14. On October 8, 2025, Chen was processed in New York City and then transferred to the Delaney Hall Detention Facility in Newark, New Jersey.

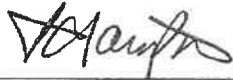
15. On October 13, 2025, ICE filed Form I-830, Notice to EOIR: Alien Address, informing the Immigration Court that Chen was now detained at the Delaney Hall Detention Facility.

16. On October 21, 2025, the Immigration Court issued a scheduling notice, scheduling Chen for a master calendar hearing for October 29, 2025, at the Elizabeth Immigration Court.

17. On October 25, 2025, Chen was transferred to the Adams County Correctional Center, in Natchez, Mississippi.

18. On October 28, 2025, ICE filed Form I-830, Notice to EOIR: Alien Address, informing the Immigration Court that Chen was now detained at the Adams County Correctional Center, his current location.

Executed at New York, New York
this 5th day of November 2025



Lige Hampton
Supervisory Detention and Deportation Officer
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
U.S. Department of Homeland Security