UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

FELIPE DONALD AGUINAGA CASTELLON, *Petitioner,* v. DOE, *et al.*, *Respondents.*	Case No. 2:26-cv-00647-NJC DECLARATION OF DEPORTATION OFFICER MINCHEOL SO

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

1. I am a 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 September 30, 2015. I manage 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, Felipe Donald Aguinaga Castellon, [redacted] ("Petitioner"). As a Deportation Officer, I have access to ICE/DHS's immigration records regarding Petitioner. The following representations are based on my personal knowledge, review of ICE/DHS administrative and electronic records maintained in the ordinary course of business and consultation with my colleagues.

3. Petitioner is a native and citizen of Nicaragua.

4. On or about February 4, 2005, Petitioner unlawfully entered the United States by crossing the southern border at or near Los Indios, Texas and was apprehended by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

5. On February 4, 2005, Petitioner was served with a Form I-862 Notice to Appear ("2005 NTA"), which charged him as removable under Immigration and Nationality Act ("INA") § 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. A true and correct copy of the 2005 NTA is attached hereto as Exhibit A. The 2005 NTA advised Petitioner to appear before an Immigration Judge at the courthouse in San Antonio, Texas on March 14, 2005. *See id.*

6. On February 4, 2005, Petitioner also received a Form I-286, Notice of Custody Determination and was released on his own recognizance. A true and correct copy of the Form I-286 is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

7. The 2005 NTA was not filed with the Executive Officer of Immigration Review ("EOIR") so removal proceedings against Petitioner did not commence in 2005.

8. On February 5, 2026, at approximately 7:00 a.m., while conducting a targeted investigation in Copiague, New York, ICE officers observed Petitioner, who matched the description of a targeted suspect, exit a building and drive off. Officers conducted a vehicle stop believing that Petitioner was the targeted suspect. Officers approached the vehicle, identified themselves as officers with ICE, and asked Petitioner for identification. Petitioner provided the officers with a Nicaraguan identification bearing his name which was run through ICE's database to reveal that he was a citizen and national of Nicaragua with no lawful status in the United States.

9. On February 5, 2026, at approximately 7:30 a.m., Petitioner was arrested pursuant to a Form I-200 Warrant for Arrest of Alien and taken into custody. A true and correct copy of the Form I-200 is attached hereto as Exhibit C. Petitioner was taken to the Central Islip Hold Room, and served with the Form I-200 and a Form I-862 Notice to Appear ("2026 NTA"), which charged him as removable under INA § 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. A true and correct copy of the 2026 NTA is attached hereto as Exhibit D. The 2026 NTA advised Petitioner to appear before an Immigration Judge at the courthouse in New York, New York on February 16, 2026. *See id.*

10. On February 5, 2026, at approximately 7:05 p.m., Petitioner was transferred to Nassau County Correctional Center, where he currently remains.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed at New York, New York
This 6th day of February, 2026

MINCHEOL SO Digitally signed by MINCHEOL SO Date: 2026.02.06 16:20:40 -05'00'

Mincheol So
Deportation Officer
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
U.S. Department of Homeland Security