DECLARATION OF ELIEZER SOTO-CONCEPCION

- I, Eliezer Soto-Concepcion, am over the age of 18 and fully competent to make the following declaration:
- 1. I am incarcerated at the Federal Correctional Institution at Fort Dix in the low security Camp. My Federal Bureau of Prisons Register Number is 72850-067. I was convicted of conspiracy to distribute and possession with intent to distribute heroin and cocaine and sentenced to 144 months. Prior to my sentencing in November 2017, I was incarcerated for two years in jail when I could not make bail, so I have served approximately 53 months. Given good time credits, my current release date is September 5, 2025. I have no prior convictions.
- 2. I am 38 years old. I have serious medical conditions including heart problems and high blood pressure for which I take medication for both every day. I have had three heart attacks and was hospitalized for all three: when I was 25 years old in Puerto Rico, when I was in my early 30s in Pennsylvania, and again soon after that in Manhattan. They told me I had clogged arteries. As a result, I also have a nervous system problem that makes my hands shake.
- 3. I have been at Fort Dix since December 2017. I have participated in a lot of BOP programming, including classes in ESL, carpentry, horticulture, Spanish parenting, and classes to get a license to operate a forklift. I also go to church at the prison.
- 4. Until last Friday, April 24, I was housed in the Camp's A side with over 100 other men. On Friday, I found out lots of people on the other side of the Camp in the B side tested positive for the virus. I heard there were 21. Because they were sick, everyone there was moved out. On Saturday, I was moved into the B side along with about 70 other men from the A side, so now we are about 70 and 70 on each side.

- 5. Many of my friends have now tested positive for the virus, and over the past weeks I have seen many people exhibiting symptoms around me, including frequent coughing and vomiting. I am afraid I will get the virus because I have been so close to them, and that it will be very bad because of my medical conditions.
- 6. In mid-April, I sent requests for Compassionate Release to Fort Dix Warden David Ortiz and my case manager. I have not received a response from either of them.
- 7. If I were released, I would go to Puerto Rico to live with my grandmother for a while and work as an auto mechanic. I have two sons, ages 19 and 17, who live with their mother in Pennsylvania. Someday, I hope to be able to join my children there.

/s/ Eliezer Soto-Concepcion (by consent)

I, Tess Borden, certify that I reviewed the information contained in this declaration with Eliezer Soto-Concepcion by telephone on April 26, 2020. Because he has limited English language proficiency, I sent him a copy of this letter translated to Spanish by Cindy Guaman. He certified in writing on April 28, 2020 that the information contained in this declaration was true and accurate to the best of his knowledge.

<u>/s/ Tess Borden_</u>

Tess Borden (260892018)
American Civil Liberties Union of
New Jersey Foundation
P.O. Box 32159
Newark, New Jersey 07102
(973) 854-1733
tborden@aclu-nj.org

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION

I, Cindy Guaman, swear under penalty of perjury and pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 that I speak English and Spanish, that I translated this document into Spanish to the best of my ability, and that the response from Eliezer Soto-Concepcion, provided to me by Tess Borden, is translated as follows: "The information contained in this statement is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge."

April 28,	2020
Date	