

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA
Civil No. 0:25-cv-04776-JWB-DJF

Ahmed Sharif Ali,

Petitioner,

v.

Pamela Bondi, *et al.*,

Respondents.


**DECLARATION OF
JAMES L. VAN DER VAART**

James L. Van Der Vaart, Deportation Officer, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”), Department of Homeland Security, for his declaration under 28 U. S. C. § 1746 hereby states as follows:

1. The following declaration is based on my personal knowledge and a review of the Petitioner Ahmed Sharif Ali’s (“ALI”) alien file and statements.

2. I am and have been employed with ICE since April 1, 2007. I began my career as an Immigration Enforcement Agent. On September 20, 2015, I was promoted to Deportation Officer.

3. As a Deportation Officer, my assigned duties are to identify, locate, and arrest aliens illegally present in the United States. Additionally, I am charged with the responsibility of overseeing the cases of aliens in removal proceedings. These duties include the review of alien files for sufficiency, the detention and release of aliens in ICE custody, monitoring the progress of cases through the hearing process, and enforcement of the immigration court’s decision, including the execution of removal orders. I am also responsible for presenting criminal immigration cases to the United States Attorney’s Office for possible criminal prosecution.

4. On August 16, 2022, US Border Patrol (“USBP”) encountered and arrested ALI near the San Ysidro, Texas Port of Entry. ALI did not possess any legal documents allowing him to remain in or travel through the United States legally. ALI was issued alien registration number (A)  and processed as a Warrant of Arrest, Notice to Appear. Attached as **Exhibit A** is a true and correct copy of the Notice to Appear.

5. On August 19, 2022, USBP released ALI on an Order of Recognizance. ALI had an immigration court date of May 2, 2023, in Detroit Michigan.

6. On December 28, 2022, ALI filed a petition for asylum.

7. On October 15, 2025, an immigration judge in Detroit Michigan denied all relief (including ALI’s petition for asylum) and ordered ALI removed to Somalia. ALI reserved appeal. Attached as **Exhibit B** is a true and correct copy of the removal order.

8. On November 13, 2025, ALI filed a timely case appeal with the Board of Immigration Appeals. The appeal is currently pending, which means ALI’s order of removal is not yet administratively final. Nor is the denial of ALI’s petition for asylum administratively final at this point.

9. On December 1, 2025, ICE officers arrested ALI in Minneapolis, Minnesota. ALI is currently in ICE custody. Attached as **Exhibit C** is a true and correct copy of the Form I-213, Record of Deportable/Inadmissible Alien associated with ALI’s December 2025 arrest.

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

[signature page follows]

Dated: December 30, 2025

**JAMES L VAN
DER VAART**

Digitally signed by JAMES L
VAN DER VAART
Date: 2025.12.30 09:59:31
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James L. Van Der Vaart, Deportation Officer
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement