

NATIONAL IMMIGRANT JUSTICE CENTER

A HEARTLAND ALLIANCE PROGRAM

SAMPLE ASYLUM CASE DESCRIPTION

Y. is a woman from Eritrea. Her son S. will be a derivative on her application. Y. and S.'s next Master Calendar hearing is on November 5, 2013. Y. speaks Amharic and lives in Chicago, Illinois. (13-0079056) (13-0079287)

Y. and her family are ethnically Eritrean, but Y. grew up in Ethiopia. When a national referendum on Eritrea's independence was held, Y.'s parents voted in support of independence. After a war broke out in 1998 between Eritrea and Ethiopia, the Ethiopian government began to deport those who had voted for Eritrean independence. Fearing for Y.'s safety, her parents sent her to live in Djibouti before the Ethiopian government deported them to Eritrea. Once in Eritrea, officials accused Y.'s father of being an Ethiopian spy and regularly imprisoned and interrogated him. Meanwhile, Y. stayed in Djibouti for three months before going to Dubai. In Dubai, she worked as a maid for six years and during this time, the family for whom she worked mistreated her and two family members raped her. Y. fled to South Africa where she gave birth to her son, but in 2011, they fled when South Africa began to deport undocumented immigrants. Fearing return to Eritrea, Y. and her son traveled to Ecuador and then up Central America to Mexico. After requesting asylum at the U.S. border on September 16, 2012, Y. and her son were paroled into the United States after Y. passed a credible fear interview. Y. fears that if she is forced to return to Eritrea, she will be treated as a spy like her father and will be punished for having lived outside of Eritrea without permission. She also fears she, like nearly all Eritrean men and women, will be forced to join the Eritrean National Service, where torture and abuse of conscripts is common and where female conscripts are often raped. Y.'s attorneys must file her asylum application with the immigration court by September 15, 2013.