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RE: Rudy A Villeda

Dear Judge,

I declare under penalty or perjury that the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I Mabel M. Shafer the wife of Rudy Alexander Villeda-Mejia. I am a citizen of the United States. I'm writing to describe in my own words the emotional condition of my husband and the ways the trauma he survived continues to affect him and our life together.

When I first met Rudy, I knew him as a quiet and deeply observant man. As we began knowing each other , I noticed how he was always super careful making sure everything was secure —when closing a door he would always checked twice if it was locked, making sure everything was in order. At first I thought he was simply careful by nature. It was only after we married that I began to understand how much more there was to it.

Once we were living together, I learned that Rudy could not sleep with the lights off. It seemed strange to me that he would have this difficulty, but I came to understand it was not a small thing. He would sometimes jump up from bed ready to fight, awake by his own nightmares. In the beginning I got startled by it. When I asked him about it, he would tell me he had bad dreams. A few times he woke up almost screaming about something he could not describe to me — and he would only say he didn't remember, and that was just a bad nightmare

He installed cameras in our house facing every direction, and his phone alerts him to any movement outside. During the night, those alerts go off many times, he will wake up and his first reaction is always the same — instantly alert, ready to respond to a threat. Even though I feel completely safe with him beside me, it breaks my heart to see how this constant vigilance takes a toll on him

Rudy has no friends. He does not like being around people, and he avoids large crowds. He prefers to be alone, at home, or only with our family. He carries a deep and constant fear of being taken or detained. He has always been uneasy and anxious in situations where he cannot control or leave. These are not passing moods. They are part of who Rudy is because of what was done to him, and they have never fully gone.

He carries an enormous amount of stress, so much that it shows on his body. He suffers from Bell's palsy that affects his face, and it keeps returning. I believe it comes back because the stress in his life is never under control. He works constantly, and sometimes I feel that work is the only place he feels free, even as it stresses him in its own way.

Since Rudy was detained on March 30, 2026, everything I have described has become dramatically worse. When I visited him at the Colorado detention I never saw Rudy completely broken and with tears and fear in his eyes. I was devastated to see him in that situation. During our calls he is more frightened, hopeless, and less able to sleep. Being held in custody has placed him back in the very situation he has feared all these years — confined, powerless, and uncertain whether he will be sent away.

I love my husband. Rudy and I depend on each other and I see his suffering every day. I wish he could be given the chance to heal and to live without fear.

Thank you for the time and attention to his case.

Best regards,



Mabel M Shaffer