1

1 2 3	SOUTHE	STATES DISTRICT COURT RN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA MIAMI DIVISION NUMBER 13-22589-KMW
5	Plaintiff	
6	vs.	
7	YASIEL PUIG VALDES and MARITZA VALDES GONZALEZ	
8	Defe	endant
9 LO L1	HEARING HELD 1-30-15 BEFORE THE HONORABLE KATHLEEN M. WILLIAMS UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE	
_2	APPEARANCES:	
L3 L4 L5	FOR THE PLAINTIFF:	KENIA BRAVO, ESQ. AVELINO GONZALEZ, ESQ. 6780 Coral Way Miami, FL 33155
. 6 . 7 . 8	FOR THE DEFENDANT:	SEAN SANTINI, ESQ. AVERIL ANDREWS, ESQ. 1001 Brickell Bay Drive Miami, FL 33131
9	REPORTED BY:	PATRICIA SANDERS, RPR
20		United States Court Reporter 400 North Miami Avenue, Suite 11-3
21		Miami, FL 33128 T: 305.523.5528
22		patricia_sanders@flsd.uscourts.gov.
23		
24		
25		

- 1 That was always the case, Ms. Bravo; this is not a new
- 2 development. In fact, in your motion you are candid -- and I
- 3 appreciate the candor -- it is by no means certain when Mr.
- 4 Daudinot will be able to arrive in the United States.
- 5 So why should I stay this for three months when you
- 6 say in three months he probably will not be here?
- 7 MS. BRAVO: Your Honor, there have been substantial
- 8 changes. We filed the case, and were before Your Honor in
- 9 June. We filed on -- right when we filed our second amended
- 10 complaint, we filed with USCIS, Immigration, a petition for
- reunification; which was granted in October of 2014.
- 12 THE COURT: Why didn't you file it in July of 2013?
- MS. BRAVO: We were unable to because he was being held
- 14 within the prison at that time.
- 15 THE COURT: And you knew that. When you filed this
- 16 case, and made the legal strategic decision to file this case
- 17 at the time you did, you knew your client was being held.
- MS. BRAVO: Yes. But we also knew the way the system
- 19 worked there once he --
- 20 THE COURT: Did you know the way the system works
- 21 here? When you file a case in Federal Court you are telling me
- 22 you would like for me and a jury to review a matter and resolve
- 23 it for you, and you would like us to put you on a schedule and
- 24 you would like it to proceed.
- 25 MS. BRAVO: Yes, Your Honor.

- 1 THE COURT: And I have done all of that. I have also
- 2 given more time to the case because I knew of the difficulties
- 3 you had discussed. But I also advised you that we were not
- 4 going to just keep rolling it over.
- 5 MS. BRAVO: Correct, Your Honor, but there was an
- 6 unfortunate event -- we fully expected him to be here by
- 7 December. He was detained in September.
- 8 Now, he has already been granted -- the petition was
- 9 accepted, he was also put in the Cuban Family Reunification
- 10 Program.
- 11 They ask for certain things in that program; certified
- 12 copies of the birth certificate, the marriage certificate.
- 13 And so there would be the interview and he would have
- 14 been here. The problem is he was detained in September due to
- 15 the same reason, and they took his passport so we couldn't get
- 16 a copy of the passport.
- 17 His attorney in Cuba is requesting either the passport
- 18 to be returned or a copy of the passport so we can send it to
- 19 Immigration. This should be complete within three months.
- 20 And as officers of the Court we guarantee if we cannot
- 21 resolve it within the stay period we will voluntary dismiss the
- 22 case.
- 23 THE COURT: The other question I have -- and maybe I
- 24 am not understanding what is being proposed -- but in paragraph
- 25 12 of your motion it recites as of the filing neither party has

- 1 THE COURT: What about going to Cuba to take Mr.
- 2 Daudinot's deposition? I know Mr. Puig could not go, but there
- 3 are situation where persons can because of the situation --
- 4 MS. BRAVO: Your Honor, we would be willing to do that
- 5 in Cuba; realizing that any person that goes would be running
- 6 the risk of arrest and detainment.
- 7 Because you are discussing torture partially committed
- 8 by the Cuban Government. So you are running into danger when
- 9 you go there.
- I am a Cuban citizen -- I am an American citizen, but
- 11 under Cuban law that doesn't exist. I am a Cuban citizen, he is
- 12 a Cuban citizen, and to go there to ask about torture is
- dangerous even to non Cuban citizens.
- 14 THE COURT: Well I am not going to stay this matter,
- 15 Ms. Bravo. I am going to deny that request. I think you should
- 16 all prepare your case as best you can.
- 17 I won't force Mr. Puig to sit for a deposition because
- 18 Mr. Daudinot has not yet. But I cannot help but think there are
- 19 other matters that could be taken care of, records, documents,
- 20 other people.
- 21 I could be wrong. No discovery has been taken for two
- 22 years. And I have no assurance that Mr. Daudinot is going to
- 23 get his passport back.
- 24 Kind of begs the question why didn't somebody make a
- 25 copy of his passport before the Government seized it again?

1	There seems to be no plan here for a matter that was	
2	filed in 2013. And clearly a plan needed to have been adopted	
3	since there were clearly so many difficulties that presented	
4	itself with this case.	
5	So we will go forward on the schedule we have now. If	
6	per chance Mr. Daudinot gets all the appropriate paperwork and	
7	he can arrive here, and there is some reasonable discussion	
8	about why additional time is needed, I will revisit the issue.	
9	But right now you have a June discovery cutoff and you	
10	have a November trial date.	
11	All right. Is there anything else on behalf of either	
12	Mr. Daudinot or Mr. Puig?	
13	MS. BRAVO: No, Your Honor.	
14	MR. SANTINI: No, Your Honor.	
15	THE COURT: We are adjourned.	
16	HEARING CONCLUDED	
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		