12-22 Wang v. Holder

BIA A088 805 012

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT

SUMMARY ORDER

RULINGS BY SUMMARY ORDER DO NOT HAVE PRECEDENTIAL EFFECT. CITATION TO A SUMMARY ORDER FILED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2007, IS PERMITTED AND IS GOVERNED BY FEDERAL RULE OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE 32.1 AND THIS COURT'S LOCAL RULE 32.1.1. WHEN CITING A SUMMARY ORDER IN A DOCUMENT FILED WITH THIS COURT, A PARTY MUST CITE EITHER THE FEDERAL APPENDIX OR AN ELECTRONIC DATABASE (WITH THE NOTATION "SUMMARY ORDER"). A PARTY CITING A SUMMARY ORDER MUST SERVE A COPY OF IT ON ANY PARTY NOT REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL.

At a stated term of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, held at the Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse, 40 Foley Square, in the City of New York, on the 24th day of July, two thousand thirteen.

6 **PRESENT:**7

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PIERRE N. LEVAL, JOSÉ A. CABRANES, 8 ROBERT D. SACK, 9 Circuit Judges. 10 11 12 13 HUI XIA WANG, 14 Petitioner, 15 16 12 - 22v. 17 NAC ERIC H. HOLDER, JR., UNITED STATES 18 19 ATTORNEY GENERAL, 20 Respondent. 21 22 23 FOR PETITIONER: Thomas D. Barra, New York, N.Y. 24 25 FOR RESPONDENT: Stuart F. Delery, Acting Assistant 26 Attorney General; Paul Fiorino, 27 Senior Litigation Counsel; Rebekah Nahas, Trial Attorney; Amanda Selvy, 28 Law Clerk, Office of Immigration 29 Litigation, Civil Division, United 30 States Department of Justice, 31

Washington, D.C.

2 UPON DUE CONSIDERATION of this petition for review of a 3 Board of Immigration Appeals ("BIA") decision, it is hereby 4 ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that the petition for review 5 is DENIED.

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Petitioner Hui Xia Wang, a native and citizen of the б People's Republic of China, seeks review of a December 9, 7 2011, decision of the BIA denying her motion to reopen. 8 Ιn re Hui Xia Wang, No. A088 805 012 (B.I.A. Dec. 9, 2011). 9 We assume the parties' familiarity with the underlying facts 10 and procedural history in this case. Because Wang did not 11 12 exhaust her argument that her motion to reopen demonstrated her eligibility for relief under the Convention Against 13 Torture, we have reviewed the denial of reopening only with 14 respect to asylum and withholding of removal. See Karaj v. 15 Gonzales, 462 F.3d 113, 119 (2d Cir. 2006). 16

We review the BIA's denial of a motion to reopen for abuse of discretion. See Ali v. Gonzales, 448 F.3d 515, 517 (2d Cir. 2006) (per curiam). It is well established that the BIA may deny an alien's motion to reopen for failure to demonstrate her prima facie eligibility for the underlying relief sought. See INS v. Abudu, 485 U.S. 94, 104-05 (1988). To establish eligibility for asylum and withholding

of removal, an applicant, like Wang, who does not rely on past persecution must demonstrate a well-founded fear and likelihood of future persecution, which requires a "showing that authorities in h[er] country of nationality are either aware of h[er] activities or likely to become aware of h[er] activities." Hongsheng Leng v. Mukasey, 528 F.3d 135, 143 (2d Cir. 2008) (per curiam).

Wang argues that she demonstrated that Chinese 8 authorities had become aware of her Falun Gong practice 9 10 based on a letter from her father stating that, in order to 11 establish Wang's eligibility for asylum, he revealed her Falun Gong activities to a local police officer, who 12 13 responded that the National Security Squad would punish her 14 if she returned to China. However, the BIA reasonably 15 declined to credit the letter because it was: (1) not sworn or notarized; (2) implausible that her father would 16 voluntarily expose her potentially illegal activities; 17 (3) unsupported by the photograph Wang submitted, which only 18 19 showed her father posing in front of the police station, or any other evidence; and (4) obtained specifically for 20 removal proceedings. See Xiao Ji Chen v. U.S. Dep't of 21 Justice, 471 F.3d 315, 342 (2d Cir. 2006); Siewe v. 22

Gonzales, 480 F.3d 160, 168-69 (2d Cir. 2007); Matter of H-1 L-H- & Z-Y-Z-, 25 I. & N. Dec. 209, 214-15 & n.5 (BIA 2010) 2 (affording minimal weight to documents obtained solely for 3 removal proceedings), remanded on other grounds by Hui Lin 4 Huang v. Holder, 677 F.3d 130 (2d Cir. 2012). The BIA also 5 reasonably declined to afford probative weight to the video 6 and photographs of Wang protesting against China's 7 8 repression of Falun Gong practitioners because they do not sufficiently identify Wang such that Chinese authorities 9 could locate her in China, and are cumulative of similar 10 11 photographs presented during her removal proceedings. 12 See 8 C.F.R. § 1003.2(c)(1) (requiring that material, 13 previously unavailable evidence support a motion to reopen); *Xiao Ji Chen*, 471 F.3d at 342. 14

15 Furthermore, even assuming that the police in Wang's 16 village are aware of her activities in the United States, her father noted in his letter that the officer with whom he 17 spoke stated that the local police were not responsible for 18 19 enforcing laws against the practice of Falun Gong and that the agency charged with that task does not punish 20 21 individuals who cease their practice upon returning to China. Because Wang's father did not provide her identity 22

information (i.e., identification number or address in 1 2 China) to the pertinent enforcement agency and Wang did not assert that she would continue practicing Falun Gong in 3 China, the BIA reasonably found that she failed to establish 4 her prima facie eligibility for relief. See Hongsheng Leng, 5 6 528 F.3d at 143 (explaining that applicant must demonstrate that his "putative 'persecutor'" is or will become aware of 7 applicant's disfavored activities) (internal citation 8 omitted). Accordingly, the BIA did not abuse its discretion 9 in denying reopening. See id.; Abudu, 485 U.S. at 104-05. 10 11 For the foregoing reasons, the petition for review is DENIED. As we have completed our review, any stay of 12 removal that the Court previously granted in this petition 13 14 is VACATED, and any pending motion for a stay of removal in this petition is DISMISSED as moot. Any pending request for 15 oral argument in this petition is DENIED in accordance with 16 Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 34(a)(2), and Second 17 Circuit Local Rule 34.1(b). 18

> FOR THE COURT: Catherine O'Hagan Wolfe, Clerk

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