

JON M. SANDS
Federal Public Defender
KEITH J. HILZENDEGER #023685
Assistant Federal Public Defender
250 North 7th Avenue, Suite 600
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
(602) 382-2700 voice
keith_hilzendeger@fd.org
Attorneys for Petitioner Aghar

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

Samir Aghar,

Petitioner,

vs.

Christopher Howard,* Acting Warden, Eloy
Detention Center, et al.,

Respondents.

No. 2:25-cv-3147-PHX-KML (CDB)

Status Report

On December 9, 2025, the Court asked for a status update regarding Mr. Aghar's ongoing removal proceedings, in which his claim for asylum is being litigated. (Dkt. #31)

Mr. Aghar's immigration lawyer reports that the November 19, 2025, hearing went forward as scheduled and concluded with Mr. Aghar's testimony. The judge asked for further testimony, and scheduled a hearing for December 10. But on November 21, 2025, the presiding immigration judge was fired, and the December 10 hearing was vacated. A new immigration judge has been assigned, and a remote hearing is presently scheduled for December 19, 2025, at 9:30 A.M. Mountain Standard Time, at which additional witness testimony will be presented.

* Christopher Howard is substituted for his predecessor, Fred Figueroa, as Acting Warden of the Eloy Detention Center, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 25(d).

1 Because his removal proceedings are still ongoing, Mr. Aghar respectfully asks the Court
2 to postpone any deadline for a reply in support of the amended petition until the immigration
3 judge has issued a ruling.

4 Respectfully submitted:

December 15, 2025.

5 JON M. SANDS
6 Federal Public Defender

7 *s/Keith J. Hilzendeger*
8 KEITH J. HILZENDEGER
9 Assistant Federal Public Defender
10 *Attorney for Petitioner Aghar*