

KARINA CISNEROS PRECIADO OPENING STATEMENT
U.S. SENATE PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

November 15, 2022

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to share my experiences today. My name is Karina Cisneros Preciado. I was brought to the United States when I was eight years old. I am now 23 and live in Florida with my two children, both of whom are U.S. citizens. My daughter is two years old, and my son is one year old. I also have several other family members who are U.S. citizens.

I was detained at the Irwin County Detention Center in Ocilla, Georgia, for six months, from July 3, 2020, to January 12, 2021. My detention was triggered by an arrest, even though I was the victim in that incident. My daughter's father abused me so badly. One day, in June 2020, I needed to put a stop to his abuse and called the police on him. The police saw that I had a black eye and bruises on my body, but they still arrested me instead of him. The charges against me were dropped, but I ended up at Irwin. Before that, I had never been arrested, never had problems with the police, never traveled in the back of a police car.

My daughter was only four months old when the police took me from her. I was still nursing her at the time. Our separation was really traumatic for both of us. Being torn away from my baby, my mother, my family, for no fair reason, is overwhelming for me to think about.

Irwin was really dirty. The showers and bathrooms were covered in mold, and so were some of the cells. We would try to use our sanitary pads and soap from the commissary to scrub away the mold. Even the water cooler had mold in the spout. The mold smelled. Sewage from an upper bathroom would leak into a lower bathroom.

During my detention, I was taken to one appointment with Dr. Mahendra Amin. I was chained up at the wrist, ankles, and waist for the appointment, like a criminal. At his office, a nurse told me to get undressed, and I had to do so in front of a transport officer. I expected to get a Pap smear, but instead Dr. Amin told me to open my legs and he did a vaginal ultrasound. He told me I had a cyst on my ovary. He said he was going to give me a shot to try to dissolve the cyst, and if the cyst did not dissolve in a few weeks, I would need surgery. I did not have a chance to ask questions or say no. I had to get dressed and was handcuffed again. The nurse then gave me the shot, without anyone explaining what it was, and I had to sign a paper.

Dr. Amin's abuse has caused ongoing damage to my physical and mental health. Because of the shot, I gained a lot of weight and my hormones were out of control. I was only saved from the surgery because news about Dr. Amin's abuse came out. Why was he allowed to harm me and so many other women? Along with other women who were detained at Irwin and subjected to procedures by Dr. Amin, I filed a lawsuit, *Oldaker v. Giles*, M.D. GA (No. 7:20-cv-00224). That case is still pending. I am testifying today because I want to make sure that this type of abuse never happens again.