

ATTACHMENT TO FORM EOIR-26: ADDENDUM

IN THE MATTER OF: Nicole Cardona Botero

A-NUMBER: 249-348-604

ITEM 6: STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR APPEAL

I am appealing the Immigration Judge's decision to expel me from the United States. I am asking for a review of an erroneous factual determination by the Immigration Judge. I believe that my hearing was unfair because the Immigration Judge was not made aware of the most important facts of my case. I believe that my attorney did not do an adequate job of representing me.

Background: I am a victim of domestic violence and I think I may also be a victim of human trafficking. I entered the United States around April 3, 2025 with a K-1 VISA. My spouse, Ernesto Chavez, and I were married around June 30, 2025 in Chicago, Illinois. My husband, Ernesto, told me that since we were married my immigration status was valid and there was no need to renew my visa, alert USCIS of our marriage, or adjust my status to become a legal permanent resident. I believed him because I was not familiar with the immigration laws of the United States and I do not have friends here to ask for help. I believe that my husband misled me to control me.

1. **My claims are credible and serious.** On or around October 29, 2025, immigration and/or law enforcement agents transported me from GEO Northlake to Detroit (where I am currently detained by ICE) to interview me for hours about the facts of my case. They asked me questions about my relationship with Ernesto and the ways that he controlled and abused me.
2. **My master hearing and bond hearing was unfair because my lawyer, who was hired by my spouse and my abuser, did not disclose these facts that are pertinent to my case.** My attorney knew I was a victim of domestic violence, but **she** did not mention these facts to the judge. Since my spouse was paying her legal fees, I believe **she** was working for him and not concerned with the legal facts of the case.
3. **My lawyer failed to defend me against a biased police report.** My arrest on August 30, 2025 was due to acts of **self-defense** from an attack by my husband. The police report is one-sided and **does not mention any of the abuse I reported** to law enforcement or the accurate circumstances of the incident. There was no mention that I was defending myself, something I repeatedly told the officers who

came to the scene and arrested me. My lawyer knew these facts but did not adequately challenge the report or tell the Judge these facts.

4. **My lawyer did not adequately represent me.** I had several conversations with my lawyer about the mistreatment I suffered. She knew that my husband was committing many forms of abuse against me, including: (1) **physical attacks**; (2) **threats of harm** to me and my family if I did not comply with his demands remaining with him in the United States, cooking and cleaning for him, and to engage in sexual intercourse with him whenever he pleased; (3) telling me that past "gifts" were now **"debts"** I had to repay; and (4) demanding I repay this "debt" by **having sex with other men (prostitution)**.
5. **My lawyer actively misinformed me and blocked me from relief.** When I asked my lawyer about filing for relief as an abuse victim, **she falsely told me that filing for VAWA (I-360) is simply not an option.** I've learned that this is a false statement. I believe **she lied to me to protect my husband, who was paying her.** She also never mentioned the T-Visa (I-914) at all.
6. **My lawyer abandoned me.** My lawyer's failure to adequately represent me continued after the hearing. **She never informed me about my right to appeal** or that there was a deadline for an appeal to be submitted. I only found out about the November 13, 2025 appeal deadline because my friend, who is not a lawyer, checked the EOIR website. Furthermore, she has been very difficult to reach. I have tried calling her and sending emails to her through my friend but she does not respond to either of us.
7. **All my proof is in audio form, and I cannot get it.** The evidence of my spouse's threats, attacks, and demands for prostitution are contained in **audio recordings** that are located in my cell phone and a **separate recording device.** ICE took these items from me when I was detained.

I am appealing the deportation order and asking for a new, fair hearing so I can get my evidence and file the correct applications (Form I-914 and Form I-360) with USCIS and the Immigration Court. I have been trying hard to find legal representation but have not been able to find an attorney from detention.

This is my statement of reasons for my appeal, as I am not a lawyer. This is not my full legal brief or my sworn declaration. I intend to file a detailed brief and a full sworn declaration with my evidence as soon as the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) sends me the schedule to do so.

SIGN and DATE HERE.

Nicole Cardona Botero | A-number: 249-348-604