

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

—

ANNE WHITE HAT, RAMON MEJÍA,
and KAREN SAVAGE,

Plaintiffs,

Civil Action No. 6:20-cv-00983

v.

JUDGE ROBERT R. SUMMERHAYS

BECKET BREAUX, in his official
capacity as Sheriff of St. Martin Parish;
BO DUHÉ, in his official capacity as District
Attorney of the 16th Judicial District Attorney's
Office,

MAGISTRATE JUDGE
CAROL B. WHITEHURST

Defendants.

— X

DECLARATION

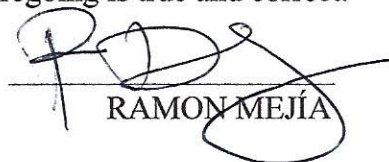
I, RAMON MEJÍA, declare and state as follows:

1. I am a Plaintiff in this case.
2. I am currently a national organizer for an alliance of community groups.
3. At the time of my arrest, I was an eighth grade social studies, and a founding member of #VetsvsHate, a national grassroots initiative founded by war veterans to overcome racism and bigotry.
4. I was arrested on August 18, 2018, while engaged in a non-violent protest against the Bayou Bridge Pipeline in the Atchafalaya Basin in St. Martin Parish.

5. I had permission to be there with other Water Protectors from some of the co-owners of the property.
6. It was my understanding that the pipeline company did not have a legal right to be there constructing on the property, where it had already torn down trees and clear-cut for the pipeline.
7. It was not my intention to violate the critical infrastructure law the day I was arrested.
8. I thought I was being careful and complying with that law, if it applied at all, by standing in an area that was off to the side of the area that had been clear cut and where the pipeline was being laid.
9. I was arrested after I refused to leave the area where I had been standing.
10. At first, I was arrested for simply remaining there after being forbidden.
11. Later, while we were being transported to the jail, the officer who arrested me, added a charge of unauthorized entry of a critical infrastructure after he spoke, I believe, to another officer who had showed up on the site.
12. The felony arrest has had a serious impact on my life, my family, and my work. Among other things, it impacted my ability to travel for a religious pilgrimage.
13. It also limited by ability to engage in other protests and advocacy because I was concerned I could be arrested again, but this time with a felony charge hanging over me.

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

Dated: April 15, 2022


RAMON MEJÍA