

the government once again ordered my immediate arrest on suspicion of being

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

nce I fled the country, I have been accused of having

Ángel Alejandro Heredia Mons et al.)
)
Plaintiffs,)
)
v.)
)
Kevin K. McALEENAN et al.)
)
Defendants/Respondents.)
_____)

Civ. No.: 1:19-cv-01593

DECLARATION OF B.A.E.

I, B.A.E., declare under penalty of perjury that the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge:

1. My initials are B.A.E. and I am a Cameroonian national detained at the LaSalle Detention Facility (“LaSalle”) in Jena, Louisiana. I speak English fluently.

Synopsis of Past Persecution

2. I am fleeing death and torture in Cameroon as a wanted man due to false accusations of being a member of a separatist group against the current regime.
3. I was the victim of several physical assaults at the hapm

fugitive, when in fact I was released with the consent of the Attorney General after having paid a bond. At this point, I knew that any person accused of being separatist would be tortured or killed in detention or transferred to Yaounde for assassination at the maximum-security prison. These instructions were clear from the president and were covered by media internationally.

Journey to the United States

5. On or about May 29, 2019, I escaped Cameroon to save my life and flew to Quito, Ecuador. I left my fiancée in Cameroon, who due to all the distress, went into labor early and gave birth to our son prematurely. I was unable to get any help in Ecuador and decided to travel to the United States (US) to request asylum. I travelled through Colombia, and central America until finally arriving to Tapachula, Mexico several weeks later. This included a terrifying trek through the Darien Gap jungle, where I saw corpses of other asylum seekers including minors and feared for my life.
6. In Tapachula, I was transferred to a detention center in Tuxpan by Mexican authorities. After my release on or about October 3, 2019, I made my way to the US-Mexico border.

Frustration of Access to Parole

7. On or about November 1, 2019, I was processed by border authorities at a port of entry in Texas where I formally requested asylum. I was soon transferred to the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at the Rio Grande Detention Center in Laredo, Texas. I was then transferred to the Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility (Tallahatchie) in Mississippi.
8. While detained at Tallahatchie, I had my credible fear interview and was shortly given a positive credible fear finding. I was only given three days to apply for parole and was not

able to meet this deadline. ICE gave me a parole denial letter before I submitted any application for parole. The letter checked off a box indicating that I was denied because ICE determined I was a flight risk. It did not offer any analysis or explanation as to how ICE came to this conclusion.

9. I was then transferred to the River Correctional Facility in Ferriday, Louisiana in or about November 2019. I applied for parole, but quickly realized that ICE does not grant parole

VERIFICATION

I, B [REDACTED] A [REDACTED] E [REDACTED] am the individual referred to as B.A.E. in the attached declaration. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

I have authorized my legal counsel in the *Heredia Mons* litigation to sign on my behalf given the difficulty of arranging visitation and travel in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic. I am also foregoing the option to sign documents sent by mail due to the urgency of the COVID-19 situation and due to reasonable fear of destruction of mail or retaliation by officials at this facility. If required to do so, I will provide a signature when I am able.



Victoria Mesa-Estrada, Esq.

On behalf of witness Benedict Agborotoh Eyong

Date: March 28, 2020