

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

FILED

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

JUN 1 2026

FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

MOLLY C. DWYER, CLERK
U.S. COURT OF APPEALS

LESTER ISAAC MEJIA-ZELAYA,

Petitioner,

v.

TODD BLANCHE, Acting Attorney
General,

Respondent.

No. 25-2096

Agency No.
A216-439-660

MEMORANDUM*

On Petition for Review of an Order of the
Board of Immigration Appeals

Submitted May 26, 2026**

Before: S.R. THOMAS, MILLER, and H.A. THOMAS, Circuit Judges.

Lester Isaac Mejia-Zelaya, a native and citizen of Honduras, petitions pro se for review of the Board of Immigration Appeals' order dismissing his appeal from an immigration judge's decision denying his applications for asylum, withholding of removal, and protection under the Convention Against Torture ("CAT"). We

* This disposition is not appropriate for publication and is not precedent except as provided by Ninth Circuit Rule 36-3.

** The panel unanimously concludes this case is suitable for decision without oral argument. *See* Fed. R. App. P. 34(a)(2).

have jurisdiction under 8 U.S.C. § 1252. We review de novo the legal question of whether a particular social group is cognizable, and review for substantial evidence the agency's factual findings. *Conde Quevedo v. Barr*, 947 F.3d 1238, 1241-42 (9th Cir. 2020). We deny the petition for review.

Mejia-Zelaya does not challenge the agency's determination that he failed to show he was or would be persecuted on account of his political opinion, so we do not address it. *See Lopez-Vasquez v. Holder*, 706 F.3d 1072, 1079-80 (9th Cir. 2013).

The agency did not err in finding that Mejia-Zelaya did not show he is a member of a cognizable particular social group. *See Reyes v. Lynch*, 842 F.3d 1125, 1131 (9th Cir. 2016) (to demonstrate membership in a particular social group, "[t]he applicant must 'establish that the group is (1) composed of members who share a common immutable characteristic, (2) defined with particularity, and (3) socially distinct within the society in question'" (quoting *Matter of M-E-V-G-*, 26 I. & N. Dec. 227, 237 (BIA 2014))). Thus, Mejia-Zelaya's asylum and withholding of removal claims fail.

Substantial evidence supports the agency's denial of CAT protection because Mejia-Zelaya failed to show it is more likely than not he will be tortured by or with the consent or acquiescence of the government if returned to Honduras. *See Aden v. Holder*, 589 F.3d 1040, 1047 (9th Cir. 2009).

The motion to stay removal is denied.

PETITION FOR REVIEW DENIED.