

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT

No. 25-3377

J. L.-L.; FE. A. L.-L.; FL. A. L.-L.,
Petitioners
v.

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

On Petition for Review of an Order of the Board of Immigration Appeals
Appellate Immigration Judge Sheila E. Gallow, Nos. A208-283-995, -996 & -997

Before: HARDIMAN, BIBAS, and RENDELL, *Circuit Judges*
Submitted: Sept. 15, 2026; Filed: Sept. 16, 2026

NONPRECEDENTIAL OPINION*

BIBAS, *Circuit Judge*. J. L.-L. and her children are Salvadorans. In 2014, her husband started abusing her physically and sexually, saying he was “king of the house” so she had to submit to his sexual advances. AR 832. He also threatened to beat the children if she refused or told the authorities (or anyone else) about his abuse. She moved out, but he followed and attacked her. After she moved again, her husband came and tried to break down the door. She called the police, but they took too long to arrive, so she fled with the children out the back door. She and her two minor children left El Salvador and entered the United States illegally. After they were caught, they claimed asylum, withholding of removal, and protection under the Convention Against Torture. The immigration judge denied relief and the Board of Immigration Appeals affirmed, deferring to and relying on the immigration judge’s findings and analysis. Petitioners seek review of the denial of J. L.-L.’s asylum and withholding applications. We review both decisions for substantial evidence,

*This is not an opinion of the full Court and, under 3d Cir. IOP 5.7, is not binding precedent.

treating their findings of fact as “conclusive unless any reasonable adjudicator would be compelled to conclude to the contrary.” 8 U.S.C. § 1252(b)(4)(B).

Substantial evidence supports those rulings. J. L.-L. claimed persecution because she belonged to the (proposed) particular social group of Salvadoran women. But as the immigration judge found, she suffered not because of animus against that group, but because of her personal relationship with her husband. J. L.-L. has always been a Salvadoran woman, but her abuse began long after she met her husband. And “[c]onflicts of a personal nature and isolated criminal acts do not constitute persecution on account of a protected characteristic.” *Gonzalez-Posadas v. Att’y Gen. U.S.*, 781 F.3d 677, 685 (3d Cir. 2015). Even though her husband invoked machismo to rationalize his abuse, he attacked not Salvadoran women generally, but only his own wife.

Though J. L.-L. raises country-conditions evidence about Salvadoran women, the immigration judge was not obligated to discuss that evidence specifically, particularly because it did not relate to J. L.-L.’s own domestic situation. Plus, Salvadoran law criminalizes domestic abuse, and J. L.-L. never filed a police report against her husband. We will thus DENY the petition for review.