

Declaration of [REDACTED]

1. My name is [REDACTED]. I was forced to flee my home country of [REDACTED] and arrived in the United States to seek protection on [REDACTED]. On that day, my three children and I were detained. We were held at the family detention center in Dilley, Texas, until September 15, 2015.
2. On September 4, 2015, I attended my credible fear interview with the asylum office. I think it was on September 8, 2015, that ICE called me to a meeting room in the court complex. There were four ICE officers present but one of the officers told me and one other woman that we had passed the credible fear interview. The officer looked at the contact information for our sponsors. The other woman asked the ICE officer about the bond amount and the officer said that we would leave with shackles and that it would take another four weeks of being detained with our children to receive bond. I remember signing a paper at this meeting but I don't know what it was about.
3. On September 10, 2015, at 2:30pm in the afternoon, I was summoned to court again. At this second meeting, there were more than four ICE officers, but I don't remember how many. During this second meeting, I signed the agreement to take the ankle monitor. The agreement was in English and no one translated or interpreted it for me, the officer just told me to sign. I didn't really understand what I was signing, but I thought that if I didn't sign, my children and I would be deported. At this second meeting, again, the ICE officers told us that we would have to wait for four weeks if we wanted to wait for a bond hearing.
4. I wish that an attorney had been with me during these meetings. I would have felt better, understood more what was going on, and been more comfortable asking questions.
5. I was released on September 15, 2015 with an ankle monitor. My children were desperate to be free from detention. The ankle monitor causes me pain and discomfort unless I wear socks. I wore it once for ten minutes without socks and it rubbed against my skin and hurt me. I have to wear socks all the time, which is uncomfortable, and my ankle and leg gets tired walking around with the monitor on. I went to my first ICE check in appointment on September 23 and the ICE officer told me that it would be around ninety days before I could get the monitor off.
6. 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]  
[REDACTED]  
9/25/2015

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*

9/28/2015

Date

Catalina Restrepo