UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

Marlin JULISSA MONTERROSO, Petitioner, v. Jose Rodriguez, Jr., *et al.*, Respondents.	Civil Action No. 5:26-CV-0246-FB

ABBREVIATED RESPONSE TO HABEAS PETITION AND REQUEST TO PROCEED WITHOUT ORAL ARGUMENT

Federal Respondents provide the following timely response to Petitioner's habeas petition.[1] Any allegations that are not specifically admitted herein are denied. Petitioner is not entitled to the relief sought, including attorney's fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act ("EAJA").[2] The legal issues presented in this Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus ("Petition") concern the statutory authority for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's ("ICE") detention of Petitioner, and whether Petitioner is entitled to a bond hearing. While reserving all rights, including the right to appeal, Respondents submit this abbreviated response to preserve the legal issues and to conserve judicial and party resources. Pursuant to the Court's Order, Respondents advise that there are no material differences between this case and those cited in the Court's Order. *See* ECF No. 3.

Respondents acknowledge that this Court's prior rulings concerning similar challenges to the government policy or practice at issue in this case, and the common question of law between

1 The Department of Justice represents only federal employees in this action.

2 *Barco v. Witte*, 65 F.4th 782 (5th Cir. 2023).

this case and those rulings, would control the result in this case should this Court follow its legal reasoning in its prior decisions. *See id. at 2; see also, e.g., Navarro v. Bondi et. al,* No. 5:25CV1468-FB (W.D. Tex. Dec. 2, 2025); *Moradi v. Thompson et al*, No.5:25CV1470-OLG (W.D. Tex. Dec. 18, 2025); *Reyes v. Thomspon et al*, No.5:25CV1590-XR (W.D. Tex. Dec. 12, 2025); *Acosta-Balderas v. Bondi et al*, No.5:25CV1629-JKP (W.D. Tex. Dec. 11, 2025); *Tisighe v. De Anda-Ybarra et al*, 3:25CR593-KC (W.D. Tex. Dec. 5, 2025); *Chauhan v. Noem et al*, 3:25CV574-DB (W.D. Tex. Dec. 8, 2025); *Gvedashvili v. Mooneyham et al*, 6:25CV552-ADA-DTG (W.D. Tex. Dec. 22, 2025).

The instant petition and the cases cited above concern whether an alien who is present in the United States without admission is properly subject to mandatory detention (*i.e.*, detention without the prospect of release on bond) pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b) during the pendency of administrative removal proceedings. This Court should incorporate the filings in *Navarro v. Bondi, Moradi v. Thompson, Reyes v. Thomspon, Acosta-Balderas v. Bondi et al, Tisighe v. De Anda-Ybarra et al, Chauhan v. Noem et al* and *Gvedashvili v. Mooneyham et al* into the record of this habeas action. Should the Court prefer to receive a more exhaustive opposition brief, Respondents respectfully request leave to file such a brief upon the Court's request.[3]

Discussion

Petitioner principally seeks an order from this Court directing ICE to immediately release Petitioner from ICE detention while she awaits removal proceedings. Her next removal hearing is scheduled for March 4, 2026. *See* https://acis.eoir.justice.gov/en/caseInformation (last accessed

[3] Respondents deny that *Maldonado Bautista*, which is on appeal, has any preclusive effect outside the Central District of California and over custodians who are located outside of that District.

Feb. 2, 2026). Petitioner argues that her detention is governed by INA § 236, 8 U.S.C. § 1226, that Petitioner is being unlawfully detained and deprived of a bond hearing, and that the detention violates the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution, 8 U.S.C. § 1226, and the corresponding regulations. ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 39–48.

Respondents contend that Petitioner's detention is governed by INA § 235, 8 U.S.C. § 1225, because as an alien who entered without inspection or parole was and remains an applicant for admission. As such, Petitioner is subject to mandatory detention and not entitled to a bond hearing before the immigration judge. Respondents further contend Petitioner should be required to exhaust administrative remedies before bringing a habeas challenge in federal court.

Respondents further rely upon *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I&N Dec. 216 (B.I.A. 2025). There, the BIA examined the plain language of § 1225, the INA's statutory scheme, Supreme Court and BIA precedent, the legislative history of the INA and the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 ("IIRIRA"), Pub L. No. 104-208, and DHS's prior practices. After doing so, the BIA held that "under a plain language reading of section 235(b)(2)(A) of the INA, 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A), Immigration Judges lack authority to hear bond requests or to grant bond to aliens, like the respondent, who are present in the United States without admission." 29 I&N Dec. at 225. Respondents contend this Court should rule the same, and many courts within this Circuit agree.[4]

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[4] *See e.g., Garabay-Robledo*, 2026 WL 81679 at *4; *Calderon Lopez v. Lyons*, No. 1:25–CV–226–H, -- F.Supp.3d --, 2026 WL 44683 (N.D. Tex. Jan. 7, 2026) (Hendrix, J.); *De Leon Lopez, et al, v. Ladwig, et al*, No. 6:25–CV–01884, 2026 WL 19095, W.D. La. Jan. 2, 2026) (Joseph, J.); *Naranjo v. Uhls*, No. 4:25-CV-05756, 2025 WL 3771447 (S.D. Tex. Dec. 31, 2025); *Zuniga v. Lyons*, No. 1:25-CV-221-H, 2025 WL 3755126 (N.D. Tex. Dec. 29, 2025) (Hendrix, J.); *Rivera Hernandez v. Noem*, No. 9:25-CV-00326, 2025 WL 3754434 (E.D. Tex. Dec. 19, 2025) (Truncale, J.); *P. B. v. Bergami*, No. 3:25-CV-02978-O, 2025 WL 3632752 (N.D. Tex. Dec. 13, 2025)

In its current posture and based upon the Court's prior rulings, the Court can decide this matter without delay. If, however, the Court prefers a full opposition brief in this matter, Respondents will provide a brief upon the Court's request. If the Court believes any additional claims are material to the resolution of this petition beyond the issues decided in the previous cases, Respondents request an opportunity to respond to those by order of the Court.

Should this Court order release of Petitioner, Respondents request that the release order specify a date for release expressed by a calendar day instead of hours. Respondents further request that a time for release not be set. Each release from a detention facility carries unique security considerations. It requires coordination within the detention facility and with the Petitioner, their family, and/or their counsel. Setting an exact time for release beyond the calendar date can unduly burden the already complicated process.

Conclusion

Respondents appreciate the Court's consideration of this abbreviated response and respectfully request that the Court deny this Petition.

(O'Connor, J.); *Delgado v. Noem*, No. 9:25-CV-00329, 2025 WL 3639439 (E.D. Tex. Dec. 12, 2025) (Truncale, J.); *Rodriguez v. Noem*, No. 9:25-CV-00320, 2025 WL 3639440 (E.D. Tex. Dec. 10, 2025) (Truncale, J.); *Topal v. Bondi*, No. 1:25-cv-01612, 2025 WL 3486894 (W.D. La. Dec. 3, 2025) (Doughty, J.); *Jimenez v. Thompson*, No. 4:25-CV-05026, 2025 WL 3265493 (S.D. Tex. Nov. 24, 2025) (Eskridge, J.); *Andrade v. Patterson*, No. 6:25-cv-01695, 2025 WL 3252707 (W.D. La. Nov. 21, 2025) (Joseph, J.); *Cabanas v. Bondi*, No. 4:25-cv-04830, 2025 WL 3171331 (S.D. Tex. Nov. 13, 2025) (Eskridge, J.); *Kum v. Ross*, No. 6:25-CV-00451, 2025 WL 3113646 (W.D. La. Oct. 22, 2025), (Whitehurst, M.J.), *report and recommendation adopted*, 2025 WL 3113644 (W.D. La. Nov. 6, 2025) (Joseph, J.); *Oliveira v. Patterson*, No. 6:25-cv-01463, 2025 WL 3095972 (W.D. La. Nov. 4, 2025) (Joseph, J.); *Sandoval v. Acuna*, No. 6:25-cv-01467, 2025 WL 3048926 (W.D. La. Oct. 31, 2025) (Joseph, J.).

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Respectfully submitted,

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