

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT

No. 12-1859

MARCELO F. CARBONE BALL,
Petitioner

v.

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Respondent

On Petition for Review of an Order of the
Board of Immigration Appeals
(Agency No. A099-384-266)
Immigration Judge: Honorable Mirlande Tadal

Submitted Under to Third Circuit LAR 34.1(a)
On September 5, 2012

Before: SMITH, HARDIMAN AND ROTH, Circuit Judges

(Opinion filed: September 12, 2012)

O P I N I O N

PER CURIAM

The petitioner, a native and citizen of Uruguay, seeks review of a Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) decision denying his application for withholding of removal.

We have jurisdiction under 8 U.S.C. § 1252(a),¹ reviewing the agency’s factual determinations using an “extraordinarily deferential standard,” under which they will be upheld “unless any reasonable adjudicator would be compelled to conclude to the contrary.” Garcia v. Att’y Gen., 665 F.3d 496, 502 (3d Cir. 2011) (citations omitted). Having carefully examined the record, we conclude that substantial record evidence supports the BIA’s determination that the domestic violence endured, witnessed, and feared by the petitioner (and his family) was not “persecution” because it was committed neither by the Uruguayan government nor by forces it was unable or unwilling to control. Administrative Record (A.R.) 4–5; Lie v. Ashcroft, 396 F.3d 530, 537 (3d Cir. 2005).² The petitioner testified that the Uruguayan police were responsive to his family’s complaints against his abusive father, if not to the extent he desired. A.R. 123–25, 135. The various country reports submitted to the agency, while equivocal, can be plausibly

¹ We agree with the Government that we lack jurisdiction to address the petitioner’s asylum and Convention Against Torture claims, which were alternately unexhausted and waived. See 8 U.S.C. § 1252(d)(1); Khan v. Att’y Gen., No. 11-1789, 2012 U.S. App. LEXIS 16946, at *14 n.4 (3d Cir. Aug. 14, 2012); see also 8 U.S.C. § 1158(a)(3) (limiting judicial review of asylum untimeliness determinations).

² Fiadjoe v. Att’y Gen., 411 F.3d 135 (3d Cir. 2005), which also dealt with horrific domestic abuse, is distinguishable from the present situation. There, we observed that the BIA had “totally ignored the evidence in the record that establishes the deep hold that the Trokosi religion has upon substantial elements of the Ghanaian people,” and pointed out that it was not “easy to escape from Trokosi slavery.” Id. at 161. Furthermore, the “most recent State Department Report covering Ghana show[ed] how futile resort to the police would have been.” Id. Here, not only does the record not compel a conclusion of hypothetical police noninterference in domestic-violence situations, the police *did* actually intervene upon a formal complaint. While a different evidentiary proffer could

read to support the BIA's conclusion that the official Uruguayan response to domestic violence, while achieving "mixed results," reflects the country's "efforts to criminalize such acts and to protect the victims." A.R. 6. "Where the record supports plausible but conflicting inferences in an immigration case, the . . . choice between those inferences is, a fortiori, supported by substantial evidence." De Hincapie v. Gonzales, 494 F.3d 213, 219 (1st Cir. 2007). Because the agency's decision is sustainable on this ground, we need not reach its alternative holdings and the petitioner's arguments against them. This petition for review will be denied.

nudge this case closer to Fiadjoe, on the record before the agency, which must be the basis of our ruling, see 8 U.S.C. § 1252(b)(4)(A), we cannot say that Fiadjoe controls.