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10 N. Y. V. D.

11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

12 FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

13 N. Y. V. D.,

14 Petitioner-Plaintiff,

15 v.

16
17 Sergio ALBARRAN, Acting Field Office
18 Director of San Francisco Office of
19 Detention and Removal, U.S. Immigrations
20 and Customs Enforcement; U.S. Department
21 of Homeland Security; Todd M. LYONS,
22 Acting Director, Immigration and Customs
23 Enforcement, U.S. Department of Homeland
24 Security; Kristi NOEM, in them Official
25 Capacity, Secretary, U.S. Department of
26 Homeland Security; Pam BONDI, in them
27 Official Capacity, Attorney General of the
28 United States; and Fereti SEMAIA, Facility
Administrator at Adelanto ICE Processing
Center, Adelanto, California;

Respondents-Defendants.

Case No.

**PETITIONER-PLAINTIFF'S
ADMINISTRATIVE
MOTION TO PERMIT
PETITIONER TO PROCEED
UNDER PSEUDONYM**

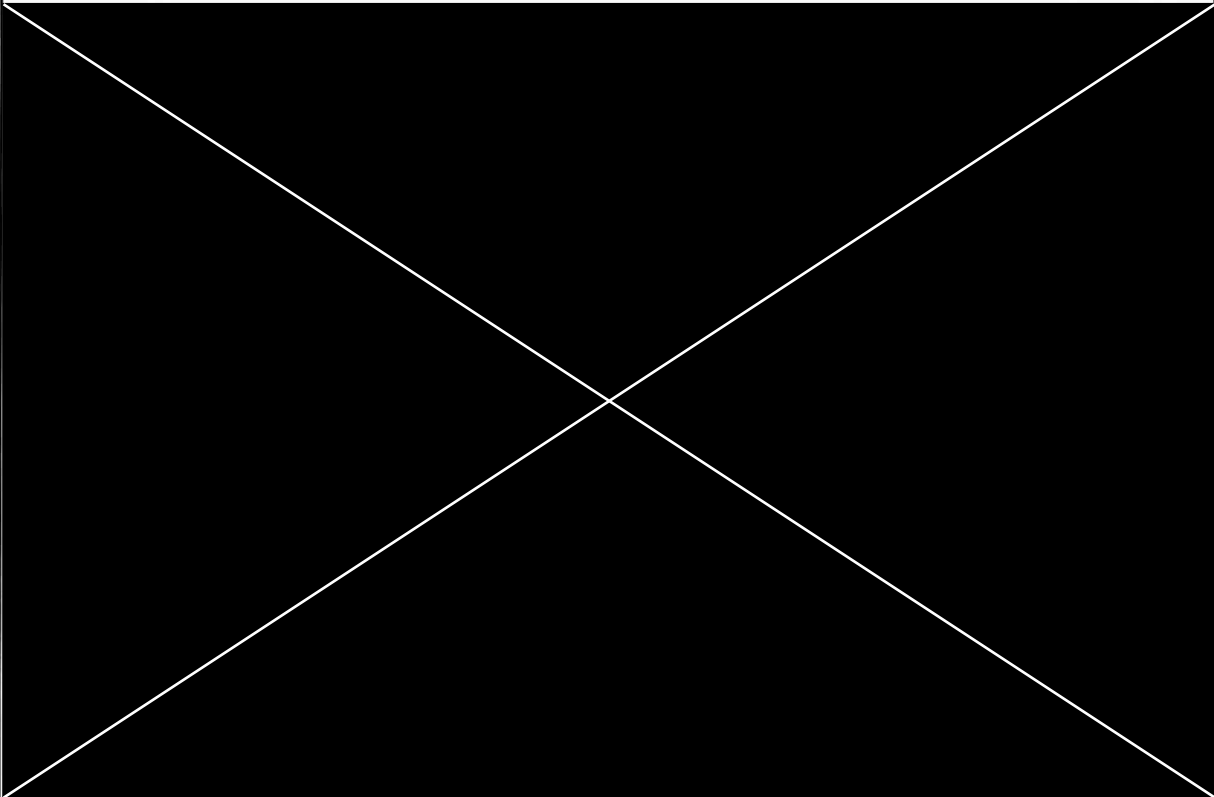
Challenge to Unlawful
Incarceration Under Color of
Immigration Detention Statutes

Administrative Motion to Permit Plaintiff to Proceed Under Pseudonym
Case No.

1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 Petitioner-Plaintiff N. Y. V. D. (“N.Y.V.D.” or “Petitioner”) respectfully
3
4 moves the Court for an order allowing her to proceed under a pseudonym in this
5
6 matter to protect her identity from public disclosure and to prevent future potential
7
8 harm from the Nicaraguan government. Petitioner is a citizen and national of
9
10 Nicaragua. [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED] N.Y.V.D. applied
12 for asylum, withholding of removal, and protection under the Convention Against
13 Torture (CAT) in the United States, before the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration
14 Services (“USCIS”).



1 family in Nicaragua.

2 In 2022, Petitioner entered the United States for the purpose of seeking asylum
3 based on the past persecution and well-founded fear of future persecution she would
4 suffer—based on her own experience of harm and persecution as well as 

6  See
7 Declaration of Zachary Nightingale (“ZN Decl.”).

9 N.Y.V.D.’s habeas petition, and the supporting documents included therein,
10 document the personal and sensitive nature of her claims, including the
11 documentation related to her arrival and pending asylum application in the United
12 States.
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14

15 Should Petitioner’s identity become publicly known, she is afraid of future
16 harm and mistreatment by the Nicaraguan Government and non-government agents.
17 In addition to the risk public disclosure that her identity in the case would pose to
18 her own safety, Petitioner fears the potential threat to her family members in
19 Nicaragua. Compelling reasons therefore exist to issue an order allowing Petitioner
20 to proceed pseudonymously, as it will ensure that she maintains confidentiality and
21 avoids any harm or mistreatment that would likely result from her public
22 identification in these proceedings.
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26 **II. ARGUMENT**

27 **A. PETITIONER SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO PROCEED**
28

1 **UNDER PSEUDONYM**

2 Although Rule 10(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure generally
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4 requires complaints to include the name of all parties, it is well-established that
5 federal courts have discretion to permit parties to proceed anonymously or under
6 pseudonyms “when special circumstances justify secrecy.” *Does I thru XXIII v.*
7 *Advanced Textile Corp.*, 214 F.3d 1058, 1067 (9th Cir. 2000) (collecting cases). The
8 law is well-settled that parties to litigation may proceed anonymously with leave of
9 the court. *See, e.g., Santa Fe Indep. Sch. Dist. v. Doe*, 530 U.S. 290, 294 n.1 (2000)
10 (noting that the district court had permitted the plaintiffs “to litigate anonymously to
11 protect them from intimidation or harassment”). As this Court has explained,
12 “retaliation from a foreign government is recognized by the Ninth Circuit and other
13 district courts as a sufficient basis to proceed anonymously.” *Poozesh v. Pompeo*,
14 No. 1:19-CV—01466-LJO-SKO, 2019 WL 6052363, at *2 (E.D. Cal. Nov. 15,
15 2019).
16

17 Courts in the Ninth Circuit analyze a request to proceed under a pseudonym
18 by asking whether “the party’s need for anonymity outweighs prejudice to the
19 opposing party and the public’s interest in knowing the party’s identity.” *Advanced*
20 *Textile*, 214 F.3d at 1-68. Consistent with *Advanced Textile* and other Ninth Circuit
21 precedent, courts in this district regularly permit parties to proceed pseudonymously
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1 when sensitive issues are relevant to the litigation.¹

2 Petitioner should be permitted to proceed pseudonymously because she has a
3 critical need for anonymity to protect her safety and privacy and the opposing party
4 will suffer no prejudice in this instance. As set forth herein and in the accompanying
5 petition and motion for temporary restraining order, Petitioner is a native and citizen
6 of Nicaragua who (1) [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED]
12 [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED]

14 Respondents will not suffer prejudice if the Court permits Petitioner to
15 proceed pseudonymously. She has fully disclosed their identity to Respondents in
16 the course of her asylum request and throughout her check-ins with ICE. DHS is
17 already fully aware of her immigration history and has full access to information
18 about the identity of Petitioner, and all documents relating to her identity and asylum
19 claim. Petitioner is also fully willing to disclose her identity to government counsel
20 who appears in this case. She asks only to keep her identity private from the public
21 for her safety and the safety of her other family members.²
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26 ¹ See, e.g., *Doe v. USCIS et al.*, No. 1:21-CV-00576-NONE-SAB, 2021 WL
27 1907562 (E.D. Cal. May 12, 2021); *Doe v. Blinken*, No. 2:22-CV-01841-WBS-
28 CKD, 2022 WL 17067480 (E.D. Cal. Nov. 17, 2022).

² Where the defendant is either a government entity or official, courts routinely count

1 **III. CONCLUSION**

2 For the foregoing reasons, Petitioner asks that the Court grant her motion to
3 allow her to redact the case using a pseudonym. These measures are necessary to
4 protect Petitioner given her ongoing concerns of harm from the Nicaraguan
5 government.
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8 Dated: December 16, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

9
10 /s/Zachary Nightingale

11 Zachary Nightingale

12 Attorney for Petitioner-Plaintiff
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22 the public interest factor as weighing in favor of leave to proceed under a
23 pseudonym. *See, e.g., E.W. v. N.Y. Blood. Ctr.*, 213 F.R.D. 108, 111 (E.D.N.Y. 2003)
24 (“[W]here a plaintiff attacks governmental activity...the plaintiff’s interest in
25 proceeding anonymously is considered particularly strong.”). This is because the
26 plaintiff “presumably represents a minority interest (and may be subject to
27 stigmatization), and there is arguably a public interest in a vindication of his rights,”
28 while “the government is viewed as having a less significant interest in protecting
its reputation from damaging allegations than the ordinary individual defendant.” *Id.*
The public interest therefore weighs in favor of allowing Petitioner to proceed using
pseudonyms.