

AO 242 (Rev. 09/17) Petition for a Writ of Habeas Corpus Under 28 U.S.C. § 2241

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
for the  
Western District of Texas

FILED

NOV 19 2025

Akram Sameh Tawfik Elsayed Aly Khedr

Petitioner

v.

Warden, La Salle County Regional Detention Center  
832 TX-44  
Encinal, TX 78019

Respondent

(name of warden or authorized person having custody of petitioner)

Case No.

SA25CA1525 JKP  
(Supplied by Clerk of Court)

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
BY [Signature] DEPUTY CLERK

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS UNDER 28 U.S.C. § 2241

Personal Information

1. (a) Your full name: Marguerite Delilah Dominguez (on behalf of Akram Sameh Tawfik Elsayed Aly Khedr)  
(b) Other names you have used: N/A
2. Place of confinement:  
(a) Name of institution: La Salle County Regional Detention Center  
(b) Address: 832 E TX-44, Encinal, TX 78019
3. (c) Your identification number: [Redacted]  
Are you currently being held on orders by:  
 Federal authorities     State authorities     Other - explain:  
Akram Sameh Tawfik Aly Khedr ([Redacted]) is held at the La Salle County Regional Detention Center
4. Are you currently:  
 A pretrial detainee (waiting for trial on criminal charges)  
 Serving a sentence (incarceration, parole, probation, etc.) after having been convicted of a crime  
If you are currently serving a sentence, provide:  
(a) Name and location of court that sentenced you: San Antonio Immigration Court  
800 Dolorosa Street, Suite 300, San Antonio, TX 78207  
(b) Docket number of criminal case: N/A  
(c) Date of sentencing: 08/17/2025
- Being held on an immigration charge  
 Other (explain): ICE detain him without final removal and IJ denied the bond. BIA has remanded the case the case is pending and there is no active removal order  
Akram has no criminal record and has a great moral character.  
He's being held solely on federal immigration as he is not criminal.

Decision or Action You Are Challenging

5. What are you challenging in this petition:  
 How your sentence is being carried out, calculated, or credited by prison or parole authorities (for example, revocation or calculation of good time credits)

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- Pretrial detention
- Immigration detention
- Detainer
- The validity of your conviction or sentence as imposed (for example, sentence beyond the statutory maximum or improperly calculated under the sentencing guidelines)
- Disciplinary proceedings
- Other (*explain*): \_\_\_\_\_

6. Provide more information about the decision or action you are challenging:

(a) Name and location of the agency or court: San Antonio Immigration Court

(b) Docket number, case number, or opinion number: N/A

(c) Decision or action you are challenging (*for disciplinary proceedings, specify the penalties imposed*):

The immigration court's decision to deny bond and assess Akram Khedr as a danger to the community (persons or property) and flight risk

(d) Date of the decision or action: \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Earlier Challenges of the Decision or Action**

7. **First appeal**

Did you appeal the decision, file a grievance, or seek an administrative remedy?

Yes  No

(a) If "Yes," provide:

(1) Name of the authority, agency, or court: United States Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA)

(2) Date of filing: 10/01/2025

(3) Docket number, case number, or opinion number: \_\_\_\_\_

(4) Result: The BIA remanded the immigration court's decision to remove Akram Khedr.

(5) Date of result: 10/06/2025

(6) Issues raised: The Board of Immigration Appeals remanded the immigration court's decision to pursue immigration proceedings for Mr. Akram Khedr on 10/06/2025.

(b) If you answered "No," explain why you did not appeal: \_\_\_\_\_

8. **Second appeal**

After the first appeal, did you file a second appeal to a higher authority, agency, or court?

Yes  No

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(a) If "Yes," provide:

(1) Name of the authority, agency, or court: \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Date of filing: \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Docket number, case number, or opinion number: \_\_\_\_\_

(4) Result: \_\_\_\_\_

(5) Date of result: \_\_\_\_\_

(6) Issues raised: \_\_\_\_\_

(b) If you answered "No," explain why you did not file a second appeal: \_\_\_\_\_

9. **Third appeal**

After the second appeal, did you file a third appeal to a higher authority, agency, or court?

Yes  No

(a) If "Yes," provide:

(1) Name of the authority, agency, or court: \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Date of filing: \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Docket number, case number, or opinion number: \_\_\_\_\_

(4) Result: \_\_\_\_\_

(5) Date of result: \_\_\_\_\_

(6) Issues raised: \_\_\_\_\_

(b) If you answered "No," explain why you did not file a third appeal: \_\_\_\_\_

10. **Motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255**

In this petition, are you challenging the validity of your conviction or sentence as imposed?

Yes  No

If "Yes," answer the following:

(a) Have you already filed a motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 that challenged this conviction or sentence?

Yes  No

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If "Yes," provide:

- (1) Name of court: \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) Case number: \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) Date of filing: \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) Result: \_\_\_\_\_
- (5) Date of result: \_\_\_\_\_
- (6) Issues raised: \_\_\_\_\_

(b) Have you ever filed a motion in a United States Court of Appeals under 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3)(A), seeking permission to file a second or successive Section 2255 motion to challenge this conviction or sentence?

- Yes  No

If "Yes," provide:

- (1) Name of court: \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) Case number: \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) Date of filing: \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) Result: \_\_\_\_\_
- (5) Date of result: \_\_\_\_\_
- (6) Issues raised: \_\_\_\_\_

(c) Explain why the remedy under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 is inadequate or ineffective to challenge your conviction or sentence:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

11. Appeals of immigration proceedings

Does this case concern immigration proceedings?

- Yes  No

If "Yes," provide:

- (a) Date you were taken into immigration custody: 08/17/2025
- (b) Date of the removal or reinstatement order: 10/31/2025
- (c) Did you file an appeal with the Board of Immigration Appeals?

- Yes  No

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If "Yes," provide:

(1) Date of filing: 10/01/2025

(2) Case number: N/A

(3) Result: The Board of Immigration Appeals remanded the immigration court's original decision.

(4) Date of result: 10/06/2025

(5) Issues raised:

(d) Did you appeal the decision to the United States Court of Appeals?

Yes

No

If "Yes," provide:

(1) Name of court:

(2) Date of filing:

(3) Case number:

(4) Result:

(5) Date of result:

(6) Issues raised:

12. **Other appeals**

Other than the appeals you listed above, have you filed any other petition, application, or motion about the issues raised in this petition?

Yes

No

If "Yes," provide:

(a) Kind of petition, motion, or application:

(b) Name of the authority, agency, or court:

(c) Date of filing:

(d) Docket number, case number, or opinion number:

(e) Result:

(f) Date of result:

(g) Issues raised:

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**Grounds for Your Challenge in This Petition**

13. State every ground (reason) that supports your claim that you are being held in violation of the Constitution, laws, or treaties of the United States. Attach additional pages if you have more than four grounds. State the facts supporting each ground. Any legal arguments must be submitted in a separate memorandum.

**GROUND ONE:** Akram Khedr has been confined indefinitely with no foreseeable removal and no ability to pursue his asylum claim.

(a) Supporting facts (Be brief. Do not cite cases or law.):

Akram Khedr was detained on 8/17/2025 and the Board of Immigration Appeals remanded the immigration court's original decision on 10/6/2025. Mr. Khedr filed for asylum after legally entering the country as a minor in 2018. In 2022 Mr. Khedr appealed the initial denial of his asylum application and his case has been pending since. If deported, Mr. Khedr faces documented imminent danger in Egypt. He has been detained for over 90 days for reasons not related to removal. His detention date has been removed the ICE online database.

(b) Did you present Ground One in all appeals that were available to you?

Yes  No

**GROUND TWO:** Mr. Khedr's right to Due Process has been inhibited.

(a) Supporting facts (Be brief. Do not cite cases or law.):

More than 90 days after he was detained, there has been no hearing scheduled by the immigration court for his asylum hearing. Within one week after requesting to proceed with marriage processes within the facility, he was transferred without any known reason to a separate facility where marriage processes are not made available. Following the BIA's remand, the immigration court denied his bond based on a case that took place when he was a juvenile that has been dismissed and sealed by the state of Texas.

(b) Did you present Ground Two in all appeals that were available to you?

Yes  No

**GROUND THREE:** Akram Khedr is currently detained without statutory authority

(a) Supporting facts (Be brief. Do not cite cases or law.):

The Board of Immigration Appeals remanded the case on 10/06/2025. Akram Khedr does not currently have a final order of removal placed against him and his removal is not imminent. A hearing for his asylum has not been scheduled and his detention has not been linked to a statutory authority.

(b) Did you present Ground Three in all appeals that were available to you?

Yes  No

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**GROUND FOUR:** Akram Khedr has experienced inhumane conditions within the ICE Facility which may lead to lasting emotional and psychological effects.

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(a) Supporting facts (*Be brief. Do not cite cases or law.*):

Mr. Khedr reports that he is confined to a cell with no windows and he is permitted only one hour of fresh air per week. The water supply is limited and makes him feel sick. He struggles to maintain weight due to small portions and he regularly experiences verbal and mental abuse at the hands of officers. These conditions have caused him significant anxiety, hopelessness, and emotional distress, making him feel as though he is being pressured to abandon his legal claims and self-deport. Additionally, the absence of pillows causes harm to his inflamed neck disc. As his fiance, this harms my future and has caused distress to me emotionally financially, and mentally.

(b) Did you present Ground Four in all appeals that were available to you?

Yes  No

14. If there are any grounds that you did not present in all appeals that were available to you, explain why you did not:

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**Request for Relief**

15. State exactly what you want the court to do: We request a writ of habeas corpus ordering his immediate release From ICE custody.

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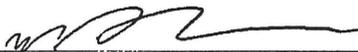
**Declaration Under Penalty Of Perjury**

If you are incarcerated, on what date did you place this petition in the prison mail system:

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I declare under penalty of perjury that I am the petitioner, I have read this petition or had it read to me, and the information in this petition is true and correct. I understand that a false statement of a material fact may serve as the basis for prosecution for perjury.

Date: 11/19/2025

  
MARGUERITE DOMINGUEZ ON BEHALF OF ALKHAM KHOR  
Signature of Petitioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Attorney or other authorized person, if any

COPY

NOT DETAINED

Hani Bushra, Esq.  
Attorney for the Respondent  
16541 Gothard Street Suite 208  
Huntington Beach, CA 92647  
Phone: +1-714-984-2000  
Fax: +1-714-489-8128  
hani@bushralaw.com

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW  
BOARD OF IMMIGRATION APPEALS

In the Matter of:

Akram Sameh Tawfik KHEDR

Respondent,

In Removal Proceedings

In Removal Proceedings



BOARD OF  
IMMIGRATION APPEALS  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

2025 AUG -4 PM 4: 23

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR  
IMMIGRATION REVIEW

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION OF LATE FILED BRIEF



**NOT DETAINED**

**Hani Bushra, Esq.**  
**Attorney for the Respondent**  
**16541 Gothard Street Suite 208**  
**Huntington Beach, CA 92647**  
**Phone: +1-714-984-2000**  
**Fax: +1-714-489-8128**  
**hani@bushralaw.com**

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW**  
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**In the Matter of:**

**Akram Sameh Tawfik KHEDR**

**Respondent,**

**In Removal Proceedings**

**In Removal Proceedings**



**MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION OF LATE FILED BRIEF**



**MOTION FOR ACCEPTANCE OF LATE FILED BRIEF**

Respondent, through his attorney moves this honorable Court to grant his Motion for Acceptance of Respondent's Brief filed out of time.

1. Respondent was previously represented by Attorney Andrea Aguilar who at the time of her representation was working for the Manuel Diaz Law Firm.
2. The Respondent's brief was originally due on May 8, 2024
3. Unbeknown to the Respondent, previous counsel did not file a brief on this matter.
4. Respondent only became aware that a brief on this matter was not filed on or about May 27, 2025.
5. Respondent consulted with present counsel about the steps needed to remedy the situation. Counsel advised the Respondent that a late brief could be submitted with a motion to accept late filing. Respondent agreed to retain present counsel for that purpose. Respondent entered into the agreement with present counsel on or about June 3, 2025
6. Counsel entered his appearance electronically on ECAS on June 4, 2025.
7. Because this is a paper case, the present counsel could not prepare the brief without the transcript of the hearing. Respondent's family attempted many attempts to get the transcripts and the IJ's decision from previous counsel's firm.
8. On May 27, 2025, a representative of the firm stated that they could not obtain the transcript and the decision. (Please see exhibit "A")
9. During the week of June 4, 2025, present counsel tried to call previous counsel repeatedly. All his calls went to voicemail and were unanswered.
10. On June 12, 2025, present counsel emailed Attorney Andrea Aguilar to inquire about the matter. His email was kicked back. He then directed the email to the firm where Attorney Andrea Aguilar worked, the Manuel Diaz Law Firm. (Please see exhibit "B")
11. Counsel never received a response to his emails or calls.
12. Respondent's family member received a copy of the transcript and the decision later from the Manuel Diaz Law Firm.



13. Counsel as expeditiously as possible had the brief prepared and submitted along with this motion a hand delivered copy to the clerk's window.
14. The full brief is attached hereto.
15. A review of Respondent's brief is essential to a full, fair and meaningful review of the issues.
16. There is no prejudice to the government should the BIA accept respondent's brief in this case.
17. Failure to hear Respondent's claim for relief would be a manifest injustice, especially that the Respondent's testimony was not recorded as part of the record.

Respectfully submitted,



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**Hani Bushra, Esq.**  
**Attorney for the Respondent**  
**16541 Gothard Street Suite 208**  
**Huntington Beach, CA 92647**  
**Phone: +1-714-984-2000**  
**Fax: +1-714-489-8128**  
**[hani@bushralaw.com](mailto:hani@bushralaw.com)**



**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT a true copy of the foregoing MOTION TO ACCEPT LATE FILED BRIEF has been mailed to DHS/ICE Office of Chief Counsel-San Antonio at 1015 Jackson-Keller Rd, Suite 100, San Antonio Texas 78213 on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of August 2025.



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**Hani Bushra, Esq.**



**Exhibit “A”**

**NOT DETAINED**

**Hani Bushra, Esq.**  
**Attorney for the Respondent**  
**16541 Gothard Street Suite 208**  
**Huntington Beach, CA 92647**  
**Phone: +1-714-984-2000**  
**Fax: +1-714-489-8128**  
**hani@bushralaw.com**

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW**  
**BOARD OF IMMIGRATION APPEALS**

**In the Matter of:**

**Akram Sameh Tawfik KHEDR**

**Respondent,**

**In Removal Proceedings**

**In Removal Proceedings**

**File:** 

**RESPONDENT'S BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF APPEAL**

**PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

The Respondent appeals from the oral decision of the Immigration Judge in San Antonio, Texas, dated September 22, 2022. The Immigration Judge denied the applications for asylum, withholding of removal, and protection under the Convention Against Torture and ordered that the Respondents be removed to Egypt. Jurisdiction of the Board of Immigration Appeals (“BIA”) over Immigration Judge rulings for removal proceedings is set forth at 8 C.F.R. § 1003.1(b)(3). Respondent respectfully requests that the Board grant the asylum application based on the evidence and credible testimony in the record establishing past persecution on account of religion.

The Immigration Judge relied on three erroneous bases for denial of the Respondent’s claims. First, the Immigration Judge misconstrued Fifth Circuit precedent in perfunctorily concluding that Respondent failed to establish past persecution. Second, the Immigration Judge relied on erroneous and brazenly cherry-picked analysis of the country conditions in concluding that Respondent failed to establish that the government of Egypt was unable and unwilling to protect him from the extreme and persistent violence to which he was subjected as a child. Third, upon *de novo* review, the record shows that Respondent’s asylum claim should be granted as a matter of discretion. The Immigration Judge also issued a deficient, boilerplate denial of CAT protection that does not include any substantive analysis of the credible testimony and extensive supporting evidence in the record.



**ISSUES PRESENTED**

- I. WHETHER THE ASYLUM CLAIM SHOULD BE GRANTED BASED ON THE CREDIBLE TESTIMONY AND SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IN THE RECORD ESTABLISHING THAT RESPONDENT SUFFERED PAST PERSECUTION.**
- II. WHETHER THE IMMIGRATION JUDGE ISSUED A LEGALLY DEFICIENT DECISION IN DENYING THE REQUEST FOR PROTECTION UNDER THE CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE.**
- III. ALTERNATIVELY, WHETHER THE PROCEEDINGS MUST BE REMANDED FOR THE IMMIGRATION COURT TO PROVIDE A COMPLETE TRANSCRIPT THAT INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY OF THE RESPONDENT ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2022.**

**STANDARD OF REVIEW**

The Board of Immigration Appeals reviews questions of law, discretion, and judgment and all other issues in appeals from decisions of immigration judges de novo. 8 CFR § 1003.1(d)(3)(ii). Facts determined by the immigration judge, including findings as to the credibility of testimony, shall be reviewed only to determine whether the findings of the immigration judge are clearly erroneous. 8 CFR § 1003.1(d)(3)(i).

Except for taking administrative notice of commonly known facts such as current events or the contents of official documents, the Board will not engage in fact finding in the course of deciding appeals. 8 CFR § 1003.1(d)(3)(iv). For further fact finding in a particular case, the Board may remand the proceeding to the Immigration Judge or, as appropriate, to the Service. 8 CFR § 1003.1(d)(3)(iv).

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE AND RELEVANT FACTS**

The Respondent is a native and citizen of Egypt. See, Decision of the Immigration Judge at page 1 (“IJ at 1”). Respondent was admitted to the United States on May 22, 2018 as a nonimmigrant on a B2 visa. See, Notice to Appear, admitted to the record as Exhibit 1. Respondent was 16 years old at the time of entry, his date of birth being  See, Respondent’s Passport, admitted to the record as part of Exhibit 2. Respondent affirmatively submitted a Form I-589 application to USCIS on or about February 7, 2019. See, Form I-797, admitted to the record as part of Exhibit 4. Respondent attended an interview on February 28, 2019. Ex. 4. USCIS issued a Referral Notice on June 12, 2019. Ex. 4.

Pursuant to the Referral Notice, DHS issued a Notice to Appear dated June 12, 2019, which charged Respondent as removable for remaining in the United States beyond the period authorized by his B2 visa. Ex.1. Respondent admitted the allegations in the Notice to Appear while *pro se* at a master calendar hearing before the Immigration Courton November 4, 2019. See, Transcript of Proceedings at page 13 (“Tr.13”). Respondent, through counsel, subsequently submitted an updated I-589 application that was admitted to the record as Exhibit 3. Tr.26.

Respondent presented at an individual hearing in support of his claims on August 30, 2022. Tr.21. The hearing was conducted at the San Antonio, Texas Immigration Court, with the assistance of an Arabic interpreter, by Immigration Judge Craig A. Harlow. Tr.211. Respondent’s extensive supporting evidence was admitted to the record. Tr.21-30. At this hearing, Respondent’s pastor, Ra’id Al Safadi, who is also his adoptive father, provided testimony on the Respondent’s behalf. Tr.35-65. At the conclusion of the witness testimony, the Immigration Judge continued proceedings. Tr.66.

Respondent presented at a continued individual hearing before Immigration Judge Harlow on September 13, 2022. Tr.69. Respondent's adoptive mother, Lana Hanhan, the wife of Ra'id Al Safadi, provided additional witness testimony in support of the claims. Tr.77-118. At the conclusion of the witness testimony, the Immigration Judge continued proceedings to allow Respondent to provide his own testimony at a hearing on September 22, 2022. Tr.118. However, the transcript of proceedings provided by the Immigration Court does not include the final hearing at which Respondent provided his testimony.

a) **Respondent's Claim**

The record in this matter is incomplete in that the transcript of proceedings does not include Respondent's credible testimony. However, the present appeal involves contentions with the Immigration Judge's legal and discretionary analysis. The Immigration Judge credited Respondent's testimony regarding his past experiences and appropriately summarized such testimony in the decision. IJ at 2.

Respondent's mother converted to Christianity when he was 12. IJ at 2. Respondent had very little contact with his father until his father became aware that he and his twin brother were attending church with their mother. IJ at 2. Respondent's father came to his home and saw Christian literature and portraits. IJ at 2. His father then demanded custody of Respondent and his brother, took them to his home, locked them in a room, and interrogated them about their religious beliefs. IJ at 2. Respondent's father beat him and his brother with a fist and belt when they told him they were Christian and he told them that they have no right to be Christian. IJ at 2. Respondent and his brother escaped from their father's house and fled with their mother to Jordan. IJ at 2.

Respondent failed to establish that the government of Egypt is unable or unwilling to protect him and that he cannot safely relocate in Egypt. IJ at 6.

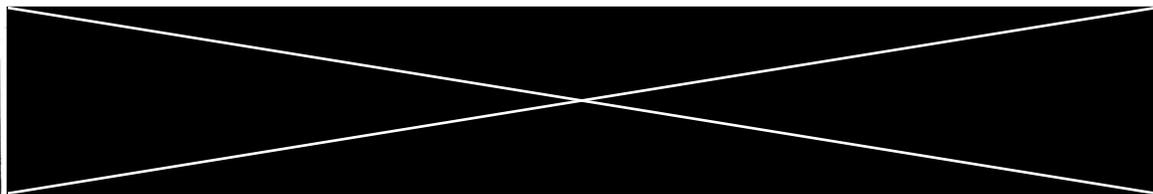
The Immigration Judge also denied the application for protection under the Convention Against Torture. IJ at 6. The Immigration Judge noted that the government has not previously tortured the Respondent but did not issue any analysis as to whether a public official would acquiesce to torture of the Respondent by his father or others. IJ at 7. The Immigration Judge claimed that Respondent failed to establish that he could not relocate safely within Egypt. IJ at 7. The Immigration Judge also claimed that there is insufficient evidence of gross, flagrant or mass violations of human rights within Egypt. IJ at 7. The Immigration Judge claimed generally that the evidence in the record is “inconclusive” and indicated that Respondent’s claim relies on stringing together “a series of suppositions.” IJ at 6-7, *citing, Matter of J-F-F-*, 23 I&N Dec. 912, 917-18 (AG 2006).

Respondent hereby submits this brief in support of the timely filed appeal.

**SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT**

Respondent respectfully requests that the Board grant the asylum application based on the evidence in the record establishing that he suffered past persecution on account of his religion in Egypt after converting from Islam to Christianity. The record clearly establishes that Respondent suffered past persecution when his father beat him with fists and a belt and threatened to kill him if he did not convert back from Christianity to Islam. Moreover, Respondent did not have any ability to seek assistance from the police at that time. On the contrary, Respondent's father coerced him to return to Egypt specifically because Egyptian law allowed him to do so. In reaching an adverse conclusion, the Immigration Judge also ignored evidence establishing that child abuse is widespread and occurs with impunity in Egypt and that Christian converts face hardship and labeling as "terrorists."

Upon *de novo* review of the totality of the circumstances and evidence in the record, the Board should also conclude that Respondent merits a grant of asylum, or alternatively, humanitarian asylum, in the exercise of discretion. The Immigration Judge issued an incomplete and erroneous analysis by failing to address the significant evidence of rehabilitation. Moreover,



adverse conduct. Respondent underwent counseling and reconciliation with his adoptive family, and he is now a Christian worship leader who is on track to eventually become a pastor.



**ARGUMENT**

**I. The asylum application should be granted based on the evidence in the record establishing that Respondent suffered past persecution on account of his religion as a convert from Islam to Christianity in Egypt.**

The order of removal must be vacated, and the asylum application should be granted based on the evidence in the record. As acknowledged by the Immigration Judge, Respondent has established the factual basis of his claim by credible testimony that has been awarded full evidentiary weight. Respondent suffered past persecution when his father beat him and threatened to kill him if he did not convert from Christianity back to Islam. Moreover, the totality of the applicable discretionary factors supports a favorable exercise of discretion to grant Respondent asylum, or alternatively, humanitarian asylum. As such, the asylum claim should be granted, or alternatively, remanded to the Immigration Court for appropriate and legally sufficient adjudication.

**a) Legal Standard - Asylum**

An applicant for asylum has the burden of establishing that he is a “refugee” within the meaning of INA § 101(a)(42). To do this, the applicant may demonstrate that she has suffered past persecution or has a well-founded fear of future persecution on account of one of the five enumerated grounds, which include race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. *See INS v. Elias-Zacarias*, 502 U.S. 478 (1992); *INS v. Cardoza-Fonseca*, 480 U.S. 421 (1987). An applicant’s own testimony in an asylum case may be sufficient, without corroborative evidence, to prove a well-founded fear of persecution. INA § 208(b)(1)(B)(ii). In the present case, Respondent’s credible testimony establishes that he suffered past persecution when his father beat him and threatened to kill him if he did not convert from Christianity back to Islam.



The Immigration and Nationality Act does not define the term “persecution.” The BIA has defined persecution as the “[t]hreat to life or freedom of, or infliction of suffering or harm upon, those who differ in a way regarded as offensive.” *Matter of Acosta*, 19 I&N 211, 216 (BIA 1985). Persecution “does not encompass all treatment that our society regards as unfair, unjust, or even unlawful or unconstitutional.” *Majd v. Gonzales*, 446 F.3d 590, 595 (5th Cir. 2006). The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals has held that persecution must be “systemic” in nature rather than consisting only of “isolated incidents.” *Gjetani v. Barr*, 968 F.3d 393 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2020).

The Fifth Circuit has further held that persecution need not be physical, but may take other forms, such as the deliberate imposition of severe economic disadvantage or the deprivation of liberty, food, housing, employment or other essentials of life.” *Abdel-Masieh v. U.S. I.N.S.*, 73 F.3d 579, 583 (5th Cir. 1996). Threats of death and other serious harms constitute persecution when they are objectively credible. *Argueta-Hernandez v. Garland*, 87 F.4th 698, 707 (5th Cir. 2023). In the present case, Respondent suffered both severe and systemic violence, and a credible death threat, each of which was directly motivated by the desire to force him to convert from Christianity back to Islam.

As the BIA stated in *Matter of N-M-A-*, asylum is a forward-looking form of relief that provides “prophylactic protection” for individuals who might face persecution in the future. 22 I&N Dec. at 318. The rationale for considering past persecution is that the “past serves as an evidentiary proxy for the future.” *Id.* Even where there is little likelihood of future persecution, an applicant who has established past persecution must still warrant a favorable exercise of discretion if the applicant demonstrates compelling reasons for his unwillingness to return to his country arising out of the severity of the past persecution, or a reasonable possibility that he may

suffer other serious harm upon removal to that country. *See*, 8 C.F.R. § 1208.13(b)(1)(iii); *see also*, *Matter of Chen*, 20 I&N Dec. 16 (BIA 1989).

The United States Supreme Court held in *Cardoza-Fonseca v. INS*, 480 U.S. 421 (1987), that a well-founded fear could be established by a reasonable possibility of persecution. *Id.* at 440. Proof that persecution probably would occur is not necessary. *Id.* A well-founded fear is one in which a reasonable person would fear persecution upon returning to that country. *Matter of Mogharrabi*, 19 I&N Dec. 439 (BIA 1987). The Supreme Court has established that “one can certainly have a well-founded fear of an event happening when there is less than a 50% chance of the occurrence taking place.” *INS v. Cardoza-Fonseca*, 480 U.S. 421, 431 (1987). Moreover, the Court held that even a one in ten chance of suffering persecution would make an applicant’s fear well-founded. *Id.*

In order to establish a nexus to a protected ground, Respondent must establish that such ground is “one central reason” for the persecution. INA § 208(b)(1)(B)(i). The BIA has made clear that “an applicant does not bear the unreasonable burden of establishing the exact motivation of a ‘persecutor’ where different reasons for actions are possible.” *Matter of Fuentes*, 19 I&N Dec. 658, 662 (BIA 1988). The applicant must produce evidence, either direct or circumstantial, from which it is reasonable to believe that the harm was or would be motivated in part by an actual or imputed protected ground. *Matter of S-P-*, 21 I&N Dec. 486, 489 (BIA 1996); *see also*, *INS v. Cardoza-Fonseca*, 480 U.S. 421 (1987). However, the protected ground cannot be “incidental, tangential, superficial, or subordinate to another reason.” *Matter of J-B-N-*, 24 I&N at 214.

Where there are mixed motives for persecution, the nexus requirement is met where the protected ground is one central reason for the persecution. *Matter of C-T-L-*, 25 I&N Dec. 341,

348 (BIA 2010). In the present case, the Immigration Judge did not provide a specific reason for concluding that Respondent did not suffer past persecution. IJ at 5. Instead, the Immigration Judge dismissed the past harm Respondent suffered generally as being at the hands of “private actors.” IJ at 5. The Immigration Judge did not issue any specific findings regarding the severity of the harm nor whether a “central reason” for such harm was religion. IJ at 5.

**b) Respondent suffered past harm rising to the level of persecution**

In the present case, Respondent’s credible testimony clearly establishes that he suffered past harm that was sufficiently severe to rise to the level of persecution. As acknowledged by the Immigration Judge, Respondent was beaten numerous times by family members because of his Christian faith. IJ at 5. Respondent’s father beat him and his brother with his fists and a belt and locked them in a room. IJ at 2. Respondent’s father also told him that he would be required to kill the Respondent if he remained a Christian. IJ at 3.

The violence and death threats that Respondent experienced in Egypt clearly meet the definition of persecution as established by BIA and Fifth Circuit precedent. Respondent suffered both violence and death threats and was locked in a room. None of these incidents were “isolated.” On the contrary, this mistreatment was systemic in nature because all of the instances of past harm were inflicted upon him with the explicit motivation of compelling the Respondent to convert from Christianity back to Islam.

**c) Respondent suffered past persecution on account of a protected ground**

The credible testimony in the record also clearly establishes that a “central reason” that Respondent was targeted with violence and threats by his father and other family members was because of his religious conversion from Islam to Christianity. Respondent attempted to flee from his Muslim family members by going with his mother to Jordan. However, Respondent’s

mother was unable to take him with her when she fled to seek asylum in Denmark. In Jordan, Respondent's father was able to use the threat of legal action to force Respondent's pastor to arrange for Respondent to return to Egypt.

Once back in Egypt, Respondent's father explicitly told him that he is not allowed to remain a Christian. IJ at 2. Respondent's father told them that they had no right to be Christian when he beat Respondent and his brother with fists and a belt. IJ at 2. Respondent's brother similarly was forced to convert to Islam. IJ at 2. Although his brother chose to remain Christian only in his heart and live publicly as a Muslim, Respondent was not willing to compromise his religious beliefs in this way. IJ at 2. Respondent's father told him that he would send him to a Mosque for three days and that if he remained a Christian he would kill him. IJ at 3. These circumstances clearly establish that a central reason that Respondent suffered past harm in Egypt was his religion.

**d) Respondent's evidence and credible testimony establish that the police in Egypt were unable and unwilling to assist her.**

The record also establishes that the police and other authorities in Egypt were unable and unwilling to protect him from religiously motivated harm at the hands of his father. In reaching a contrary conclusion, the Immigration Judge noted that Respondent never reported the harm that he suffered as a child to the authorities. IJ at 6. The Immigration Judge also noted generally that the Egyptian constitution putatively provides that "the government shall protect children from all forms of violence, abuse, mistreatment and commercial and sexual exploitation." IJ at 6. However, the Immigration Judge ignored the evidence provided by Respondent, which establishes that *93% of Egyptian children suffer from violence*. See, Exhibit 6. Rather than protect children from violence, the evidence shows that violence is readily accepted as a means of raising children.

Notably, the Immigration Judge specifically admitted the article establishing widespread violence against children in Egypt to the record. Tr.30. Nevertheless, the Immigration Judge's decision does not discuss this article whatsoever. Respondent contends that the article has a strong probative value as it is based on a study by a reputable nonprofit, the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood. Thus, the record does not support the Immigration Judge's conclusion that Respondent failed to establish that the authorities were unable or unwilling to protect him from his past persecution.

The Immigration Judge also failed to address crucial portions of the State Department's Human Rights Report, which were explicitly highlighted and argued by counsel in the pre-hearing brief. The Board has held that State Department reports on country conditions are highly probative evidence and are usually the best source of information on conditions in foreign nations. *Matter of H-L-H- & Z-Y-Z-*, 25 I&N Dec. 209 (BIA 2010). In the present case, the report establishes that Egyptian authorities targeted Christians with laws against denigrating religion or blasphemy. The Religious Freedom Report also includes numerous examples of government harassment and detentions of converts from Islam to Christianity. As such, the highly probative country conditions evidence in the record significantly supports Respondent's credible testimony that he did not have any viable means of obtaining government protection.

- e) **The asylum claim should be granted, or alternatively, remanded to the Immigration Court for appropriate consideration of the evidence and credible testimony in the record**

As set forth above, the credible testimony and supporting evidence in the record establish that Respondent suffered past persecution in Egypt. Respondent contends that he also merits a favorable exercise of discretion. The Board has established that in evaluating discretionary factors, "the danger of persecution should generally outweigh all but the most egregious of adverse factors." *Matter of Pula*, 19 I&N Dec. 467, 474 (BIA 1987). In the present case,



Based upon consideration of the totality of the record, the Board should grant asylum or humanitarian asylum. Alternatively, the Board should vacate the order of removal and remand the asylum application for appropriate finding and analysis regarding the evidence in the record. In denying the application, the Immigration Judge misconstrued the record and relied on incomplete and misleading findings of fact. Notably, the BIA relies on the factual findings of the Immigration Judge because it does not engage in factfinding in deciding appeals. 8 CFR § 1003.1(d)(3)(iv).

In analyzing this regulatory scheme, the BIA has emphasized that these regulations underscore the Immigration Judge's responsibility to make "clear and complete findings of fact that are supported by the record and in compliance with controlling law." *Matter of S-H-*, 23 I&N Dec. 462, 463 (BIA 2002). Facts determined by the immigration judge are reviewed only to determine whether the findings of the immigration judge are clearly erroneous. 8 CFR § 1003.1(d)(3)(i). In the present case, as discussed above, the Board may find that the Immigration Judge has issued insufficient and inadequate findings to adjudicate the applications for relief. As such, if the Board does not grant asylum, it should nevertheless vacate the order of removal and remand the asylum application to the Immigration Court for appropriate findings.



**II. The denial of the CAT claim is deficient and erroneous as a matter of law.**

The Immigration Judge's denial of Respondent's request for protection under the Convention Against Torture is inadequate and erroneous as a matter of law. The Immigration Judge did not issue any relevant analysis to support the conclusion that Respondent did not suffer past persecution. The Immigration Judge also relied on incomplete and misleading findings in concluding that Respondent failed to establish that he could not relocate to be safe in Egypt. The Immigration Judge failed to substantively determine the likelihood that Respondent will face future torture with the acquiescence of a public official. The Immigration Judge also erred as a matter of law by suggesting that Respondent's claim relies on stringing together "a series of suppositions." As such, the CAT claim must be remanded for appropriate consideration of whether the Respondent established a likelihood that he will be tortured in Egypt with the consent or acquiescence of a public official.

**a) Legal Standard - CAT**

Article 3 of the Convention Against Torture prohibits removal of a noncitizen to a country where it is more likely than not that he will be subject to torture by a public official, or at the instigation or with the acquiescence of such an official. *See* 8 C.F.R. §§ 208.16(c)(4), 208.18(a); *Matter of S-V-*, 22 I&N Dec. 1306 (BIA 2000). The public official involved in the torture must act "under color of law." *Matter of O-F-A-S-*, 28 I&N Dec. 35 (AG 2020). Regardless of rank, a public official acts under color of law when he exercises power possessed by virtue of law and made possible only because he is clothed with the authority of law. *Id.*

In the context of CAT claims, torture is defined as "any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or her or a third person information or a confession, punishing him or her for



an act he or she or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or her or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity.” 8 C.F.R. § 1208.18(a)(1). Moreover, “[i]n order to constitute torture, an act must be specifically intended to inflict severe physical or mental pain or suffering,” 8 C.F.R. § 1208.18(a)(5).

In determining whether an applicant is entitled to protection under the Convention Against Torture, all evidence relevant to the possibility of future torture in the proposed country of removal shall be considered, including, but not limited to: past torture inflicted upon the applicant; evidence that the applicant could relocate to another part of the country of removal where he or she is not likely to be tortured; gross, flagrant, or mass violations of human rights; and other relevant information regarding conditions in the country of deportation. 8 C.F.R. § 1208.16(c)(3). In the present case, Respondent contends that the Immigration Judge has issued a deficient denial that does not include any relevant individualized analysis of his claim.

**b) Likelihood of Future Torture**

The Immigration Judge did not issue any relevant analysis whatsoever with regard to the likelihood that Respondent will face future torture in Egypt by his father or by others due to his conversion to Christianity. The Immigration Judge relied on the prior erroneous finding that the past harm suffered by Respondent did not rise to the level of persecution. IJ at 7. The Immigration Judge also ignored significant country conditions evidence establishing that Christians are frequently targeted both with private violence and with pretextual government enforcement for blasphemy or “terrorism.” As such, the Immigration Judge’s indication that Respondent could safely relocate within Egypt is utterly unsupported.



The Immigration Judge also misconstrued the record by indicating that Respondent's claim relies on stringing together a "series of suppositions." IJ at 6, *citing, Matter of J-F-F-*, 23 I&N Dec. 912 (AG 2006). Respondent emphasizes that his claim herein is based on past torture and a direct and credible death threat. Respondent contends that these circumstances are distinguishable from circumstances that have been found to be "speculative" by the Attorney General in *J-F-F-*.

The Attorney General has held that a CAT claim is speculative and must be denied where it consists of a series of suppositions that are not each individually more likely than not to occur. *Id.* at 919. In *J-F-F-*, the Attorney General vacated a grant by the Immigration Judge of CAT protection where the Attorney General found that the Immigration Judge "strung together a series of suppositions." *Id.* at 917. The Attorney General specifically identified the series of suppositions that the respondent relied upon in his CAT claim. The suppositions that were relied upon were, "that respondent needs medication in order to behave within the bounds of the law; that such medication is not available in the Dominican Republic; that as a result respondent would fail to control himself and become 'rowdy'; that this behavior would lead the police to incarcerate him; and that the police would torture him while he was incarcerated." *Id.* at 917-918.

The Attorney General went on to give reasons why each of the suppositions had not been established by the applicant to be more likely than not to happen. Specifically, the Attorney General stated that the applicant gave contradictory testimony about his behavior when unmedicated, that the Immigration Judge found that it was "unknown" whether the applicant could get his medication in the Dominican Republic, and that the applicant provided contradictory evidence about how the police treat "rowdy" individuals. *Id.* at 917-920. The



Attorney General stated that the Immigration Judge and the applicant “critically failed to address the ultimate question whether [mistreatment amounting to torture] is common enough to make it more likely than not that respondent would be so treated.” *Id.*

Thus, in *J-F-F-*, there was a chain of suppositions that was necessary to conclude that it was more likely than not that the applicant would be tortured because there was no particular reason for anybody to want to harm him. As such, suppositions were necessary in order to establish that the government of the Dominican Republic would harm the applicant because it would be unprepared or unwilling to humanely deal with his psychological issues. The *J-F-F-* decision does not apply to claims such as the present one that are based on past torture and a direct and credible death threat.

Respondent’s CAT claim is distinguishable from the circumstances considered in *J-F-F-* and does not rely on inferences nor on a series of suppositions. Rather, Respondent’s fear of future torture is based on his own past experience as the victim of torture and death threats in Egypt. The Immigration Judge misconstrued the record by perfunctorily dismissing Respondent’s claim as “inconclusive.” Thus, the decision of the Immigration Judge is insufficient and erroneous under BIA and Attorney General precedent. Respondent respectfully requests that the Board vacate the denial of CAT protection and remand the application for appropriate adjudication before the Immigration Court.

c) **Acquiescence of a Public Official**

The Immigration Judge did not provide any basis whatsoever for the conclusory statement that Respondent has not established that the “government of Egypt” would turn a blind eye and acquiesce to any torture of the Respondent. Notably, the Immigration Judge applied a legally erroneous standard by addressing “the government.” Rather, the applicable regulations



and precedents establish that the Immigration Judge was required to determine the likelihood that a “public official” would acquiesce to future torture of the Respondent by his father or other anti-Christian activists in Egypt.

The BIA and Attorney General have issued decisions that significantly clarify the deficiency of the Immigration Judge’s decision. *Matter of O-F-A-S-*, 27 I&N Dec. 709 (BIA 2019). The Board’s decision in *O-F-A-S-* emphasizes that a CAT claim requires acquiescence by “a public official who is acting in an official capacity, that is, under color of law.” *Id.* at 714. This decision was subsequently abrogated by the Attorney General in *Matter of O-F-A-S-*, 28 I&N Dec. 35 (AG 2020). However, the Attorney General agreed with the Board that the proper inquiry is whether *a public official* would acquiesce to the torture under color of law. *Id.* at 40 (emphasis added).

The Attorney General emphasized that the CAT standard does not categorically exclude corrupt, low-level officials from its scope of protection. “Rather, *regardless of rank, a public official acts* under color of law when he exercises power possessed by virtue of law and made possible only because he is clothed with authority of law.” *Id.* (emphasis added). The Attorney General also explicitly stated that the issue of “whether any particular official’s actions ultimately satisfy this standard is a *fact-intensive inquiry* that depends on whether the official’s conduct is fairly attributable to the state.” *Id.* (emphasis added).

In the present case, the Immigration Judge declined to issue any findings or analysis whatsoever as to whether a public official would acquiesce to torture. IJ at 6-7. Instead, the Immigration Judge relied on an erroneous legal standard and indicated that Respondent was required to establish that the government as a whole would take part in or acquiesce to the torture that he faces in Egypt. The Immigration Judge failed to issue any analysis as to whether police

officers would acquiesce to torture and whether such actions by police officers “could be fairly attributed to the state.” Based on these significant errors and deficiencies, the denial of CAT relief must be vacated, and the application must be remanded to the Immigration Court for appropriate analysis and adjudication.

**CONCLUSION**

Respondent respectfully requests that the Board grant the asylum application based on the evidence and credible testimony in the record establishing that he suffered past persecution in Egypt on account of religion. Alternatively, based on the significant legal and analytical errors described herein, Respondent respectfully requests that the Board remand these proceedings to the Immigration Court for appropriate consideration and adjudication of the applications for relief.

Respectfully submitted,



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**Hani Bushra, Esq.**  
**Attorney for the Respondent**  
**16541 Gothard Street Suite 208**  
**Huntington Beach, CA 92647**  
**Phone: +1-714-984-2000**  
**Fax: +1-714-489-8128**  
**hani@bushralaw.com**



**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT a true copy of the foregoing BRIEF has been mailed to DHS/ICE Office of Chief Counsel-San Antonio at 1015 Jackson-Keller Rd, Suite 100, San Antonio Texas 78213 on this 4th day of August 2025.



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**Hani Bushra, Esq.**



NOT FOR PUBLICATION

U.S. Department of Justice  
Executive Office for Immigration Review  
Board of Immigration Appeals

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MATTER OF:

Akram Sameh Tawfik Elsayed Aly KHEDR. 

Respondent

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**FILED**  
Oct 06, 2025

ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT: Hani Bushra, Esquire

ON BEHALF OF DHS: Yolanda C. Rodriguez, Assistant Chief Counsel

IN REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS

On Appeal from a Decision of the Immigration Court, San Antonio, TX

Before: Reid, Temporary Appellate Immigration Judge<sup>1</sup>

REID, Temporary Appellate Immigration Judge

The respondent has appealed the Immigration Judge's written decision dated September 22, 2022. However, the Board is unable to meaningfully review this appeal, as the record of proceedings is not complete. Specifically, the record does not include a transcript of the September 22, 2022, final hearing, at which the respondent was scheduled to testify and apparently did testify in support of his applications for relief (Tr. at 118; *see also* IJ Written Decision (discussing the respondent's testimony at the hearing)).

As we consider a complete decision and accurate transcript to be necessary for our review of this matter, we will return the record to the Immigration Court to take such steps as are necessary and appropriate to enable preparation of a complete record of the proceedings. *See Matter of Kagumbas*, 28 I&N Dec. 400, 406 (BIA 2021) (stating that a transcript "needs to be complete enough for the Board to meaningfully review an appeal").

ORDER: The record is returned to the Immigration Court for further action and certification to the Board by the Immigration Judge thereafter, as appropriate.

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<sup>1</sup> Temporary Appellate Immigration Judges sit pursuant to appointment by the Attorney General. *See generally* 8 C.F.R. § 1003.1(a)(1), (4).



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW  
PEARSALL IMMIGRATION COURT

Respondent Name:

KHEDR, AKRAM SAMEH TAWFIK  
ELSAYED ALY

To:

Flores Roman , Paola Pamela  
4103 Chain Bridge Road  
Suite 300  
Fairfax, VA 22030

A-Number:



Riders:

In Custody Redetermination Proceedings

Date:

10/31/2025

- Unable to forward - no address provided.
- Attached is a copy of the **decision of the Immigration Judge**. This decision is final unless an appeal is filed with the Board of Immigration Appeals within 30 calendar days of the date of the mailing of this written decision. See the enclosed forms and instructions for properly preparing your appeal. Your notice of appeal, attached documents, and fee or fee waiver request must be mailed to:

Board of Immigration Appeals  
Office of the Clerk  
P.O. Box 8530  
Falls Church, VA 22041

- Attached is a copy of the decision of the immigration judge as the result of your Failure to Appear at your scheduled deportation or removal hearing. This decision is final unless a Motion to Reopen is filed in accordance with Section 242B(c)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1252B(c)(3) in deportation proceedings or section 240(b)(5)(c), 8 U.S.C. § 1229a(b)(5)(c) in removal proceedings. If you file a motion to reopen, your motion must be filed with this court:

Immigration Court

- Attached is a copy of the decision of the immigration judge relating to a Reasonable Fear Review. Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 1208.31(g)(1), no administrative appeal is available.
- Attached is a copy of the decision of the immigration judge relating to a **Credible Fear Review**. This is a final order. No appeal is available.



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW  
PEARSALL IMMIGRATION COURT**

Respondent Name:

KHEDR, AKRAM SAMEH TAWFIK  
ELSAYED ALY

To:

Flores Roman , Paola Pamela  
4103 Chain Bridge Road  
Suite 300  
Fairfax, VA 22030

A-Number:



Riders:

In Custody Redetermination Proceedings

Date:

10/31/2025

**ORDER OF THE IMMIGRATION JUDGE**

A request having been made for a change in the custody status of the respondent pursuant to 8 C.F.R. Part 1236, and the Court having considered the representations of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the respondent, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that the request for a change in the custody status of the respondent be **DENIED** for the following reason(s):

**\*Danger to the community (persons or property) and flight risk.**

**Order:**

The respondent's request for redetermination of custody status is hereby **DENIED**.



**U.S. Department of Justice**

Executive Office for Immigration Review

*Board of Immigration Appeals  
Office of the Clerk*

5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 2000  
Falls Church, Virginia 22041



Bushra, Hani  
Law Offices of Hani S. Bushra  
16541 Gothard St. Suite 208  
Huntington Beach CA 92647

DHS/ICE Office of Chief Counsel - SNA  
1015 Jackson-Keller Rd, Suite 100  
San Antonio TX 78213

Name: KHEDR, AKRAM SAMEH TAWFI



Date of this Notice: 10/6/2025

Enclosed is a copy of the Board's decision and order in the above-referenced case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Seiler".

John Seiler  
Acting Chief Clerk

Enclosure

Userteam: Docket

MB  
SCANNED OCT 10 2025

BB

Other:

Date: 10/31/2025



Immigration Judge: McKee, R. Reid 10/31/2025

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Date: 10/31/2025 By: Rios, Diana, Court Staff

*Reid  
McKee*

Immigration Judge: McKee, R. Reid 10/31/2025

Appeal: Department of Homeland Security:  waived  reserved  
Respondent:  waived  reserved

Appeal Due: 12/01/2025

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Respondent Name : KHEDR, AKRAM SAMEH TAWFIK ELSAYED ALY | A-Number : 

Riders:

Date: 10/31/2025 By: Rios, Diana, Court Staff

## BIA Case Information

No appeal was received for this case.

## Court Contact Information

If you require further information regarding your case, or wish to file additional documents, please contact the immigration court.

### **COURT ADDRESS**

800 DOLOROSA STREET-SUITE 300  
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78207

### **PHONE NUMBER**

(210) 472-6637

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Department of Justice | Executive Office for Immigration Review  
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### Court Closures Today November 18, 2025

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>



# Automated Case Information

**Name: KHEDR, AKRAM SAMEH TAWFIK ELSAYED ALY**

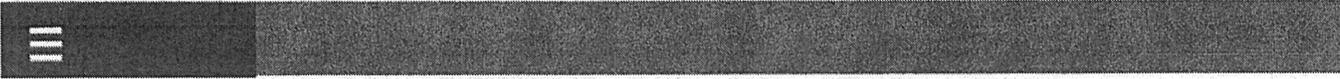
**A-Number: [REDACTED]**

## Next Hearing Information

*There are no future hearings for this case.*

## Court Decision and Motion Information

Official Website of the Department of Homeland Security



**AKRAM SAMEH TAWFIK ELSAYED ALY KHEDR**

Country of Birth : Egypt

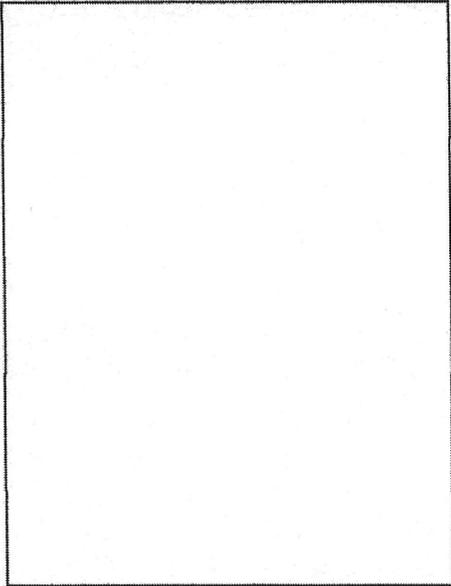
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Status : In ICE Custody

Current Detention Facility:



**Related Information**



**External Links**

Bureau of Prisons Inmate  
Locator



## **Christian Declaration in Support of Asylum and Protection**

Applicant: Akram Khedr (A )

Detained at: La Salle County Regional Detention Center, Encinal, Texas

### **I. My Testimony**

My name is Akram Khedr, and I am a follower of Jesus Christ from Egypt. I was born into a Muslim family, but when I was still a child, my mother and I encountered the Gospel and accepted Jesus as our Savior. We were secretly baptized, and that moment changed our lives. We found peace with God—but also persecution, danger, and rejection from our community.

### **II. Persecution in Egypt**

After our conversion became known, my father and neighbors attacked my mother and took me away by force. He locked me inside, beat me, and demanded I return to Islam. He told me, "If you are not Muslim, you are not my son; you are dead to me." I was terrified, but I could not deny Christ. Through the help of believers from an underground church, my mother rescued me, and we fled to Jordan.

### **III. Struggles and Separation in Jordan and Europe**

In Jordan, persecution continued. My older half-brother, a strict Muslim, discovered my faith and joined with my father and Egyptian authorities to send me back. He beat me so harshly that I was left bruised and hungry for days. My mother's fear was unbearable—she knew that if I returned to Egypt, I would be tortured to pressure her to renounce her faith. With God's grace, she found a Baptist pastor and his wife who risked their lives to hide me. They gave me food, shelter, and safety.

In 2015, my mother fled to Europe to seek asylum for her own faith. Her fear of persecution was so deep that she could not safely return to Jordan or Egypt to save me. From Europe, she worked through Christian ministries to hide me and prayed constantly for a way to bring me to safety. By God's mercy, I received a visa and entered the United States legally at the age of sixteen, seeking refuge and freedom of faith.

My mother later died of colon cancer in Europe. She knew if I were delivered to Egypt, the authorities would torture me to pressure her to deny her faith. She never saw me again but found peace knowing her son was safe in America—the land that welcomed him when no one else could.

### **IV. Life in the United States**

In America, I finally found freedom. This nation became my refuge, my home, and my teacher. I learned English, continued my education, and began serving in church as a worship leader and youth mentor. The Baptist pastor and his wife who once hid me became my spiritual parents—my father, Pastor Raid Al Safadi, and his wife welcomed me as their

son.

Pastor Raid is known internationally for his evangelical work among Muslims, his story of persecution in Jordan, and his continuing ministry in the United States. Through his example, I learned to serve faithfully and to help others find Jesus. I am now part of his online and public ministry, sharing my testimony on social media to encourage others from the Middle East. My name and testimony appear publicly alongside Pastor Raid's in videos, posts, and Christian programs. This has made me highly visible to the Muslim community and Egyptian authorities, who monitor converts and online ministries.

#### **V. The Privilege of America**

America gave me life again. Here, I discovered freedom of faith, dignity, and hope. This country accepted me into its schools, churches, and communities. I pay taxes, obey the law, and am engaged to Marguerite, a U.S. military veteran who loves God and loves this nation. Together, we dream of raising children who will grow up as disciples of Jesus Christ—safe, free, and thankful to be American. I desire nothing more than to serve God and this country, helping build bridges of faith and peace.

#### **VI. Current Detention and Prayer**

Since August 2025, I have been detained by ICE at La Salle County Regional Detention Center. Though I have no criminal record as an adult and have lived righteously, I am treated like a criminal. Conditions are harsh—cold air, poor food, and isolation—but my faith remains firm. I pray daily for mercy and for America to see me not as a file or number, but as a son of this nation's values: freedom, faith, and justice.

#### **VII. Fear of Return**

Egypt's laws, constitution, and religious culture are dominated by Islamic authority. Christians—especially former Muslims—are persecuted, attacked, and imprisoned. From the Coptic 21 martyrs to countless unnamed believers, conversion to Christianity is often punished with death. If I am returned to Egypt, I will face the same fate. Egyptian authorities will easily trace my social-media presence and my connection to Pastor Raid Al Safadi, a known evangelist, which will make me a target for torture or execution.

#### **VIII. My Appeal**

"He brought me out into a spacious place; He rescued me because He delighted in me." – Psalm 18:19

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." – Matthew 5:7

I humbly ask for mercy, for protection, and for the right to live and serve in peace. I love Jesus, I love America, and I long to continue using my testimony to bless this nation. Deportation would destroy my life; freedom would allow me to keep serving God and my community. Please let me live the life that God has redeemed—free, faithful, and full of purpose.

Respectfully and prayerfully submitted,

Akram Khedr

A# 

La Salle County Regional Detention Center

Encinal, Texas

11:35



me 11:15 AM

to Kimberly ▾



Hey Kimberly, you will need to get into the ECAS system and download the transcript and the briefing schedule. That's what I'm needing please. Thanks!

...



Kimberly Molina 11:25 AM

to me ▾



I need confirmation from my managing attorney. If you give a moment I can respond with a proper answer.

Thank you for your patience,



MANUEL DIAZ LAW FIRM, PC  
— ABOGADO MANUEL DIAZ —

**Kimberly Ann Molina**

Receptionist

Manuel Diaz Law Firm, PC

5002 West Avenue, San Antonio, TX 78213

T. 210.245.5088 | www.diazlf.com

---

**From:** Akram Khedr <akramsafadi4@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 27, 2025 11:15 AM

**To:** Kimberly Molina <KimberlyM@diazlf.com>

**Subject:** Re: Manuel Diaz Law Firm - 297812

...

Ok, thank you.

Yes, I confirm.

← Reply

→ Forward



# Exhibit “B”

Monday, August 4, 2025 at 11:11:15 AM Pacific Daylight Time

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**Subject:** FW: Akram Khedr [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 2:17:52 PM Pacific Daylight Time  
**From:** Hani Bushra <hani@bushralaw.com>  
**To:** kimberlyM@diazlf.com <kimberlyM@diazlf.com>  
**Attachments:** 2e41febd-a460-4f00-bb94-5072555f9d9e.jpg, 2e41febd-a460-4f00-bb94-5072555f9d9e.jpg, EOIR-Case-Portal.pdf, SubmittedEOIR-27AkramKhedr.pdf

Good Afternoon Ms. Molina,

I attempted to send the email below to attorney Andrea Aguilar, but it was kicked back.

Can you please forward it to the appropriate attorney who was handling the Akram Khedr [REDACTED] matter?

Thank you,

Hani

**Email:** [hani@bushralaw.com](mailto:hani@bushralaw.com)  
**Website:** [www.BushraLaw.com](http://www.BushraLaw.com)  
**Phone:** [+1-714-984-2000](tel:+1-714-984-2000)  
**Office SMS:** [+1-714-984-2000](tel:+1-714-984-2000)  
**Direct SMS:** [+1-714-984-2000](tel:+1-714-984-2000)  
**Fax:** [+1-714-489-8128](tel:+1-714-489-8128)  
**Address:** 16541 Gothard Street Suite 208  
Huntington Beach, CA 92647

**Hani Bushra**

Attorney at Law at the Law Offices of Hani S. Bushra

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

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**From:** Hani Bushra <hani@bushralaw.com>  
**Date:** Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 2:13 PM

To: [aaguilar@diazlf.com](mailto:aaguilar@diazlf.com) <[aaguilar@diazlf.com](mailto:aaguilar@diazlf.com)>

Subject: Akram Khedr 

Good Afternoon Counsel,

My name is Hani Bushra, and I am an immigration attorney in California. I have been retained by Mr. Ahran Khedr to represent him before the BIA. I have entered my appearance before the BIA and attached is a copy of my EOIR-27.

From my understanding and online information (attached is a screenshot from the ECAS portal), Mr. Khedr's BIA brief was due on May 8, 2024, but the ECAS portal shows that none was filed.

Can you confirm if your firm filed a brief on this matter? If not, can you please provide me with a copy of the transcript furnished by the BIA because this is a paper case file and this information is not available online.

Thank you,

Hani Bushra

**Email:** [hani@bushralaw.com](mailto:hani@bushralaw.com)  
**Website:** [www.BushraLaw.com](http://www.BushraLaw.com)  
**Phone:** [+1-714-984-2000](tel:+1-714-984-2000)  
**Office SMS:** [+1-714-984-2000](tel:+1-714-984-2000)  
**Direct SMS:** [+1-714-984-2000](tel:+1-714-984-2000)  
**Fax:** [+1-714-489-8128](tel:+1-714-489-8128)  
**Address:** [16541 Gothard Street Suite 208](#)  
[Huntington Beach, CA 92647](#)

**Hani Bushra**

Attorney at Law at the Law Offices of Hani S. Bushra

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

23 August 2025

**Advocacy Statement in Support of Akram Khedr Release and Continued Residency in the United States**

I am writing to strongly advocate for Akram Khedr to be allowed to remain in the United States and to continue serving and working in our San Antonio community. Akram is a bright, hard-working young man whose dedication to his family, faith, and community has been an inspiration to many in San Antonio and beyond. Through his tireless efforts in charity work with his church and his family, Akram has made a profound and lasting impact on the lives of those around him. He has consistently demonstrated selflessness, compassion, and integrity; qualities that make him not only a valued community member, but also a positive role model for young people.

As someone who has proudly served this nation for over twenty-four years as a U.S. Army Colonel, with assignments in multiple countries, I can confidently attest to my ability to assess an individual's character. I have no doubt that Akram is a man of honor, commitment, and good will. He is no threat to our community—on the contrary, he strengthens it. His influence on young people, including my own children, has been nothing short of extraordinary. I trust him with my family, and I have seen firsthand the positive example he sets for others. His life and life story have been an inspiration to me.

Our nation thrives because of individuals like Akram Khedr, who embody the values of hard work, service, and faith. He is a good man seeking a permanent home in this great country, and I am certain that, if given the opportunity, he will continue to contribute meaningfully to the strength and fabric of our communities. His release from detention and continued residency in the United States would not only be a just decision but also a benefit to us all.



Respectfully,  
Timothy I. Arcelay  
Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired)

Marguerite Dominguez

5823 Hematite Rim  
San Antonio, Texas  
Email: margueritedelilah@gmail.com  
Phone: (805)748-1580

Date: 11/16/2025

To:  
Field Office Director  
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)  
San Antonio Field Office  
1777 NE Loop 410, Suite 1500  
San Antonio, TX 78217

CC:  
• Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, DHS – CRCLImmigration@hq.dhs.gov  
• U.S. Department of Homeland Security – Office of Public Advocate  
• Texas Senator John Cornyn

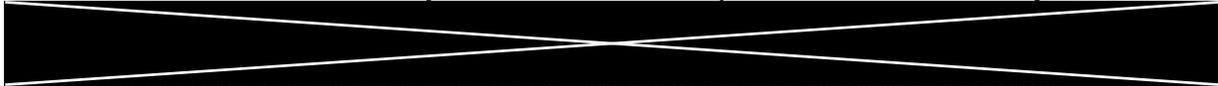
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Subject: Request for Permission to Marry and Humanitarian Parole – Mr. Akram Khedr (A#

  
Dear Field Office Director,

My name is Marguerite Dominguez, and I am a United States military veteran and a natural born U.S. citizen. I am writing to request permission to proceed with my marriage to Mr. Akram Khedr, who is currently detained at La Salle County Regional Detention Center in Encinal, Texas.

I have known Akram for several years and our relationship has been built on honesty, faith, and

  
occurred, Akram has lived a law-abiding life, served faithfully in his church, built strong relationships, worked, paid taxes, and supported our community in every possible way. The Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) approved his appeal; however, at his bond hearing on 31 October, his bond was denied.

As a Military Veteran who has dedicated years of my life to this country, I believe that the very freedom that I defended includes the right to love, rebuild, and seek redemption. Preventing us from marrying denies both of us the opportunity to move forward in faith and partnership. We

have consistently requested guidance for marrying while Akram Khedr is detained; however, we have been unable to obtain guidance or approval from the facility. I am urgently seeking your assistance in securing his release.

I respectfully request ICE to:

1. Grant permission for our marriage to take place while Akram remains in custody; or
2. Release him under supervision or parole, allowing us to formalize our marriage and continue building a stable future together.

Our marriage is not for immigration benefit—it is a sacred commitment. I am willing to act as his financial sponsor and supervision contact if released.

I also appeal to your sense of humanity and justice: Akram is not a threat to anyone, and his continued detention serves no purpose other than to separate two people determined to live a responsible and honorable life.

Thank you for considering this request with compassion and fairness.

Respectfully,

Marguerite Dominguez  
Fiancée of Akram Khedr  
Email: margueritedelilah@gmail.com  
Phone: 805-748-1580

01 September 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR Honorable Immigration Judge, South Texas Detention Complex, 566 Veterans Dr., Pearsall, Texas 78061.

SUBJECT: Character Reference and Recommendation in Support of Akram Sameh Khedr.

1. I am writing this letter on behalf of Mr. Akram; I hope that this statement will be taken into consideration for the possible detention/pending appeal process as an asylum seeker.

2. Over a year (approximately July 2024) that I have known Mr. Akram, and family, he has served as an outstanding Citizen and has given back to the community (by preaching to those of radical Islam and converting into Christianity). While knowing him and relatives ((Father) Raid Al Safadi, (Mother) Lana Hanhan (Sister) Rachele, (Brothers) Daved and Mark), preach the word of God, feed those in need and assist its community by placing their needs above their own. One of those events was Banquet of Noth America Arab Pastors Network (NAAPN); where Akram selflessly server over 100+ hours in administration, planning and kitchen where he assisted by cooking for over 300+ people. Since knowing Mr. Akram, he has shown to be a noble citizen, to my knowledge has entered the county lawfully, and has not broken any laws. Mr. Akram is aware that he should have educated himself more on the process and followed up on his case that could have very well prevented his detention. He is aware of his mistake and has been resilient through the process, currently during his detention his been preaching the word of God to those that are currently in detention with him. His peers admired his servant heart, willingness to remain resilient and learn from his setbacks. He has always been kind, respectful, and has volunteered to support any task that God has placed in his heart. Aware of the possible outcome of his pending appeal process for asylum seeker, and in my position, I would fully understand any punishment exercised. It is my belief that people of his character and work ethic are too rare to recommend or in force max punishment (deportation) over miss understandings or lack of knowledge. I believe Mr. Akram has the heart of patriot, character, attributes and the potential we seek in our U.S. Citizens. I also believe that if given an opportunity to remain in the United States of America it will provide him the foundation, he requires to continue to be an asset to our Country and great Nation.

3. Point of contact for this memorandum is Rodriguezsolis, Jorge S. at 410-253-9618 or Jorgcrodriguez2003@yahoo.com

RODRIGUEZSOLIS.JORGE  Digitally signed by RODRIGUEZSOLIS.JORGE, DN: cn=RODRIGUEZSOLIS.JORGE, o=, ou=, email=RODRIGUEZSOLIS.JORGE@... Date: 2025.09.01 13:26:31 -0500

JORGE S. RODRIGUEZSOLIS