

United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

No. 26-60086
Summary Calendar

United States Court of Appeals
Fifth Circuit
FILED
September 15, 2026
Lyle W. Cayce
Clerk

BINIYAM GEBREMESKEL ALEMU,

Petitioner,

versus

TODD WALLACE BLANCHE, *U.S. Attorney General,*

Respondent.

Petition for Review of an Order of the
Board of Immigration Appeals
Agency No. A221 389 793

Before JONES, HO, and WILSON, *Circuit Judges.*

PER CURIAM:*

Biniyam Gebremeskel Alemu, a native and citizen of Ethiopia, petitions for review of the decision of the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) upholding the denial of asylum, withholding of removal, and protection under the Convention Against Torture (CAT). We review the BIA's decision and consider the immigration judge's decision only to the

* This opinion is not designated for publication. *See* 5TH CIR. R. 47.5.

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extent it influenced the BIA. *Santos-Alvarado v. Barr*, 967 F.3d 428, 436 (5th Cir. 2020).

Substantial evidence supports the agency's adverse credibility determination. The agency found discrepancies relating to whether Alemu's friend provided him medical assistance, whether the police held Alemu's wife at gunpoint, the demolition of the wife's store, and Alemu's prior application for a United States visa. Based on those discrepancies, the adverse credibility determination is supported by "specific and cogent reasons derived from the record," and a reasonable factfinder could have found, based on the totality of the circumstances, that Alemu was not credible. *See Ghotra v. Whitaker*, 912 F.3d 284, 289 (5th Cir. 2019) (quoting *Singh v. Sessions*, 880 F.3d 220, 225 (5th Cir. 2018)). The agency was not required to accept Alemu's explanations regarding the discrepancies, given other permissible views of the evidence. *See Suate-Orellana v. Barr*, 979 F.3d 1056, 1061 (5th Cir. 2020); *Santos-Alvarado*, 967 F.3d at 437–38.

Because Alemu failed credibly to demonstrate that he suffered past persecution, the BIA also did not err in concluding that he was ineligible for humanitarian asylum. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 1208.13(b)(1)(iii). Regarding the CAT, the agency considered whether the country conditions evidence independently established Alemu's entitlement to CAT protection. The generalized information in the country conditions evidence is insufficient here to independently compel the conclusion that Alemu more likely than not would be tortured in Ethiopia if removed. *See Qorane v. Barr*, 919 F.3d 904, 911 (5th Cir. 2019), *cert. denied*, 589 U.S. 1134 (2020); *Morales v. Sessions*, 860 F.3d 812, 818 (5th Cir. 2017).

The petition for review is DENIED.