Brooklyn Defenders (BDS)

Brooklyn Defender Services
177 Livingston St., 7th Fl.
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Visitor Center
156 Pierrepont St.
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Tel (646) 787-3322
Fax (718) 254-0897
mlauterback@bds.org

April 9, 2026

By ECF
The Honorable Ann Donnelly
United States District Judge
Eastern District of New York
225 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Re: *H.H.C. v. Maldonado, Jr. et al.*, No. 26-cv-01957-AMD

Dear Judge Donnelly:

I represent Petitioner H.H.C. in the above-captioned habeas proceeding. This Court granted the Petition on April 8, 2026. *See* ECF No. 8 ("Order"). Specifically, it ordered "The government is directed to release the petitioner from custody immediately and within 24 hours of this Order. The government is further directed to return to the petitioner any and all funds or property seized from the petitioner at the time of arrest — including his medication." *Id.* at 4.

Upon receipt of the Order, counsel's office contacted Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") to coordinate the release of Mr. H.C. *See* Exh. 1, Emails with ICE. ICE did not respond until 7:47am on April 9, 2026 and informed that Mr. H.C. was released from custody on April 8, 2026 at 8:20pm. *Id.*

Based on calls with Mr. H.C.'s family, it appears that Mr. H.C. was released from the Metropolitan Detention Center ("MDC") last night without medication, his possessions, or the ability to make a phone call. He was able to borrow a stranger's cell phone and called a family member who drove from New Jersey to pick Mr. H.C. up at a McDonalds in Brooklyn where he had found a warm place to sit as he was not permitted to wait at MDC.[1] Mr. H.C.'s family member drove Mr. H.C. back to his specialized medical shelter in the Bronx.

I thank the Court for its consideration of this letter.

[1] This is not the only situation counsel's office has experienced wherein a client is released without any communication, coordination, or medication. Such unsafe releases can violate ICE's own policies, *see* ICE Directive 11063.2, https://www.ice.gov/doclib/news/releases/2022/11063-2.pdf, and can have deadly consequences. *See, e.g.,* Ana Ley, *Medical Examiner Rules That a Rohingya Refugee's Death Was a Homicide*, NYTimes (Apr. 1, 2026), https://www.nytimes.com/2026/04/01/nyregion/rohingya-refugee-buffalo-homicide-medical-examiner.html.

Respectfully,

Molly Lauterback, Esq.
Brooklyn Defender Services

cc: Counsel of Record via ECF