

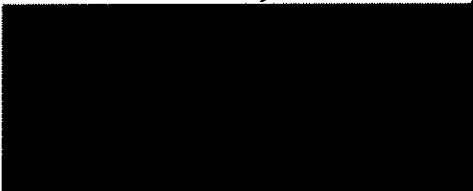
Declaration of [REDACTED]

1. My name is [REDACTED] A# [REDACTED] I was forced to flee my home country of Honduras and arrived in the United States to seek protection on July 25, 2015. On that day, my three-year-old daughter and I were detained. We were held together at the family detention center in Dilley, Texas, until September 15, 2015.
2. ICE officials told me that I had to pay a bond of \$5000 to leave. I went before an Immigration Judge on August 24, 2015, and the Judge lowered the bond to \$1500. My family was able to pay this amount and they tried to pay it and bought bus tickets for me multiple times.
3. On two occasions after my August 24 court hearing, ICE called me in to discuss the ankle shackle. The first time I was called to a court room and the ICE officer told us about the ankle shackle and that we could leave quickly if we took the ankle shackle, even the next day. After this first meeting, three or four of the women accepted the ankle shackle. At the second meeting with the woman from San Antonio, there were about 15 women and only three or four of them did not accept the shackle, including me.
4. On September 4, 2015, after the Immigration Judge had set my bond at \$1500 and my family was trying to pay, I was called to a meeting with a lady from San Antonio. The meeting was held in Chapel number two at Dilley. The woman was medium height with medium length curly blond hair and her Spanish language skills were OK. She was accompanied by a male ICE officer, who had black hair in a crew cut and he spoke Spanish fluently. The man and the woman called a meeting of around fifteen women, who had previously declined to be released on an ankle shackle and who wanted to pay bond. They told us that there was nothing wrong with the shackle and that it didn't hurt, it wasn't heavy, and we should just accept it. They said that it wasn't mandatory, but that it wasn't bad and it was a way to guarantee that we would go to court. They kept asking why we didn't want to accept the ankle monitor. The women explained that they were afraid they would suffer discrimination wearing the shackle and had heard it electrocutes you in the shower. The lady from San Antonio told us that these things were not true.
5. I was confused about why they had this meeting to try to get me to accept the ankle monitor again because the Judge already said I could pay bond to be released. All of the other women in the meeting except for myself and 2-3 others decided to leave with the ankle monitor because they were so tired of being held with their children in detention. There were no lawyers at this meeting. Just the ICE officer and the lady from San Antonio; I don't know who she worked for.
6. After all of this, I went before the Judge again on Tuesday, September 8, 2015, because of the confusion over where to pay the bond and then the problems with ICE rejecting the bus tickets my family bought, I still hadn't posted bond. At that court hearing, I had a lawyer from the CARA Project representing me. The government lawyer pushed the ankle monitor and tried to get my lawyer to agree that if my family did not post bond, then I would accept the ankle monitor. On the same day, my aunt confirmed that they had tried to pay bond again but had problems with bus tickets.
7. It took my family quite a while to pay because they went to the wrong immigration office to pay for the first time. Then, ICE told them to buy my bus tickets, but apparently they didn't buy the right tickets and ICE rejected the bus tickets that my family sent to them through the CARA Project. My aunt went again to pay for the bond but then again ICE told her that the

open bus tickets she purchased would not work, so it was three or four weeks that I had to wait for my family to pay the bond and get the bus tickets that satisfied ICE.

8. Again, on Friday September 11th, an ICE officer called me to an office and asked for my aunt's number, and called her. My aunt told him that on Monday she would try again to pay the bond. The ICE officer told me that I could leave immediately with the ankle shackle. I said that I preferred to pay the bond and leave without the shackle, and my aunt paid the bond as she said she would on Monday September 14. My daughter and I were released on Tuesday September 15th.
9. When I was released, ICE took me to the Greyhound bus station, but I realized that I didn't have tickets for that station so I waited there from 2pm to 10pm. In the end, some volunteer lawyers helped me to call my family so that they could buy another set of bus tickets.
10. I had been working with the CARA Project as my attorneys since not too long after my arrival at the Dilley detention center. I wish that I had lawyers with me when ICE pressured me, on four separate occasions, to accept the ankle monitor. I found the process confusing and frightening.
11. All I want is to receive protection in this country. I did not want to wear an ankle shackle because I did not want to suffer the stigma attached to it, or worry about charging it every day. I also don't want my young daughter to look at her mommy and think that I am a criminal. I am glad that I was able to post bond because I promise 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.



9/28/2015

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