

Declaration of [REDACTED]

1. My name is [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] I was forced to flee my home country of El Salvador and arrived in the United States to seek protection on August 21, 2015. On that day, my two children and I were detained. We were held at the family detention center in Dilley, Texas, until September 18, 2015.
2. I attended my credible fear interview with the asylum office and I was approved by the asylum officer, determining that I have a credible fear of persecution if returned to my country of El Salvador.
3. I believed that I was eligible to post bond for my release and advised the Immigrations and Customs (ICE) officer that I wanted to post a bond.
4. The ICE officer tried to persuade me instead that I should take the ankle monitor.
5. The ICE officer spoke to a group of about 40 asylum applicants in a Court room. There were 3 or 4 officers present. They told us that the shackle was our best option, and asked for a show of hands of how many people wanted the shackle.
6. I was the only one who said I wanted a bond.
7. The officer told me in front of the group that they were offering our freedom with the shackle, and if we refused the shackle, we were refusing their freedom, and wouldn't get any further help from ICE because we were choosing to stay here.
8. The ICE officer also told me that it would be weeks or months before a judge could see me to set a bond because they had so many files.
9. The officer also told me that if my child got sick, he might not get medical help since I was choosing to stay here.
10. I felt very uncomfortable because when I advised the officer that I wanted to post bond, his reaction was not good. The next day I was called and asked if I had decided to post bond. Another officer then came to me and asked why I preferred bond over the ankle shackle.
11. I would have liked to have a lawyer at that meeting because they would have stopped the officials from trying to convince us to take the ankle shackle.
12. All I want is to receive protection in this country. I am not a criminal and I intend to show up for my court hearings and I am not going to run away.

I swear under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my information, knowledge, and belief, and that I fully understand the contents of this declaration, which has been provided to me in the Spanish language.

[REDACTED]
09/26/15

Date

I swear that the foregoing affidavit was interpreted from the English to Spanish for the affiant and that I am competent to interpret from English to Spanish.

Catalina Restrepo

Catalina Restrepo

9/28/2015

Date