

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

FILED

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

SEP 22 2026

FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

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

ANGELES YAMILET VALDOVINOS
SUAZO; J.N.T.V.,

Petitioners,

v.

TODD BLANCHE, Attorney General,

Respondent.

No. 20-73185

Agency Nos. A208-311-496
A208-311-497

MEMORANDUM*

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

Submitted September 18, 2026**
Pasadena, California

Before: NGUYEN, R. NELSON, and DESAI, Circuit Judges.

Petitioner Angeles Yamilet Valdovinos Suazo and her minor child
(collectively, “Valdovinos”) petition for review of the Board of Immigration
Appeals’ (“BIA”) dismissal of their appeal of an immigration judge’s denial of
their application for asylum, withholding of removal, and protection under the

* 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).

Convention Against Torture (“CAT”). We have jurisdiction under 8 U.S.C. § 1252. Reviewing for substantial evidence, *see Sharma v. Garland*, 9 F.4th 1052, 1060, 1066 (9th Cir. 2021), we deny the petition.

1. Substantial evidence supports the BIA’s denial of Valdovinos’s applications for asylum and withholding of removal. Valdovinos argues that persecutors in Mexico target members of her proposed particular social group (“PSG”)—“pretty young females targeted by cartels for rape.” But even assuming that her proposed PSG is cognizable, substantial evidence supports the BIA’s determination that she failed to demonstrate that she was or would be targeted “on account of her proposed PSG.” Valdovinos’s fear was based on armed and hooded people arriving at her house looking for her partner, Felix. But Valdovinos did not know why they were looking for him. Rather, she speculated that they could be seeking revenge because a gang affiliate had a romantic interest in Felix. But “mistreatment motivated purely by personal retribution will not give rise to a valid asylum claim.” *Madrigal v. Holder*, 716 F.3d 499, 506 (9th Cir. 2013).

Valdovinos’s fear of gang members was also based on the general violence of criminal activities in Mexico. A petitioner’s “desire to be free from harassment by criminals motivated by theft or random violence by gang members bears no nexus to a protected ground.” *Zetino v. Holder*, 622 F.3d 1007, 1016 (9th Cir. 2010).

Because substantial evidence supports the BIA’s conclusion that Valdovinos failed

to show a nexus between her fear of persecution and her PSG, we need not address any remaining issues. *See Riera-Riera v. Lynch*, 841 F.3d 1077, 1081 (9th Cir. 2016) (“The lack of a nexus to a protected ground is dispositive of [petitioner’s] asylum and withholding of removal claims.”).

2. Substantial evidence supports the BIA’s denial of CAT relief because Valdovinos failed to show that Mexican authorities would participate in or acquiesce to her torture. As the BIA noted, any fear of torture is based on Valdovinos’s assumptions and speculation. Moreover, she did not report any crime to authorities in Mexico and only offered “[g]eneralized evidence of violence” in that country, which “is itself insufficient to establish that anyone in the government would acquiesce to a petitioner’s torture.” *B.R. v. Garland*, 26 F.4th 827, 845 (9th Cir. 2022).¹

PETITION DENIED.²

¹ Valdovinos also argues that termination of her proceedings is warranted because her Notice to Appear did not list a date and time of the hearings, and under 8 U.S.C. § 1229(a)(1)(G)(i), jurisdiction never vested in the immigration court. This argument fails because the cited provision “chiefly concerns the notice the government must provide noncitizens regarding their removal proceedings, not the authority of immigration courts to conduct those proceedings.” *United States v. Bastide-Hernandez*, 39 F.4th 1187, 1192 (9th Cir. 2022).

² The motion for a stay of removal, Dkt. No. 1, is denied. The temporary stay of removal is lifted.