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Attorneys for Respondents

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

VITALII POPOV,

Petitioner,

v.

WARDEN, OTAY MESA
DETENTION CENTER, et al.,

Respondents.

Case No.: 26-cv-02519-BAS-BJW

STATUS REPORT

1
2 Respondents provide the following status report pursuant to the Court's Order on
3 May 20, 2026 (ECF No. 11).

4 On May 5, 2026, ERO secured a chartered removal flight for the date of
5 May 11, 2026, to Russia, for Petitioner, with officer escort. *See* Declaration of Terrilyn
6 Hunter. On May 11, 2026, Petitioner refused to comply with the removal flight and
7 was returned to the Otay Mesa Detention Center. *See id.* Enforcement and Removal
8 Operations is now seeking to secure a new chartered removal flight to Russia for
9 Petitioner and will remove accordingly, subject to his compliance. *See id.*

10 DATED: May 22, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

11 ADAM GORDON
12 United States Attorney

13 s/ Antonio Estrada
14 ANTONIO ESTRADA
15 Special Assistant United States Attorney
16 Attorneys for Respondents
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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

Vitalii Popov,

Petitioner,

v.

Warden, Otay Mesa Detention Center and
Field Office Director ICE San Diego Field
Office,

Respondents.

Case No.: 26-cv-2519-BAS-BJW

**DECLARATION OF
TERRILYN HUNTER**

I, Terrilyn Hunter, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the following statements are true and correct, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief:

1. I am a Deportation Officer (DO) with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO), in the Otay Mesa suboffice of the San Diego Field Office.

2. I have been employed by ICE as a law enforcement officer and serving as a DO since April 24, 2022. I currently remain serving in that position. As a DO, my responsibilities include case management of individuals detained by ICE at the Otay Mesa Detention Center (OMDC) in Otay Mesa, California.

3. This declaration is based on my personal knowledge and experience as a

1 law enforcement officer and information provided to me in my official capacity as a
2 DO at the ICE ERO San Diego Field Office, as well as my review of government
3 databases and documentation relating to Petitioner Vitalii Popov [REDACTED].

4 4. On May 5, 2026, ERO secured a chartered removal flight for the date of
5 May 11, 2026 to Russia for Petitioner, with officer escort.

6 5. On May 11, 2026, petitioner refused to comply with the removal flight and
7 was returned to OMDC.

8 6. ERO is now seeking to secure a new chartered removal flight to Russia for
9 Petitioner and will remove accordingly, subject to his compliance.

10
11 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the
12 foregoing is true and correct.

13 Executed on this 21st day of May, 2026.

14 TERRILYN B
15 HUNTER

Digitally signed by TERRILYN B
HUNTER
Date: 2026.05.21 14:04:36 -07'00'

16 Terrilyn Hunter
17 Deportation Officer
18 San Diego Field Office
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