IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

COLUMBUS DIVISION

ALEX EDUARDO UMAÑA MEJÍA, A# [redacted] Petitioner, v. STEPHEN SCHRANK, Warden, Stewart Detention Center; TODD M. LYONS, Acting Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; KRISTI NOEM, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; PAMELA BONDI, Attorney General of the United States, Respondents.	Civil Action No _____ (Habeas Corpus, 28 U.S.C. § 2241)

AFFIDAVIT AND DECLARATION OF ALEX EDUARDO UMAÑA MEJÍA IN SUPPORT OF PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS AND ALL ACCOMPANYING EMERGENCY MOTIONS

I, Alex Eduardo Umaña Mejía, being first duly sworn, or, in the alternative, declaring under penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 in lieu of a sworn, notarized affidavit due to my current confinement and consequent limited access to notarial services, hereby state and depose as follows:

I. PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE AND COMPETENCY TO TESTIFY

1. I am the Petitioner in the above captioned action. I am over the age of eighteen, I am competent to testify to the matters set forth in this Affidavit, and, except where I expressly state that a matter is based upon information and belief, every statement contained in this Affidavit is based upon my own personal knowledge, derived from my own direct experience, observation, and involvement in the events described herein.

2. I submit this Affidavit in support of my Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241, and in support of my Emergency Motion for Immediate Release, Motion to Expedite, Emergency Motion for a Temporary Restraining Order, and Emergency Motion for Stay of Removal, each filed concurrently or previously in this action and each incorporated herein by reference. This Affidavit is intended to provide this Honorable Court with a sworn, first-person factual account supporting the allegations set forth in those filings.

II. PERSONAL BACKGROUND AND IDENTITY

3. My full name is Alex Eduardo Umaña Mejia. I was born on [redacted] in Guatemala, and I am a citizen of Guatemala. I am identified by the Department of Homeland Security under Alien Registration Number A-[redacted].

4. I entered the United States on August 6, 2018, when I was twelve years old. I have resided continuously in the United States since that date, a period of approximately eight years. I have spent the majority of my adolescence and the entirety of my young adulthood in this country.

5. Prior to my detention, I had established significant ties to my community, including a relationship with my girlfriend and family members who depend on me. I was, prior to my detention, working and contributing financially as a principal source of support for my household. My absence due to detention has caused my family significant financial hardship in addition to the emotional toll of our separation.

6. I have no serious criminal history. My only contact with the criminal justice system prior to the events described in this Affidavit was a citation I received in 2024 for speeding on a motorcycle.

III. THE EVENTS OF JANUARY 23, 2026

7. On January 23, 2026, I went to help my girlfriend, whose car had broken down. While I was at the location helping her with her vehicle, a police patrol unit arrived at the scene.

8. The officer who arrived asked me for identification. I provided it. The officer then informed me that there was an outstanding warrant for my arrest. I was taken into custody at that time and transported to the Bartow County Jail in Cartersville, Georgia.

9. I later learned, and state upon my own understanding of the matter, that the warrant for my arrest arose from my failure to appear at a court date in 2024 related to a speeding ticket I received while riding a motorcycle. I did not intentionally fail to appear at that court date. I had moved to a different address in the time between receiving the citation and the scheduled court date, and the notice of that court date was never delivered to me at my new address. I did not learn of the court date, and therefore did not know I was required to appear.

IV. MY DETENTION AT BARTOW COUNTY JAIL AND THE HEAD INJURY I SUSTAINED

10. I was held at the Bartow County Jail for approximately ten days following my arrest.

11. During that time, a disturbance broke out between guards and inmates at the facility. I was present during this disturbance and I was struck in the head during the incident. I experienced pain and other symptoms following this blow to my head, but jail staff did not treat my injury with the seriousness it warranted. I was not given an adequate medical evaluation for the head injury I sustained.

12. Following this disturbance, I had one court appearance regarding the underlying traffic ticket matter. After that court appearance, I was told I would be released.

V. THE BROKEN ASSURANCE OF RELEASE AND MY TRANSFER INTO ICE CUSTODY

13. I was told by jail staff that if Immigration and Customs Enforcement did not come for me within forty eight hours, I would be released. Forty eight hours passed, and I was not released.

14. After the forty-eight-hour period passed, jail staff told me to get ready because I was being released. I believed this and began gathering my belongings to leave. Once I was ready, I was then told that ICE had come for me, and I was taken into ICE custody instead of being released.

15. On February 4, 2026, I was taken to 180 Ted Turner Drive in downtown Atlanta, Georgia. I was processed quickly there and then transferred again.

16. On February 5, 2026, I was moved to the Stewart Detention Center at 146 CCA Road, Lumpkin, Georgia, where I have remained from that date to the present.

VI. CONDITIONS AND DENIAL OF MEDICAL CARE AT STEWART DETENTION CENTER

A. Ear Infection Resulting From the Untreated Head Injury

17. After arriving at Stewart, and because of the blow to my head I had suffered at Bartow County Jail, I developed an infection in my ear. I asked to be seen by medical staff. I was not attended to quickly, and I remained sick and in pain for several days before receiving meaningful medical attention.

B. Ongoing, Untreated Throat Infection

18. Since the day I arrived at Stewart Detention Center, I have had an infection in my throat. As of the date I am signing this Affidavit, this infection has not been cured and I continue to suffer from it.

19. Based on my own observation of the housing unit where I am held, I believe this throat infection may be connected to the condition of the air vents in the facility, which I have personally observed to be very dirty and to release visible dust and debris into the air.

C. Untreated Insect or Animal Bite and Resulting Immobility

20. I was bitten on my leg by an insect or animal while at Stewart. The area where I was bitten became swollen and painful, to the point that I could not walk. I asked to be seen by a doctor, but I was not examined until about a week had passed, and I believe I was only seen at that point because I was unable to walk.

D. Days Without Food Due to My Documented Inability to Walk

21. Because I could not walk as a result of the bite on my leg, I was not able to go get my food when meals were served. I told the guards about this and asked them to bring food to me, but they did not do so. As a result, I went several days without eating because I could not stand up to go get my food, and no one brought it to me.

E. Recurring Illness From Spoiled Food

22. On a number of occasions, I have been given food that was spoiled or not properly cooked. Eating this food has made my stomach hurt and has made me sick on more than one occasion.

F. Rationing of Food and Water

23. I have experienced what I believe to be extreme rationing of food and water during my time at Stewart, in addition to being served food that was spoiled or undercooked on the occasions described above.

G. Overcrowding and Unsanitary Conditions

24. The cell where I am housed is overcrowded, and the conditions of hygiene and sanitation in my housing unit are poor.

H. Verbal Mistreatment by Officers

25. I have been treated disrespectfully and have experienced verbal mistreatment from some of the officers who work at this facility.

VII. PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF MY DETENTION

26. Because of everything described above — the untreated head injury, the ear infection, the throat infection that I still have, the leg injury that kept me from walking, the days without food, and the sickness from spoiled food — I have been sick for most of the time I have been detained, with very little time where I have felt well.

27. I have lost a noticeable amount of weight since I have been detained.

28. I feel very depressed and hopeless because of the conditions I am being kept in. I worry about my health, about my family, who I supported financially before I was detained, and about what is going to happen to me.

VIII. MY FEAR OF RETALIATION FOR FILING THIS PETITION

29. I am afraid that because I am filing this Petition and telling the Court about what has happened to me, the facility may retaliate against me. I am specifically afraid that I could be transferred to a different facility for no real reason, in a way that could take my case away from this Court, and that I could be punished by being placed in isolation or segregation because I filed this case.

IX. MY FEAR OF BEING REMOVED OR SENT TO A THIRD COUNTRY WITHOUT LAWFUL PROCESS

30. I am afraid that I could be removed from the United States, or sent to a country that is not Guatemala, without proper legal process, before this Court has the chance to decide my case. Given everything that has already happened to me — being told I would be released and then not released, being told I was free and then being taken by ICE instead — I do not feel that I can trust that I will be given proper notice before something like this happens to me again.

X. STATEMENT REGARDING MY IMMIGRATION CASE STATUS

31. As of the date I am signing this Affidavit, I am not aware of any final order of removal having been entered against me. I make this statement based on my own understanding of my case as it has been explained to me, and I acknowledge that I do not have an attorney and may not be fully informed of every detail of my immigration case status.

XI. CONCLUSION

32. I make this Affidavit freely and voluntarily, of my own personal knowledge, for the purpose of supporting my Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus and the accompanying emergency motions filed in this action. Everything I have stated above is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

33. I respectfully ask this Honorable Court to consider everything I have stated in this Affidavit, together with my Petition and accompanying motions, and to grant me the relief I have requested.

VERIFICATION AND DECLARATION UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I, Alex Eduardo Umaña Mejía, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing Affidavit is true and correct to the best of my own personal knowledge, information, and belief, and that I have personal knowledge of the matters stated herein except where otherwise indicated.

I am currently confined at the Stewart Detention Center, 146 CCA Road, Lumpkin, Georgia 31815, and I do not have ready access to a notary public due to the conditions of my confinement. I therefore submit this Affidavit in declaration form, as expressly authorized by 28 U.S.C. § 1746, in lieu of a notarized, sworn affidavit.

Executed this _____ day of _____, 2026, at Lumpkin, Georgia

Alex Umana Mejía

Alex Eduardo Umaña Mejía
Petitioner / Affiant, Pro Se
A-Number: [redacted]
Stewart Detention Center
146 CCA Road
Lumpkin, Georgia 31815
Date: 7/6/26

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Alex Eduardo Umaña Mejía, Petitioner, Pro Se, hereby certify that, to the best of my ability under the constraints of my current civil immigration detention, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Affidavit and Declaration has been or will be served by United States Mail, postage prepaid, or by such other means as may be available to me as a detained, unrepresented litigant, upon the following:

United States Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia
Office of the United States Attorney
P.O. Box 1702

Macon, Georgia 31202

Office of the Field Office Director

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Atlanta Field Office

180 Ted Turner Drive SW

Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Office of the General Counsel

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Washington, D C 20528

Office of the Attorney General

U S Department of Justice

950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington, D.C. 20530

Warden, Stewart Detention Center

146 CCA Road

Lumpkin, Georgia 31815

Alex Umana Mejía

Alex Eduardo Umaña Mejía
Petitioner / Affiant, Pro Se
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