

Human Rights Defender Project: Court Observation -MERITS Hearing

Date: _____ Observer (full name): _____

GENERAL

- 1. Last 3 digits of A#: _____ 2. Country of origin: _____
- 3. Gender: Male Female Transgender/ non-binary
- 4. Respondent Appears: In person Video Phone/Audio Didn't appear, reason: _____
- 5. Judge: Carr Hansen Mazzie Miller Sardelli Wood Other: _____
- 6. DHS Attorney: _____ Appears: In person Phone/Audio Video
- 7. Was respondent represented? In person Phone/Audio Video No, pro se Attorney failed to appear
Comment: _____

8. DOCKET

- Non-Detained IHP (prison) ICE detention: Freeborn Sherburne Kandiyohi Carver Other Unknown

LANGUAGE

- 9. Respondent's preferred language: _____
- 10. Was interpreter used? Not needed In Courtroom By phone By video Not available Attorney waived
- 11. Language provided to respondent (interpreter language): _____
- 12. Language provided to testifiers (interpreter language): _____ NA
- 13. Interpretation (check all that apply): Consecutive Simultaneous, Complete Incomplete, Technical problems
 Multiple attempts to find Not in preferred language Comment: _____

MERITS

14. Relief application being heard (check all that apply)

- Cancellation: 42A (LPR) 42B Termination of proceedings
- I-589: Asylum / WOR / CAT Other _____
- Adjustment of status Unsure

15. Testimony/ Witnesses- (check all that apply) Respondent Family Other Supporter
 Medical Mental Health Country Expert

16. How testifiers and witnesses appear (check all that apply) written in courtroom on phone via video

17. Comment about testifiers/ testimony:

18. Were there supporters present in court who did not testify? no yes family yes other supporters

Presence in country

19. Respondent's entry date/ length of time in the US: _____ Unknown

20. Does respondent have family in the US? Yes No Unknown. If family present, who and what status in US:

Background

21. What was said about conditions in home country? Not discussed

22. What was said about how respondent got into removal proceedings? Not discussed

Criminal history

23. Was a criminal history mentioned? Not Discussed No criminal Hx All convictions All cases are pending
 Arrests but no charges All cases acquitted/dismissed Mixed History Unknown outcome of charges/ cases

Comments: _____

Legal argument

24. Describe the main argument of respondent (or attorney):

25. Describe the main argument of government attorney:

26. Describe main questioning / reasoning of Judge:

Health

27. Was there mention of respondent having the following medical/ mental health issues?

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bipolar | <input type="checkbox"/> Depression/ Anxiety | <input type="checkbox"/> Schizophrenia | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chemical Dependency | <input type="checkbox"/> PTSD | <input type="checkbox"/> Torture Survivor | <input type="checkbox"/> None |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cognitive Impairment | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual assault survivor | <input type="checkbox"/> Traumatic Brain injury | |

Comment: _____

CONCLUSION

28. Judge's action: Relief Granted Relief Denied Case Continued
 Will issue written decision Other Unsure

Comments: _____

29. Did parties reserve appeal of decision? NA (no decision today) **DHS:** Yes No **Respondent:** Yes No

30. How long did hearing last? less than 2 hours 2-3 hours 3-4 hours More than 4 hours

IMPRESSIONS:

For the next set of questions use a 5 point scale 1= strongly disagree 3= neutral, 5= strongly agree

	N/A	1	2	3	4	5
31. The Judge asked understandable questions and gave clear explanations		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
32. The Judge was a neutral arbiter, didn't show deference to either side		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
33. The respondent's attorney provided good representation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
34. The respondent's dignity was upheld during the hearing		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
35. The respondent (and/or their attorney) understood what was happening today		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
36. The respondent (and/or their attorney) was given a fair shot to present their case		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
37. The outcome of today's hearing was fair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional Notes: