

July 15, 2020

Submitted via <https://www.regulations.gov>

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RE: Comments in Opposition to United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Department of Justice (DOJ) (the Departments) Joint Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Rule): Procedures for Asylum and Withholding of Removal; Credible Fear and Reasonable Fear Review; [RIN 1615-AC42 / 1125-AA94](#) / EOIR Docket No. 18-0002 / A.G. Order No. 4714-2020

Truly, the experience of coming here to seek asylum is a horrible experience. After years of physical and mental abuse from my husband, I decided to come to the United States after my teenage daughter saw the assassination of 8 people by some gangsters. Even before this, it was very hard to live in Honduras. There are women like me in Honduras, that, in addition to being fighters, working day-to-day, we are subject to abuse not only physical but psychological. Women in my country are not heard.

There are very high rates of crime in all of Honduras, in all of Central America it is so dangerous. Many people are fleeing it--not only the abuse but the horrific crimes that we live among. In addition to what my daughter witnessed, everyone we knew was touched by violence—my neighbors were raped, my brother was stabbed during a robbery, I lived in constant fear of being violently robbed, or my daughter kidnapped. The only thing I want is to live in peace.

On the way to the United States, I crossed through two countries: Guatemala and Mexico. Guatemala is controlled by the same gangs as Honduras, so it was my greatest fear that we wouldn't be able to cross through there, but going into Mexico was even worse. You don't know what one can see on that road. It's something I still think about and cry, it was so horrible. My daughter and I saw someone get raped, and we were constantly extorted for money so men would let us keep going. My daughter still can't trust men, she's afraid of them after that journey.

When we crossed into the United States and were found by Border Patrol officers, I thought they were policemen, and I didn't want to talk to them. One reads that the police in Honduras is involved with the gangs, and I was scared that police officers here would tell Honduran police my testimony. I still have family over there, and I was scared for their safety.

My credible fear interview took 3 hours. They asked, and asked, and asked again, and they asked me the same questions in different ways, and I told them the same things over and over again, because at no point was I lying to them. I kept saying, help me, help me, I want to die. And there's so much distress when they're pressuring you, you get so nervous.

I think it would have been impossible for me to win my asylum case without my attorney. I don't have the experience, I don't know the laws, I don't know how to write or express myself before a court. My lawyer was able to prove that we were telling the truth. She compiled everything we said, and got proof for it--it was such good support.

My daughter came here and was able to experience a park for the first time. She didn't even know what it was like to go to a park, because in Honduras, they're full of young men, full of gangsters. I raised her in a bubble, but she still saw so much.

Back in Honduras, I was an accountant. I had a computer, and I made spreadsheets and payment plans. Here, I drive a forklift. I lift boxes. I would rather lift boxes than be sitting and know that my daughter is in danger in my country, whether its through gangs of the same kind of violence I suffered. In Honduras, I had a house, but here I have a tiny little apartment where I live happily, because I can come home and there is no screaming, no hitting, there is food.

I am so grateful for having asylum because the peace we have now, I wouldn't change it for anything.

/s/

Liora Doe*

*Pseudonym used to protect confidentiality

Witness Attestation

I, Alejandra Oliva, attest that this statement was drafted by a client of the National Immigrant Justice Center who has won asylum or withholding of removal. The client decided to use a pseudonym to protect her confidentiality.

/s/

Alejandra Oliva
Communications Coordinator
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