DECLARATION OF ALEJANDRO JOSE PULIDO CASTELLANO

I, Alejandro Jose Pulido Castellano, hereby declare under penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 that the following is true and correct.

- 1. I make this declaration based on my own personal knowledge and if called to testify I could and would do so competently and truthfully to these matters.
- 2. My name is Alejandro Jose Pulido Castellano. I am 26 years old and from Venezuela. I came to the United States on August 26, 2024 to seek asylum, via a CBP One appointment. At this appointment, the Border Patrol official told me that I looked like a gang member because of my tattoos.
- 3. In September 2024, I received a third-country removal order to be removed to Mexico.
- 4. I have spent my entire time in the United States federal custody. Since August 26, 2024, I have been transferred all around the country. First, I spent about three months detained at Otay Mesa Detention Center in San Diego, California. Then, I was moved to South Texas ICE Processing Center in Pearsall, Texas, where I spent about three weeks. Next, I was moved to Florence Detention Center, where I spent about two days. I was moved back to Otay Mesa Detention Center for about one month. Then, I was transferred again, to Winn Louisiana, where I spent about two months. In early February 2025, I was transferred to El Paso Processing Center in El Paso, Texas, where I am currently detained.
- 5. I heard that the U.S. government has started transferring Venezuelans with final orders to the military base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. I also heard the U.S. government is targeting people they think are criminals or gang members, even if they have no proof.
- 6. During one of the periods that I was detained in Otay Mesa Detention Center, I was questioned by three ICE officials from an anti-gang division. They took my phone and went through my WhatsApp, Facebook, and photos. I have a lot of friends on Facebook and would accept friend requests from anyone. These ICE officials told me that my Facebook friends were proof that I was a gang member. But I have never been involved with any gang, and I have no criminal record.
- 7. I am afraid of being transferred to Guantánamo. I believe that I am at risk of being transferred because I have a third-country removal order and am from Venezuela. I also believe that I am going to be transferred to Guantánamo because I have tattoos and have been erroneously accused of being a gang member.
- 8. I do not want to be transferred to or detained at Guantánamo. I am afraid of what will happen to me when I get there. I heard that there is no ability to contact lawyers or family from Guantánamo. I want access to an attorney to help me get out of detention and figure out what options I have in my immigration case.

- 10. I suffer from chronic migraines, and I fear that I would not receive adequate medical care if transferred to or detained at Guantánamo.
- 11. Everything in this declaration is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and recollection. This declaration was read back to me in Spanish, a language in which I am fluent.

Executed on the 20 th of February, 2025 in El Paso, Texas.

Alegandro

Alejandro Jose Pulido Castellano

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION

I, <u>Julia Randolph</u>, certify that I am fluent in both English and Spanish. On February <u>20</u>, 2025, I personally spoke with <u>Alejandro Jose Pulido Castellano</u> and read the foregoing declaration to him, translated into Spanish faithfully and accurately. Mr. <u>Pulido Castellano</u> affirmed that he understood my translation and that the information in the above declaration is true and accurate.

I declare under penalty of perjury, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, that the foregoing is true and correct.

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