




Date: _____

Observer: _____

Human Rights Defender Project: Court Observation Form

General

- 1. Last 3 digits of A#: _____
- 2. Immigration Judge   
- 3. Government Attorney Name: _____
- 4. Was the detainee represented? Yes, in person Yes, by phone No
 - a. If yes, what type of attorney? Private Non-private (NGO/volunteer) Unknown
- 5. Detainee's country of origin: _____
- 6. Gender Male Female Transgender and/or non-binary
- 7. Type of hearing (if more than one, check both):
 - Bond Continued Bond Initial Removal Hearing Continued Removal Hearing Unknown
- 8. Detainee's entry date/length of time in the US (if known): _____
- 9. Does the detainee have family in the US? Yes: _____ No

Language

- 10. Detainee's preferred language: _____
- 11. Estimate English fluency of detainee: Fluent Proficient Very little/none
- 12. Was an interpreter used? Not needed Physical interpreter Phone interpreter No interpreter available
- 13. Were there any technical issues with interpretation? (hearing/equipment issues, phone was dropped etc.) If yes, please describe: _____

Mental Health

- 14. Was there any mention of the Respondent having any mental health issues? If yes, describe what was mentioned, whether the Judge or the court required ICE to do anything, or if the Judge indicated they would try to have an attorney take the case: _____
- 15. Do you think Respondent may have a mental health issue or cognitive impairment? If so, why? _____

Criminal History

- 16. Was a criminal history mentioned by either the court or lawyers? If so, list what you can. Please indicate if charge is pending, conviction, dropped, or acquitted: _____

Bond Hearings – skip if no bond hearing was requested or conducted

- 17. Was bond agreed between parties prior to hearing? If yes, skip remaining Bond questions Yes, \$ _____ No

Bond - continued

18. Was bond requested? Yes No, continuance No, withdrew bond request
- a. If bond was requested, did the Judge grant it? Yes, \$ _____ No
- i. Did DHS reserve appeal? Yes No
- b. If bond was denied, why Ineligible/mandatory detention "danger to society" "flight risk"
- Other: _____
19. What factors, if any, were mentioned in granting bond? _____

Removal Hearings - skip if no removal hearings were conducted

20. Were pleadings taken? Yes No
21. Did the detainee ask to be ordered removed? Yes No, asked for continuance No, asked for relief
22. If the detainee requested relief, what type of relief? (includes application forms)
- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 42A (LPR) Cancellation | I-589 Asylum | Adjustment of Status |
| 42B (non-LPR) Cancellation | I-589 Convention Against Torture (CAT) | U-visa or T-visa |
| Voluntary Departure | I-589 Withholding of Removal | Other/unsure: _____ |
23. Did the Judge order removal/deportation? Yes No Did the Judge grant Voluntary Departure? Yes No
24. Did the Judge order a continuance? Yes, next hearing date: _____ No

Overall Impressions

25. Did the Judge take time to explain what was happening (especially if the detainee was not represented)? Yes No
26. Did the Judge take time to answer questions?
- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Yes | No (detainee was not represented) | No (detainee had an attorney) |
|-----|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
27. Do you believe the Judge treated everyone in court with respect? Yes No
28. Comments about the Judge (demeanor, attitude, respectfulness, patience, etc.): _____
-
29. Was the government attorney respectful during the proceedings? Yes No
-
30. Did the detainee's attorney interact with the client? Yes No Details: _____
- | | |
|-----|----|
| Yes | No |
|-----|----|
31. Did the detainee's attorney provide good representation to their client?
- | | |
|-----|----|
| Yes | No |
|-----|----|
32. Did the detainee appear to be engaged in the process? If no, why not? Yes No
-
33. Did the detainee have supporters in Court for them?
- | | | | |
|--------|------------------|---------------|------|
| Family | Other supporters | Couldn't tell | None |
|--------|------------------|---------------|------|
34. How long did the hearing last? less than 5 minutes 5-10 minutes 10+ minutes

Additional notes: _____
