



**U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)  
Detainee Death Report: Serawit Gezahegn DEJENE**

General Demographic/Background Information

- **Date of Birth:** March 29, 1979
- **Date of Death:** January 29, 2025
- **Age:** 45
- **Gender:** Male
- **Country of Citizenship:** Ethiopia
- **Marital Status:** N/A
- **Children:** N/A

Immigration History

**On August 19, 2024**, the United States (U.S.) Border Patrol (BP) arrested Mr. DEJENE near Lukeville, AZ, upon his illegal entry into the United States and placed him in expedited removal proceedings.

**On August 21, 2024**, Mr. DEJENE was transferred to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody at Eloy Detention Center (EDC) in Eloy, AZ.

Criminal History

None

Synopsis of Events

**On August 21, 2024**, a licensed practical nurse (LPN) completed Mr. DEJENE's medical intake screening, documented his denial of any medical history, and cleared him for custody placement.

**On August 22, 2024**, EDC medical staff completed Mr. DEJENE's routine chest x-ray (no abnormalities noted) and cleared him for general population.

**On September 7, 2024**, a registered nurse (RN) completed Mr. DEJENE's initial health assessment, documented a normal exam and vital signs, and his denial of any medical history.

**Between November 3 and December 16, 2024**, RNs evaluated Mr. DEJENE for right lower back pain, on four different occasions. The RNs documented normal vital signs, except elevated pulse at two occasions and Mr. DEJENE's denial of any back trauma. The RN provided him a one-time dose of pain medication each time, using the clinical nurse guidelines for musculoskeletal pain.

**On December 16, 2024**, an advanced practice provider (APP) evaluated Mr. DEJENE for back pain, documented normal vital signs, tenderness upon palpation of his back muscles and along his spine, an abnormal, slow gait favoring the right side of his body, and prescribed medication for pain relief, recommended spine exercises, and scheduled a two-week, follow-up appointment.



**On December 20, 2024**, an APP evaluated Mr. DEJENE for his report of feeling extremely fatigued and dizzy. The APP documented his denial of other symptoms or pain, normal vital signs, except an elevated pulse and temperature, and a 20% weight loss. The APP referred Mr. DEJENE to the local emergency room (ER) by van for intravenous hydration and urgent laboratory tests.

- **On the same date**, BCGH medical staff completed a chest x-ray and chest computed tomography scan, which revealed findings consistent with diffuse metastatic lesions in the upper and lower lobes of both lungs. The BCGH medical staff diagnosed him with probable lymphoma and discharged him back to EDC.
- **On the same date**, an RN evaluated Mr. DEJENE upon his return from the ER, documented normal vital signs, except an elevated pulse reading of 130 bpm, and his ER diagnosis of probable lymphoma, and scheduled a next-day, APP follow-up appointment.

**On December 21, 2024**, an APP documented normal vital signs, except an elevated pulse, and his denial of any complaints. The APP continued Mr. DEJENE's previously prescribed muscle relaxant and pain relief medication, referred him to an oncologist per the ER recommendation, and noted a plan to follow up with him in two to three days.

**On December 23, 2024**, a medical doctor (MD) conducted a follow-up evaluation, documented notable signs of dehydration, normal vital signs, except an elevated pulse, and Mr. DEJENE's report of weakness and fatigue. The MD referred Mr. DEJENE to Banner Casa Grande Hospital (BCGH) ER for further evaluation.

**Between December 24 and 31, 2024**, BCGH medical staff diagnosed Mr. DEJENE with acute respiratory distress, pneumonia, possible lymphoma, and a pericardial effusion, and provided Mr. DEJENE with treatment.

**On December 31, 2024**, BCGH medical staff transferred Mr. DEJENE to Banner University Medical Center Phoenix's (BUMCP) intensive care unit for a higher level of care.

**Between January 1 and 2, 2025**, BUMCP medical staff identified Mr. DEJENE's immunocompromised status and diagnosed him with acute respiratory distress, pneumonia, possible lymphoma with metastases in the lungs, sepsis (a life-threatening condition that occurs when the body's immune system overreacts to an infection), supraventricular tachycardia, and ischemic stroke. As a result, BUMCP medical staff ordered oncology and palliative care consults.

**On January 3, 2025**, BUMCP medical staff performed a biopsy of Mr. DEJENE's neck lymph node, diagnosed him with tuberculosis, and placed him on a ventilator for airway protection.

**Between January 4 and 22, 2025**, BUMCP medical staff provided Mr. DEJENE care for his complex medical conditions.

**On January 23, 2025**, BUMCP palliative care team spoke with his next of kin about Mr. DEJENE's critical state and they elected to continue life sustaining measures.



**Between January 24 and 27, 2025**, Mr. DEJENE's status remained unchanged.

**On January 28, 2025**, BUMCP medical staff held an end-of-life conference call between IHSC, ERO, and Mr. DEJENE's next of kin. Mr. DEJENE's next of kin requested his removal from life support and palliative care after his last rites were performed.

**On January 29, 2025, at approximately 11:15 a.m.**, BUMCP medical staff discontinued Mr. DEJENE's life support.

- **At approximately 1:21 p.m.**, a BUMCP MD declared Mr. DEJENE deceased.