

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

MARIA ALEJANDRA CELIMEN SAVINO,
et al.,

Petitioners-Plaintiffs,

v.

THOMAS HODGSON, et al.,

Respondents-Defendants.

Case No. 1:20-cv-10617-WGY

Declaration of Cesar Francisco Vargas Vasquez

I, Cesar Francisco Vargas Vasquez, hereby declare under penalty of perjury, that the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge:

1. My name is Cesar Francisco Vargas Vasquez. I am currently detained at Bristol County in Unit B.
2. I am very scared of being infected with coronavirus and getting sick.
3. I have asthma and only one of my lungs works. I am worried about receiving medical care while detained. I have had past trouble seeing the doctor – I need an operation on my right hand, which is not working properly.
4. I was given a new inhaler for my asthma three weeks ago, but it is expired. The date on the spray is December 2019.
5. Because I have asthma, I am very worried that if I get sick, I will die.
6. It is only a matter of time before the disease spreads everywhere here.
7. There are 47 people in Unit B as of today. I am being held in the same room as all of them.
8. The room is roughly 3,500 square feet of open space and we sleep on bunk beds that are barely 3 feet apart from each other. My bed is too close to the others.
9. I am not able to engage in “social distancing.” For example, the dining room has plastic party tables which are set up inches from each other during meal times. All of us eat at the exact same time, so the dining room is always very crowded.

10. The bathroom stalls and showers are also very crowded. We do not have access to disinfectant or toilet paper.
11. The “soap” in the bathroom is not enough. It is mixed with water and will not be able to keep us safe from this disease. We need disinfectant to kill the germs.
12. The correctional officers said that they are stopping outside visits to keep us safe, but this cannot be true. We have not been moved and we are still kept in the same room for weeks with no separation or distance.
13. Meanwhile, ICE is bringing new individuals into the facility everyday, directly from the street.
14. Even though the jail is supposed to quarantine new individuals, they do not do so. They do not test them for the virus or check for symptoms.
15. Two nights ago, ICE brought a new individual—Ernesto—here. Yesterday, he began to throw up everywhere and was coughing very bad. We informed the correctional officer, who saw he was throwing up.
16. Officers came in with masks on and took him away, but I do not know where he went.
17. Even after this and other incidents, we have not received any protection. I have seen guards with flu-like symptoms like the coronavirus.
18. The correctional officers do not wear any protective gear. Yesterday, I saw the nurse giving medication without any gloves. We asked the nurse to put on gloves and she laughed at us.
19. Every time I see news about the coronavirus on the TV, I want to cry. I feel desperate and have not been sleeping. I am awake at 3 or 4AM in the morning and I try to sleep in the day to avoid watching the TV.
20. I began seeing a psychiatrist, but no pills will help me. The fear I feel is too strong.
21. I am very scared of getting sick and dying, especially because it is impossible to have proper hygiene in here. I want to be released so I can avoid infection.
22. Because ICE keeps bringing new people and because we are so close together, I believe everyone will get sick, including me.

23. Last week, one of the nurses said, “it’s a matter of time before you guys get it too. You will get it in less than a month.” On Sunday, one of the correctional officers said to us that we will all be sick soon.
24. All of the immigrants share my fear. Please get us out. We are being treated like dogs in here.
25. This declaration was read to me in English, and I swear it is true. I have authorized Megan Yan, a law student intern working on *Savino v. Hodgson*, to sign for me.

Date: March 27, 2020

/s/ Cesar Francisco Vargas Vasquez
Cesar Francisco Vargas Vasquez

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on March 27, 2020, the above-captioned document was filed through the ECF system and will be sent electronically to the registered participants as identified on the Notice of Electronic Filing (NEF), and paper copies will be sent to those indicated as non-registered participants.

/s/ Oren M. Sellstrom