Christiam José Contreras Rodríguez
Country of Birth: Venezuela
A Number: [redacted]
Current Detention Facility: STEWART DETENTION CENTER
146 CCA Road, Lumpkin, Georgia 31815
Visitor Information: (229) 838-5000
Pro Se

UNITED STATES DISTRICT
COURT MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA COLUMBUS DIVISION

Christiam José Contreras Rodríguez A-Number: [redacted] Proceeding Pro Se, *Petitioner,* v **_____, WARDEN, Stewart Detention Center;** **_____, FIELD OFFICE DIRECTOR, ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations, Atlanta Field Office; DAVID J. VENTURELLA, Acting Director, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement; MARKWAYNE MULLIN, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security; TODD BLANCHE, Acting Attorney General, United States,** *Respondents.*	Civil Action No.: **DECLARATION OF CHRISTIAM JOSÉ CONTRERAS RODRÍGUEZ IN SUPPORT OF PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS UNDER 28 U.S.C. § 2241**

I, Christiam José Contreras Rodríguez, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America as follows:

1. My name is Christiam José Contreras Rodríguez. My Alien Registration Number is [redacted]. (Note: my official name is "Christiam," not "Christian," although some private letters use "Christian" by mistake.)
2. I am a native and citizen of Venezuela. I was born on [redacted] in Tovar, State of Mérida, Venezuela, at Hospital San José de Tovar. My Venezuelan cédula number is [redacted]
3. I am currently detained by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement at the Stewart Detention Center, located at 146 CCA Road, Lumpkin, Georgia 31815.

4. I submit this declaration in support of my petition for a writ of habeas corpus and my request for immediate release from immigration detention under reasonable conditions.
5. I respectfully ask the Court to consider my individual circumstances, including my entry, my prior release by DHS, my family, my U.S. citizen son, my residence, my employment, my community ties, my pending immigration proceedings, and the fact that I have no criminal record.
6. I left Venezuela on January 15, 2024, fleeing political persecution and violence. I arrived near El Paso, Texas, on approximately April 1, 2024.
7. I was not inspected, admitted, or paroled at a port of entry.
8. On April 2, 2024, CBP served me with a Notice to Appear, charging me under INA § 212(a)(6)(A)(i). I was placed in ordinary removal proceedings under INA § 240, not expedited removal.
9. On April 2, 2024, DHS issued a Notice of Custody Determination (Form I-286) under INA § 236 and 8 C.F.R. Part 236.
10. The I-286 determined that I would be released on my own recognizance, without a monetary bond.
11. My release was formalized through an Order of Release on Recognizance (Form I 220A), also dated April 2, 2024.
12. The I-286 and I-220A both expressly cite INA § 236 as the authority for my custody determination. My release was NOT parole. It was a release on own recognizance under § 236.
13. My conditions of release included attending all hearings before DHS and EOIR, surrendering for removal if ordered, reporting personally to ICE as directed, not changing

my residence without authorization, not violating any laws, and assisting DHS in obtaining travel documents.

14. After my release, I established my life in North Carolina and remained continuously present in the United States.

15. I did not remain near the border or live as a recent arriving immigrant. I lived and worked in the interior of the United States for approximately 780 days.

16. I reported monthly to ICE at the Charlotte, North Carolina ICE office, located at 3411 St. Vardell Lane, Suite B, Charlotte, North Carolina 28217, as required.

17. I did not receive any Notice of Failure to Comply, revocation of my I-220A, or any notice of violation before my arrest in May 2026.

18. I resided at multiple addresses in North Carolina, including [redacted] Liberty, North Carolina 27229, and later [redacted] Asheboro, North Carolina 27203.

19. On September 9, 2024, I filed a Form I-589 application for asylum, withholding of removal, and protection under the Convention Against Torture. I filed within one year of my entry, as required.

20. My asylum claim is based on my political opinion and fear of persecution and torture by the Venezuelan government and government-affiliated armed groups.

21. [redacted]

22. [redacted]

[redacted]

23. I fear torture, disappearance, or false charges of terrorism and treason if I return to Venezuela.

24. On December 6, 2024, the Miami Immigration Court granted my request for change of venue, transferring my case to the Charlotte Immigration Court.

25. I worked for [redacted] beginning approximately March 2026. My employer, Antonio Calis, described me as punctual, reliable, and skilled in construction, vehicle repair, and software.

26. On [redacted] 2026, my son, C[redacted], was born at Chatham Hospital–UNC Health in Siler City, Chatham County, North Carolina. C[redacted] is a U.S. citizen by birth. My paternity is confirmed by both the birth certificate and an Affidavit of Parentage.

27. My partner, Yasmin Andrea Zambrano Posadas, does not work and is financially dependent on me. She cares for our infant son. I was the primary economic and emotional support for my family.

28. I have no criminal record. A certified search by the Clerk of Superior Court of Randolph County, North Carolina, conducted on May 27, 2026, found no criminal records or infractions under my name. My I-589 application also reports no arrests, charges, or convictions in the United States.

29. I have support from my community, including letters from my partner Yasmin Zambrano; Spiro D. Laousis, a U.S. citizen and former Army officer; Benjamin Zentella, pastor of

Ministerio Internacional Alcance; Santiago Bringas, a U.S. citizen and Army member; Susan Albertson, a coworker; and Antonio Calis, my employer.

30. My church, Ministerio Internacional Alcance, has stated that my family and I have been members for more than a year and a half.

31. On May 22, 2026, after 780 days of continuous liberty and compliance, I voluntarily appeared for my scheduled monthly ICE check in at the Charlotte, North Carolina ICE office.

32. The employee who normally processed my check-in was not present that day. Another official led me to an office where four agents were waiting.

33. They told me: "Hola Christiam, queda arrestado" ("Hello Christiam, you are under arrest").

34. I was handcuffed and taken through a back door to an unidentified immigration holding facility in Charlotte. That night, I was transported in chains—my hands and feet shackled—to the Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, Georgia.

35. ICE did not provide me with: a Form I-200 or arrest warrant; a new Form I-286; a notice of revocation of my I-220A; a document identifying the statutory basis for my new custody; or any written explanation of a violation, danger, flight risk, or material change in circumstances.

36. On June 30, 2026, I appeared before Immigration Judge Bianca H. Brown and requested a custody redetermination.

37. The Immigration Judge did NOT find that I was dangerous.

38. The Immigration Judge did NOT find that I was likely to flee.

39. The Immigration Judge did NOT evaluate whether reasonable conditions could ensure my appearance.

40. The Immigration Judge did NOT consider my 780 days of compliance, my U.S. citizen son, my partner's dependence, my employment, my community ties, or any alternative conditions of release.

41. Instead, the Immigration Judge determined she lacked jurisdiction because of *Matter of Q. Li*, 29 I&N Dec. 66 (BIA 2025).

42. Because the Immigration Judge believed she lacked authority to release me, I did not receive a genuine individualized determination.

43. DHS waived appeal. I reserved appeal. The deadline for the BIA to receive my appeal is July 30, 2026. As of July 27, 2026, the BIA has not received an appeal.

44. My immigration case is pending before the Stewart Immigration Court. A master hearing is scheduled for August 10, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. before Immigration Judge Jerrica A. Harness.

45. No final order of removal has been issued in my case.

46. I have every incentive to attend my immigration hearings because my ability to remain safely in the United States depends on the outcome. My pending asylum claim gives me every reason to attend immigration court.

47. I have a U.S. citizen son who is five months old and who depends on me for economic and emotional support.

48. I have a partner who does not work and relies on me for support.

49. I have community ties in North Carolina, including my employer, my pastor, U.S. citizen military veterans, and coworkers who have written letters on my behalf.

50. I have a history of employment and family responsibility.

51. If released, I am willing to live at [redacted] North Carolina 27203, or at

such other address as the Court or ICE may approve.

52. I am willing to report regularly to ICE as directed.

53. I am willing to attend all immigration court hearings and ICE appointments.

54. I am willing to notify the Government of any change of address.

55. I am willing to comply with travel restrictions.

56. I am willing to comply with electronic monitoring, GPS, or any other supervision.

57. I am willing to comply with any reasonable bond or nonmonetary condition.

58. I understand the importance of complying with all laws.

59. I have a pending asylum case that gives me every reason to attend immigration court.

60. I have a Master Calendar Hearing on August 10, 2026, that I want to attend.

61. My immediate release would allow me to reunite with my family, return to productive employment, and prepare my immigration case.

62. Release would not prevent the Government from continuing my immigration proceedings.

63. I understand that release is a privilege and a serious responsibility. I will not violate the Court's trust.

64. I respectfully ask the Court to order my immediate release under reasonable conditions.

65. If the Court does not order immediate release, I respectfully request a prompt hearing before a neutral adjudicator with actual authority to release me.

66. At any such hearing, I respectfully request that the Government be required to prove why my continued detention is necessary.

67. I make this declaration truthfully and voluntarily in support of my petition for habeas corpus.

68. I declare under penalty of perjury that the statements in this declaration are true and correct.

Executed on July 27, 2026.

/S/ Christiam Contreras.

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