

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO**

Civil Action No. 26-cv-00332-DDD-STV

HISSEIN SEIRO YAYA,

Petitioner,

v.

JUAN BALTAZAR, in his official capacity as Warden of the Denver Contract Detention Facility owned and operated by GEO Group, Inc.;
ROBERT HAGAN, in his official capacity as Field Office Director, Denver Field Office, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE);
KRISTI NOEM, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS);
TODD LYONS, Acting Director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE);
PAM BONDI, Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ);

Respondents.

DECLARATION OF SHANE BLEA

I, Shane Blea, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, and based on my personal knowledge and information made known to me from official records reasonably relied upon by me in the course of my employment, hereby declare as follows relating to the above-captioned matter:

1. I am employed as a Deportation Officer for the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Enforcement and Removal Operations Denver Field Office (Denver ERO). I have been employed with ICE ERO since September 17, 2017, and have been in my current role

as a Deportation Officer since then. My duty station is at the ICE contract detention facility in Aurora, Colorado (Denver CDF). I am the Deportation Officer assigned to the case of Petitioner Hissein Seiro Yaya (Petitioner).

2. I provide this declaration based on my personal knowledge, review of the case file, reasonable inquiry, and information obtained from various records, systems, databases, other DHS employees, and information portals maintained and relied upon by DHS in the regular course of business.

3. I have reviewed the case of Petitioner, who is in ICE custody.

4. Petitioner is a native and citizen of Chad.

5. On July 10, 2024, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) apprehended Petitioner at or near Lukeville, Arizona shortly after he illegally entered the United States by crossing the United States-Mexico border. Petitioner was not inspected and admitted or paroled into the United States.

6. CBP determined that Petitioner is inadmissible to the United States and processed him for expedited removal proceedings pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1). Petitioner did not claim a fear of persecution if returned to Chad.

7. On July 23, 2024, Petitioner was transferred to ICE custody and booked into the Denver CDF to facilitate his removal from the United States to Chad. Once in ICE custody, Petitioner claimed fear of persecution if returned to Chad. ICE referred Petitioner to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for a credible fear interview by an asylum officer pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)(A)(ii).

8. USCIS did not conduct a credible fear interview.

9. On October 2, 2024, USCIS issued a Notice to Appear (NTA), initiating removal proceedings under 8 U.S.C. § 1229a, before the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR). The NTA charged Petitioner with being inadmissible to the United States pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(7)(A)(i)(I) (immigrant who, at the time of application for admission, is not in possession of a valid unexpired immigrant visa, reentry permit, border crossing card, or other valid entry document) and 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(A)(i) (alien present in the United States without being admitted or paroled, or who arrives in the United States at any time or place other than as designated).

10. On January 8, 2025, Petitioner filed a Form I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal, with EOIR.

11. On January 13, 2025, Petitioner filed written pleadings to the NTA with EOIR. Petitioner conceded proper service of the NTA; admitted the allegations in the NTA; and conceded removability as charged in the NTA.

12. On July 18, 2025, the Immigration Judge (IJ) held a hearing on the merits of Petitioner's application.

13. On July 24, 2025, the IJ issued a written decision in Petitioner's case. In her decision the IJ sustained the charges of inadmissibility and directed Chad as the country of removal. The IJ denied Petitioner's application for asylum and ordered him removed to Chad. The IJ granted Petitioner's application for withholding of removal to Chad under 8 U.S.C. § 1231(b)(3). The IJ reserved appeal on behalf of both parties.

14. Neither party appealed the IJ's order, which became administratively final on August 23, 2025.

15. Petitioner is detained pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1231.

16. ICE is pursuing Petitioner's removal to alternative countries pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1231(b).

17. On November 17, 2025, ICE served Petitioner with a Notice of File Custody Review, which advised him that ICE will review his custody status and potential for release on an order of supervision. The notice also advised Petitioner of some of the criteria that ICE will consider when deciding whether to release or continue to detain him. Additionally, the notice advised Petitioner that he can submit documents in support of his release.

18. On November 18, 2025, ICE conducted a Post Order Custody Review pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 241.4. ICE determined that Petitioner did not satisfy the criteria for release because he poses a significant risk of flight pending removal and ICE expects to receive the necessary travel documents to effectuate removal. ICE also determined that removal is practicable, likely to occur in the reasonably foreseeable future, and in the public interest. ICE determined that there is a significant likelihood of removal in the reasonably foreseeable further and continued to detain Petitioner.

19. Petitioner requested a personal interview, and, on December 10, 2025, ICE conducted a panel interview with Petitioner. Petitioner was given the opportunity to make a statement and provide documentation relevant to his custody review. ICE is reviewing the information obtained from the interview and will use that information in a subsequent POCR.


20. DHS and the U.S. Department of State are working in coordination to

evaluate and select a third country for removal.

21. Petitioner remains detained at the Denver CDF pending removal to a third country.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Executed this 13th day of February 2026.

SHANE R BLEA  Digitally signed
by SHANE R BLEA
Date: 2026.02.13
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Deportation Officer
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement