

DECLARATION OF KIANA EHSANI

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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON**

STATE OF WASHINGTON, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

DONALD TRUMP, et al.,

Defendants.

**CIVIL ACTION NO. 2:17-cv-00141-JLR
DECLARATION OF KIANA EHSANI**

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746(2), I, Kiana Ehsani, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am over the age of eighteen and competent to testify herein.
2. I live in Washington State.
3. I am originally from Iran.
4. I came to the United States in September 2015 to earn my PhD in computer science at University of Washington. I am here on a single entry visa.
5. For the first six months, I suffered from depression because I couldn't go to visit my family and they couldn't come to visit me. They had been attempting to get a visa

1 appointment but because there were only a few number of appointments available in
2 the embassies assigned for Iran, they were not able to get any. Getting homesick
3 affected my personal and academic life such that I had to take some days off of school
4 and use the medical help to get back to normal life. My mom finally got an
5 appointment in February 2016 and got her visa in May 2016. She came to the US in
6 summer 2016 and I was able to see her after more than 10 months. After she came to
7 US, my depression got better and I was able to have my normal life again without
8 taking any therapy sessions and everything was fine until the first executive order, then
9 I had to take therapy again.

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11 6. That same summer of 2016, my dad went to get the visa but he was rejected. In January
12 2017, I travelled to the peace arch state park to see my dad in the canadian border. We
13 met there in the park. I totally felt like being a prisoner who is having a visitor. We
14 were not able to exchange gifts, we were not able to spend more than few hours
15 together, we had to stay in the park and there was no indoor area so we both got a very
16 severe flu because of the cold and rainy weather.

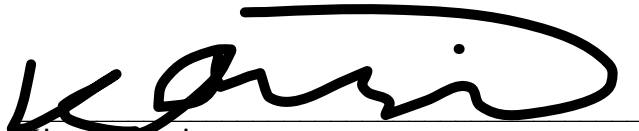
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18 7. After I came back from the park, the news about the first travel ban came out. I was
19 extremely disappointed. I even got some reactions from the people in the street when I
20 was talking in Persian to my friends, “go to your country”, “our president will kick you
21 out” and the things that really hurt me and broke my heart. This has never happened to
22 me before the executive orders and I believe that publicly announcing this ban gave
23 these people the permission to express their hate to immigrants and foreigners.
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- 1 8. My goal in coming to the United States and the University of Washington was to
2 pursue making an opportunity to achieve academic progress, attend conferences and
3 contribute to the computer science community. Unfortunately, due to travel issues and
4 having a single entry visa, I missed attending several conferences such as, European
5 Conference on Computer Vision 2016, Neural Information Processing Systems 2016,
6 International Conference on Computer Vision 2017. These conferences are the main
7 conferences in my field and there also some important workshops in these conferences
8 about the new technologies and methods in the field which are not published anywhere
9 else and can be very informative and helpful for research in computer vision. I will not
10 have a visa that allows me to leave and re-enter the United States before October 18,
11 2017.
12
- 13 9. My mother has been suffering from cancer and she has received chemotherapy for 6
14 months. Because she was afraid that I would go to her and not be able to return to the
15 school because of my single-entry visa, she didn't tell me about her sickness. When I
16 found out, I felt absolutely guilty for not being there in her sickness to help her.
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- 18 10. In March 2017, my mom went to the embassy again to get the visa to come and visit
19 me. Until the time of writing this letter, we still haven't heard anything from the US
20 consulate.
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- 22 11. I haven't seen my mom for more than a year now and other family members for more
23 than two years. If the President's September 24, 2017 Proclamation goes into effect, I
24 have decided that despite being a successful student with a GPA of 3.8, successful
25 research experiences under supervision of Ali Farhadi in the University of Washington
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1 Computer Science & Engineering Department which is ranked 6th in computer science
2 nationwide, received a master's degree, done a very successful internship at Google and
3 having many job offers from different companies such as, dropbox, NVIDIA, Disney
4 research and many others, I am quitting the program and leaving school in December
5 2017 to go back to Iran and visit my family. Due to the fact that my family, especially
6 my mom and my brother, will be prohibited from coming and visiting me here, I am not
7 certain that I would apply for another visa or consider coming back to finish my PhD.
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12 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.
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14 Executed on this 4_ day of October, 2017

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16 Kiana Ensani
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