

Declaration of Suresh Kumar

I, Suresh Kumar, declare as follows:

1. My name is Suresh Kumar. I was born on August 15, 1982 in India and I am currently detained by ICE at LaSalle ICE Processing Center in Jena, Louisiana.
2. I have been refusing to eat all solid food since November 1, 2019. I left my country because I feared for my life. Both my parole and asylum case were denied and I am protesting those decisions.
3. On March 6, 2020, I stopped even drinking liquid food. In response, LaSalle staff began force-feeding me liquid food through a large tube that they force into my nose. This procedure is extremely painful.
4. This hunger strike has left me on the verge of death. I weighed 164 pounds at the start of my strike, but now I weigh only 125 pounds.
5. In early January, I was taken to LaSalle General Hospital because of my nose and throat infection and pain I was having in my stomach because of dehydration. There, doctors tested my liver and told me that I have hepatitis C and a liver infection. I still have a liver infection today. The doctor in the detention center, Dr. Ford, told me that if I don't start eating, they won't treat me. I do not receive any medications for my liver or hepatitis. Medical staff at the facility told me I'd get medications if I started eating.
6. My body is failing. I experience constant chest, head, stomach, throat, and lower back pain. I am so weak that I have to use a wheelchair. I have trouble urinating. There is a persistent rash on my left arm. My gums constantly bleed.
7. The doctor who force-fed me in the detention center on March 24, 2020 told me that if I'm sick they would take me to Alexandria, Louisiana, but that there were lots of coronavirus cases in Alexandria, so I would be at risk to catch it and die there. They told me that because of my condition, I would be the first one to catch the virus.
8. Another detainee, Pardeep Kumar, is confined with me in a 10 x 10 small room in the medical unit. When the doctors force-feed me, they don't wear masks. There are 6 rooms in the medical unit total.
9. On February 7, 2020, my attorneys at the Southern Poverty Law Center submitted a humanitarian parole request to ICE. Among the documents they submitted was a letter from a doctor who reviewed my medical records stating that I suffer from hypotension, which caused my blood pressure to fall dangerously low, and that I was in danger of organ failure and death. ICE denied that request.

10. On March 16, 2020, my attorney asked ICE to release me because I am at high risk for dying of coronavirus because I am malnourished and because my immune system is not functioning correctly. ICE denied that request as well.
11. If released, I would live with my brother in-law Ram Parsad at 1671 Willow Lane, Grants Pass, Oregon, 97527.
12. I have authorized my attorney to sign on my behalf, given the difficulty of arranging visitation and travel in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic. If required to do so, I will provide a signature when I am able to do so.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



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Jeremy Jong signing on behalf of Suresh Kumar

Date: 03/26/2020