

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA
Civil No. 26-cv-00896 (NEB/SGE)

Gastar Bonilla Baroja,

Petitioner,

v.

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

Pamela Bondi, Attorney General, et al.,

Respondents.

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

1. The following declaration is based on a review of the Plaintiff’s alien file, official records checks, and information relayed to me by other officials.

2. I am and have been employed with DHS since April 01, 2007. I began my career as an Immigration Enforcement Agent. On September 20, 2015, I was promoted to Deportation Officer, my current position.

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. Gastar Bonilla Baroja, AKA Gaspar Bonilla Barojas (Hereinafter referred to as "BONILLA") is a citizen and national of Mexico.

5. ICE first encountered BONILLA on or about August 22, 2007, at the Scottsboro City Jail in Scottsboro, AL. BONILLA admitted he was in the U.S. without proper documentation and that he crossed the U.S. International Boundary at a time and place other than designated by the Attorney General without being inspected by an Immigration Official.

6. On August 24, 2007, BONILLA was remanded to the custody of ICE and served a Notice to Appear, Form I-862, charging removability under section 212(a)(6)(A)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).

7. On October 01, 2007, an immigration judge (IJ) at Oakdale, LA ordered BONILLA removed from the U.S. to Mexico. Attached is a true and correct copy of the Immigration Judge's Removal Order.

8. On October 16, 2007, BONILLA was removed from the U.S.

9. On or about April 27, 2008, United States Border Patrol (USBP) encountered BONILLA at or near Sasabe, AZ. BONILLA was served a Notice of Intent/Decision to Reinstate Prior Order, Form I-871 and presented for prosecution under 8 USC 1325/1326.

10. On April 28, 2008, BONILLA was convicted in the United States District Court, District of Arizona under 8 U.S.C 1325 Illegal Entry into the United States and sentenced to 30 days.

11. On May 24, 2008, BONILLA was removed from the U.S.

12. On May 23, 2012, BONILLA was encountered by ICE at the Scottsboro City Jail in Scottsboro, AL. BONILLA was served a Notice of Intent/Decision to Reinstate Prior Order, Form I-871.

13. On June 07, 2012, BONILLA was removed from the U.S.

14. On January 16, 2022, BONILLA was encountered by ICE at the Madison County Jail in Huntsville, AL.

15. On January 21, 2022, BONILLA was served a Notice of Intent/Decision to Reinstate Prior Order, Form I-871.

16. On February 15, 2022, BONILLA was removed from the U.S.

17. On January 30, 2026, BONILLA was encountered by ICE in Minnesota during Operation Metro Surge.

18. BONILLA is being processed and is currently housed at the Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building in Fort Snelling, MN.

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

**JAMES L VAN
DER VAART**

Digitally signed by JAMES L VAN
DER VAART
Date: 2026.02.01 11:39:56 -06'00'

James L. Van Der Vaart, Deportation Officer
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement