

DETAINED

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THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

MICHAEL HAILU MAMO,

Petitioner,

v.

PAMELA BONDI, United States Attorney
General;
KRISTI NOEM, Secretary of U.S.
Department of Homeland Security;
TODD LYONS, Acting Director, U.S.
Immigration and Customs Enforcement;
LAURA HERMOSILLO, Field Office
Director, ICE Seattle Field Office;
BRUCE SCOTT, Warden, Northwest ICE
Processing Center;

Respondents.

Case No.: 2:25-cv-2562

PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS
CORPUS PURSUANT TO
28 U.S.C. § 2241

Agency File Number: 

PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS

INTRODUCTION

1. The petitioner, Michael Hailu Mamo (Mr. Mamo), is a non-citizen who is currently being held in detention at the Northwest ICE Processing Center (NWIPC) by U.S. Immigration and Citizenship Enforcement (ICE).

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2. Mr. Mamo arrived in the United States on June 8, 2025, and was detained. At an immigration hearing on October 27, 2025, he was granted asylum. The government has appealed the asylum grant solely on the grounds of credibility.

3. Mr. Mamo's detention has become prolonged, and he seeks a bond hearing within 10 days.

PARTIES

4. Petitioner Michael Hailu Mamo is a citizen of Ethiopia who is currently detained at the Northwest ICE Processing Center in Tacoma, Washington.

5. Respondent Pamela Bondi is the Attorney General of the United States. She is sued in her official capacity.

6. Respondent Kristi Noem is the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”). She is the cabinet-level secretary responsible for all immigration enforcement in the United States. She is sued in her official capacity.

7. Respondent Todd Lyons is the Acting Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”). He is the head of the federal agency responsible for all immigration enforcement in the United States. He is sued in his official capacity.

8. Respondent Laura Hermosillo is the Field Office Director of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) Seattle Field Office and is responsible for overseeing ICE operations pertaining to noncitizens within its territorial jurisdiction, including detentions, enforcement, and removal operations. She is the immediate legal custodian of the petitioner for purposes of a federal habeas petition. She is sued in her official capacity.

1 9. Respondent Bruce Scott is the Warden of the Northwest ICE Processing Center,
2 the privately-operated immigration detention center where the petitioner is being detained. He is
3 the immediate physical custodian of the petitioner, and he is sued in his official capacity.

4
5 **JURISDICTION**

6 10. This Court has jurisdiction over this matter under 18 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal
7 question jurisdiction); 28 U.S.C. § 2241 (habeas corpus); and 28 U.S.C. § 1651 (All Writs Act).

8 11. Further, this Court has jurisdiction under the Suspension Clause of Article I, § 9,
9 cl. 2, of the U.S. Constitution. *See INS v. St. Cyr*, 533 U.S. 289 (2001).

10 12. No other petitions, appeals, or motions regarding habeas corpus have been filed
11 with any other court.

12 13. Venue in the Western District of Washington is appropriate under 28 U.S.C.
13 § 1391(e)(1) because the petitioner is detained in this judicial district.

14 14. Venue is further appropriate under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e)(1) because a substantial
15 part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred within this judicial district.

16
17 **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

18 15. The petitioner, Michael Hailu Mamo, a native and citizen of Ethiopia, arrived at
19 SeaTac Airport from Ethiopia on June 8, 2025, on a B1/B2 (visitor) visa. He was detained by
20 Customs and Border Patrol, because they suspected that he intended to remain in the United
21 States permanently. Mr. Mamo was detained and placed in removal proceedings. Exh. 1 (Notice
22 to Appear).

1 16. On October 6, 2025, Mr. Mamo had an Individual Calendar Hearing before the
2 Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR). At the hearing, the Immigration Judge (IJ)
3 granted Mr. Mamo's petition for asylum. Exh. 2 (Order of the Immigration Judge).

4 17. However, instead of being released, Mr. Mamo continued to be detained because
5 the government reserved the right to appeal. On November 5, 2025, the government filed its
6 appeal to the Board of Immigration Appeals, asserting that the Immigration Judge had erred in
7 assessing credibility. Exh. 3 (Notice of Appeal).

8 18. Mr. Mamo has been detained continuously since June 8, 2025, and he is currently
9 being held in Tacoma, Washington, at the Northwest ICE Processing Center, a privately owned
10 and operated immigration detention facility run by the GEO Group on behalf of U.S.
11 Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

12 19. Mr. Mamo has been detained for 187 days so far, including 67 days following the
13 asylum grant.

14 20. This Petition has been verified.

15
16 **EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES**

17 21. There are no administrative remedies that can provide the relief that Mr. Mamo
18 seeks.

19
20 **IRREPARABLE INJURY**

21 22. Mr. Mamo has suffered irreparable injury as a result of the detention. His physical
22 liberty continues to be restrained. He has not been charged with any crime, but the conditions of
23 detention are penal-like, restricting his movements, his privacy, his access to health care, food,

1 recreation, and grooming, and governing virtually all aspects of his daily life. *Rahman v.*
2 *Garland*, No. 24-02132, 2025 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 133500, at *10-11 (W.D. Wash. June 26,
3 2025); *Katlong v. Barr*, No. C20-0846, 2020 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 224820, 2020 WL 7048530, at
4 *4 (W.D. Wash. Oct. 30, 2020).¹ And he has no way to know how long the detention will last,
5 other than it will be a long time and is outside his control. This only increases the psychological
6 pressure on him.

7
8 **CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

9 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**
10 **Violation of Due Process**

11 23. The petitioner re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in
12 each of the preceding paragraphs of this Petition.

13 24. The detention violates Mr. Mamo's right to Due Process under the Fifth
14 Amendment because, at more than six months and counting, it is prolonged.

15 25. Mr. Mamo is detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), which governs detention before
16 a removal order is final, including during appeal. *Prieto-Romero v. Clark*, 534 F.3d 1053 (9th
17 Cir. 2008). The detention is discretionary unless certain conditions apply, none of which are
18 relevant here. 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c).

19 26. Where detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c) lasts more than six months, Due
20 Process requires an individualized determination, before an immigration judge, of the detainee's
21 dangerousness or flight risk. *Casas-Castrillon v. Dep't of Homeland Sec.*, 535 F.3d 942 (9th Cir.

22
23 ¹ Details are taken from pages 14 and 18-27 of the Detainee Handbook, available on the ICE
website at <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/detention/ndHandbook/ndhEnglish.pdf>.

2008); *see also*, *Diouf v. Napolitano*, 634 F.3d 1081 (9th Cir. 2011) (extending *Casas-Castrillon* to detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1331).

27. The cited cases concern detainees who had been ordered removed. Here, Mr. Mano has been granted asylum. The government has appealed based only credibility—a challenge with highly deferential standard of review of clearly erroneous. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.1(d)(3)(i).

28. Unless the government can prove to an immigration judge that Mr. Mamo poses a flight risk or is dangerous, Due Process requires that he be released.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Petitioner prays that this Court grant the following relief:

- a. Assume jurisdiction over this matter;
- b. Issue a writ of habeas corpus ordering the respondents to provide the petitioner with an individualized hearing in immigration court, within 10 days, at which the government will bear the burden of establishing dangerousness or flight risk;
- c. If the government does not establish dangerousness or flight risk, order that the petitioner be immediately released without bond, ankle monitor, or other conditions;
- d. Issue an order providing for an award of attorney's fees and costs; and
- e. Grant such other relief as may be just and reasonable.

Dated: December 12, 2025.

/s/ Kelly Vomacka

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