

DECLARATION OF DANIEL RODGERS

I, Daniel Rodgers, make the following declaration based on my personal knowledge and declare under penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 that the following is true and correct:

1. In 2007, I retired from my position as in-house counsel for an oil company in Anchorage, Alaska. Since my retirement, I have worked as a full time volunteer attorney for the Alaska Immigration Justice Project based in Anchorage. My practice focuses on family-based immigration and removal defense, including asylum, withholding and relief under the Convention Against Torture. I have represented clients in immigration proceedings for the last seven years.
2. From [REDACTED] 2014 to [REDACTED] 2014, I provided pro bono legal advice and representation to mothers and children detained at the Artesia Family Detention Center in Artesia, New Mexico. The driving distance between Anchorage, AK and Artesia, NM is approximately 3,836 miles. My travel and lodging costs were approximately \$2,127.00 (\$1,000.00 for an airline ticket; \$800 for hotel; and \$327 for a rental car).
3. I am 62 years old. When I left Artesia and was driving to the airport to fly back to Alaska, I started crying in the car. I do not recall the last time I cried. Visiting Artesia was a discouraging and depressing experience because my government is crushing the spirits of brave women and their children through a combination of denial of due process and stressful living conditions. During the 6 days I was in the detention center in Artesia, I met with approximately 25-30 women detainees. In my opinion, almost all of them have valid asylum claims.
4. I was at the Artesia Family Detention Center on [REDACTED] 2014, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I witnessed Marty, the head of the detention facility, explain [REDACTED] that the facility was initially "hit with" 500 detainees, that some of the detainees were being deported that day, and that as soon as they were gone, the facility was going to receive more detainees.
5. Most detainees with whom I met were in a state of despair and their concern for the health of their children was overwhelming. I heard a number of complaints from mothers with sick children with fevers who instead of being given medicine were told that they should drink water. I also heard multiple complaints from mothers that the meat was raw, the chicken was bloody, and that they feared that their children would get sick if they ate it.
6. I also heard an account of physical abuse. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] T [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] T [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

7. In general, the detainees with whom I met did not have even basic knowledge of asylum, the expedited removal process or their rights. I repeatedly explained the asylum process and answered questions about the process.

8. Detainees in Artesia have limited access to phones to call their attorneys. One detainee told me that she was told she could talk to her attorney for 20 minutes, but, because so many people needed to use the phone, she was only able to speak to her attorney for less than 10 minutes.

9. One of the detainees I met with had a credible fear interview while her [REDACTED] were present with her in the interview room. One of the [REDACTED] was the product of rape but, because her children were in the room with her, she did not share that information with the officer. The officer made a negative credible fear finding. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] However, her son had not been given any of that medication. She was extremely anxious and concerned about his medical condition when I met with her.

10. I worked with [REDACTED] sought review of the negative credible fear finding. The review occurred before an Immigration Judge in Arlington, Virginia via videoconferencing on a very small screen. It was hard, if not impossible, to see the Immigration Judge's face and gestures. The screen was significantly smaller than the one used for immigration court hearings here in Anchorage. I was not allowed to speak during the hearing. I had previously prepared a statement for this woman that explained her fear of return, the relevant nexus with a social group, and the fact that she was unable to tell the officer about the rape in front of her children. I gave the statement to an ICE officer to fax to the Immigration Judge; however, there was a problem with the fax machine and the judge did not receive the fax before the hearing started. When I tried to inform the Immigration Judge about the statement and offered to read it to her, I was warned that I could not represent the woman at the hearing. I told the Immigration Judge that I would not be representing her, but that I would simply assist the woman by acting as a reader. The Immigration Judge said I could not do this. The hearing proceeded. The Immigration Judge seemed to forget about the statement. I reminded the woman to remind the Immigration Judge about the statement. The Immigration Judge finally left the room to retrieve the statement, which, by that time, had come through via facsimile, and vacated the negative credible fear finding. Had I not been there to tell this woman to remind the Immigration Judge about the

statement, I do not believe the woman would have done so on her own or that Immigration Judge would have vacated the credible fear finding.

Executed this 13th day of August, 2014 in Anchorage, Alaska.


Daniel Rodgers