

AFFIDAVIT OF DR. VANESSA MORGAN

I, **VANESSA MORGAN M.D.**, do declare and state as follows:

1. I am a medical doctor in Colorado and serve as the principal physician at Aurora Refugee Health located at 10000 Locus Street, Aurora CO 80010. I have been working full time in this family practice, seeing exclusively refugees and asylees, for ten years. I have seen tens of thousands of refugee/asylee visits, including countless injuries and mental health sequelae from traumas of war. I have provided more than 100 affidavits for asylum seekers in Immigration Court. Prior to working at Aurora Refugee Health, I worked in the Emergency Department at the University of Colorado Hospital.
2. I graduated from University of Colorado School of Medicine in 2004, and my Colorado license is CODR55555. My curriculum vitae, which fully outlines my experiences and qualifications, is attached.
3. I visited Julian Ngongbo (DOB 7/1/1993), a Cameroonian detainee at the GEO Detention Center at 3130 Oakland in Aurora, on November 30, 2019. Prior to meeting with Mr. Ngongbo, I reviewed his personal statement and his records from the GEO Detention Center.
4. During my examination of Mr. Ngongbo, he stated that he was tortured at the hands of the Cameroonian military while held in custody in Cameroon in 2018 and again in 2019. More specifically, he told me of the following injuries suffered:
 - a. While in custody in 2018, Mr. Ngongbo stated that he was beaten repeatedly over multiple days with military belts and batons, and that his arm was twisted during torture and broken.
 - b. While in custody in 2019, Mr. Ngongbo was again beaten repeatedly over multiple days and his previously injured arm was twisted.
5. During my physical examination of Mr. Ngongbo, I documented the following injuries and purported causes:
 - a. Multiple scars, irregularly shaped including: left bicep 4 inch on anterior aspect, left forearm 3 inch on anterior aspect, left wrist 2 inch on anterior, right medial shin 2 inch.
 - These are consistent with hands being tied behind back and other beatings.
 - b. Right abdomen 7-inch scar consistent with abrasion
 - Mr. Ngongbo says he was dragged on the floor, which is consistent with scar.
 - c. Right foot sole has 1-inch ball on midsole

Commented [JD1]: The medical expert should briefly highlight their relevant experience in the beginning of the declaration. If they've prepared declarations like this in the past, it may be helpful to highlight that fact too.

Commented [JD2]: Please be sure to include a copy of the expert's c.v.

Commented [JD3]: The expert should document when she/he evaluated the asylum seeker. If there were multiple meetings, all of them should be listed.

Commented [JD4]: If you've already prepared a declaration with your client, you should share it with the expert, along with any available medical records from your client. The expert should list any materials that were reviewed prior to the examination.

Commented [JD5]: Please note that the expert does NOT need to provide an account of your client's entire story. They should briefly highlight the facts that are relevant to the medical evaluation. Here, that includes details about the fact that beatings took place and an explanation of how injuries were suffered. Note that the medical expert does not need to explain your client's political activities or other grounds for their claim.

Commented [JD6]: The expert should be specific about the scars/symptoms observed. Sometimes, doctors also take photos of the scars. If the expert that you are working with takes photos, you should submit them along with the affidavit and c.v.

- This is consistent with keloid scar from previous wound.
 - d. Left foot lateral edge has multiple wounds
 - The wounds are consistent with significant trauma. Unclear if any fractures previously there.
 - e. Left elbow has a deformity. The elbow is bowed out in a varus style. Patient has reduced strength in bicep flexion and extension, and forearm pronation and supination. This also affects shoulder abduction and adduction.
 - This injury is consistent with hands being bound and beatings as patient describes.
6. I have no direct or personal knowledge of how these injuries occurred. However, as a physician, my opinion is the scars and arm deformity are fully consistent with the description of torture Mr. Ngongbo told me he had endured. His arm injury indicates it is the result of significant physical force.
 7. In whatever way caused, the injuries represent serious physical harm and would have resulted in severe pain and suffering. Mr. Ngongbo reports the pain in his left arm and right foot continue to the present. Mr. Ngongbo also has reduced mobility with his left arm as a result of the injuries.
 8. If caused by Military torture as Mr. Ngongbo reports and if he were in Cameroon, it would be well founded for a patient to have great concern and fear of future repeat episodes and injuries. His GEO medical records diagnose him as having post-traumatic stress disorder.
 9. I swear and confirm the statements made in this affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge.

Commented [JD7]: This is a critical portion of the expert's statement. While he/she could not have observed how the injuries took place, it is very important for the expert to state whether the injuries are consistent with the asylum seeker's account.

Commented [JD8]: If your client is still experiencing pain, discomfort, or other side effects from the physical abuse, it is a good idea to have the expert mention those in the statement.

Commented [JD9]: Please ask your client whether they've been seen by medical staff at the detention facility. If they have, your client should request a copy of their medical records so that the expert can review them. Please consult your mentor for guidance on how to do this.

Dr. Vanesa Morgan
Dated:

Subscribed and sworn before me this ____ day of ____, _____

(SEAL)

Signature of Notary

Printed Name of Notary

My Commission Expires

Commented [JD10]: If possible, the expert should have their signed statement notarized.

