

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

CASA DE MARYLAND, INC., *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

MAYORKAS, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. 20-2118-PX

DECLARATION OF MOHANNAD SALEH

I, Mohannad Saleh, being over 18 years old and fully competent to make this declaration, declare under penalty of perjury that the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and recollection:

1. My name is Mohannad Saleh.
2. I am 39 years old and I came to the United States from the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
3. I currently reside in Monroe, Louisiana.
4. I came to the United States fleeing political persecution in the UAE.
5. I arrived in the U.S. with my wife and children in June 2021.
6. I applied for asylum for myself and my family in December 2021.
7. I waited at least 150 days after I filed my asylum application to apply for a work permit.
8. I applied for a work permit based on my pending asylum application in late April 2022.
9. I received a receipt notice from USCIS that says that my work permit application was received on April 29, 2022.
10. I am a member of the Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (“ASAP”).

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11. I included proof of my ASAP membership in my work permit application as instructed by the USCIS website.
12. I have been waiting 133 days since I filed my application for an initial work permit and I have still not received any decision.
13. The delay in my work permit has made life very difficult for me and my family. I have a wife and four children to support here in the U.S.
14. My youngest daughter is 18 months old. Without a job, I have not even been able to buy milk or other basic necessities for her.
15. Before I came to the U.S., I worked for a marble and granite company in the UAE. I went to university and I have work experience in this field.
16. In the U.S., I applied for and received a job offer to be a salesman for a marble company in Louisiana.
17. The person who offered me the job informed me that the company cannot hire me unless and until I get a work permit and social security number.
18. I am very worried that if I do not get my work permit soon, they will rescind my job offer.
19. My wife and I came to the U.S. under a lot of pressure, fleeing the UAE. We understand that there are immigration procedures to follow here and we respect the rules. But we have no help here and no one else to rely on.
20. I am extremely stressed thinking about our future and the future of our children.

In conformity with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

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Executed on September 9, 2022 in Monroe, Louisiana.



MOHANNAD SALEH

9/9/2022

DATE