

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

YELSIN YASMIR LAINEZ ESPINOZA

A-Number: 

Petitioner,

v.

WARDEN, STEWART DETENTION CENTER
DIRECTOR, U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (ICE)
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

Respondents.

Case No.: _____

PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS
(28 U.S.C. § 2241)

Petitioner, Yelsin Yasmir Lainez Espinoza, appearing pro se, respectfully
petitions this Court for a Writ of Habeas Corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241
and states the following:

Petitioner is currently detained at Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin,
Georgia, under the authority of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
(ICE).

Petitioner challenges the legality of his continued detention and respectfully
requests that this Court review the circumstances of his detention and grant
appropriate relief, including release from custody or a prompt bond hearing.

FILED MAR 19 2026
MDGA-CDL

I. JURISDICTION

This Petition is filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241, which grants federal courts the authority to review the legality of a person's detention when that person is being held in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States.

Petitioner is currently detained at Stewart Detention Center located at 146 CCA Road, Lumpkin, Georgia 31815. This detention facility lies within the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Georgia. Accordingly, this Court has jurisdiction to review the legality of Petitioner's detention.

Petitioner challenges the legality and constitutionality of his continued detention by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Petitioner respectfully asserts that his detention has become prolonged and unreasonable and that he has not received a meaningful opportunity to challenge his custody before a neutral decision-maker.

II. PARTIES

Petitioner

Petitioner, Yelsin Yasmir Lainez Espinoza, A-Number  is currently detained at Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, Georgia, under the authority of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Respondents

Respondents are the individuals responsible for Petitioner's custody.

The Warden of Stewart Detention Center is the official with immediate custody over the Petitioner.

The Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is responsible for the enforcement of immigration detention policies.

The Attorney General of the United States is responsible for the administration and enforcement of immigration laws.

III. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

1. Petitioner, Yelsin Yasmir Lainez Espinoza, was arrested on December 27, 2025, for driving without a license.
2. On that same day, Petitioner's family paid a bond related to that charge with the expectation that Petitioner would be released.
3. Instead of being released, Petitioner was transferred into the custody of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).
4. Petitioner has remained detained at Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, Georgia, since December 27, 2025.
5. Petitioner has no criminal history.
6. Petitioner appeared before the Immigration Court located at Stewart Detention Center for immigration proceedings.
7. After completing his immigration proceedings, the Immigration Judge granted Petitioner voluntary departure.
8. Petitioner requested a bond hearing; however, the Immigration Judge denied bond stating that the court lacked jurisdiction to grant bond.
9. As a result, Petitioner has remained detained without a meaningful opportunity to challenge his detention.
10. Petitioner's continued detention has now become prolonged and unreasonable, particularly considering that he has no criminal history and has strong family ties in the United States.

IV. LIMITED OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT EVIDENCE

11. During Petitioner's individual merits hearing in Immigration Court, Petitioner was given very limited time to present evidence in support of his case.

12. At the time of the proceedings, Petitioner was detained at Stewart Detention Center and had very limited ability to obtain documents or gather evidence.

13. Because Petitioner was detained, he did not have reasonable access to the resources necessary to obtain supporting documentation explaining why he cannot safely return to Nicaragua.

14. Communication with individuals outside the detention facility was limited, and obtaining documents from outside the facility was extremely difficult.

15. Due to these restrictions, Petitioner was unable to fully present all relevant evidence before the Immigration Court.

16. Petitioner respectfully submits that these limitations significantly affected his ability to fully present his case.

17. During Petitioner's immigration proceedings, Petitioner respectfully requested additional time from the Immigration Court in order to obtain evidence and supporting documentation.

18. Petitioner explained to the Immigration Court that because he was detained, it was extremely difficult to obtain documents and gather evidence from outside the detention facility.

19. Petitioner specifically requested additional time in order to obtain evidence that could support his case and explain the circumstances related to his inability to return to Nicaragua.

20. The Immigration Judge denied Petitioner's request for additional time and informed Petitioner that no further time would be granted to obtain evidence.

21. Because Petitioner remained detained and lacked access to resources, he was unable to obtain important evidence and documentation that could have supported his case.

22. Petitioner respectfully submits that the denial of additional time significantly limited his ability to fully present his case before the Immigration Court.

V. FAMILY TIES IN THE UNITED STATES

17. Petitioner is the biological father of a child currently residing in the United States.
18. Due to difficulties in communication with the child's mother, Petitioner has not yet been able to obtain a copy of the child's birth certificate.
19. Petitioner is currently detained and therefore does not have the ability to personally request or obtain the birth certificate.
20. Petitioner understands that a birth certificate is typically requested by the child's mother or father, and because Petitioner is detained he has not had the opportunity to obtain this document.
21. Petitioner does have DNA evidence confirming that he is the biological father of the child.
22. Petitioner also has photographs demonstrating his relationship with the child.
23. Petitioner respectfully informs the Court that if he is granted release under bond or other conditions, he will immediately take the necessary steps to obtain the child's birth certificate and submit it to the Court.
24. Petitioner maintains a meaningful parental relationship with his child, and his continued detention would cause hardship to his child and family.
25. During the immigration proceedings, the Immigration Judge granted voluntary departure.
26. Petitioner accepted the voluntary departure decision at the time because he felt he had no other options available while detained and without access to resources to properly present his case.
27. However, Petitioner has not signed any voluntary departure documents.
28. Petitioner respectfully informs the Court that he does not wish to leave the United States because his minor child lives in this country.
29. Petitioner does not want his child to grow up without his father.
30. Petitioner respectfully asks the Court to consider the hardship that his detention and potential removal would cause to his minor child.
31. Petitioner is making this petition as a final attempt to request an opportunity to remain present in order to support and care for his chi.

VI. COMMUNITY TIES AND SPONSOR

25. Petitioner has a sponsor in the United States who is willing to provide housing and support if Petitioner is released from detention.

26. Petitioner is willing to comply with any conditions of release imposed by the Court.

27. Petitioner is committed to appearing at all future immigration hearings and court proceedings.

28. Petitioner does not pose a danger to the community.

29. Petitioner does not present a risk of flight.

31. Petitioner respectfully informs the Court that he is willing to comply with any conditions of release that the Court may impose.

32. Petitioner is willing to pay a bond if the Court determines that a bond is appropriate.

33. Petitioner is also willing to comply with alternative conditions of release, including electronic monitoring, reporting requirements, or any other supervision conditions ordered by the Court.

34. Petitioner respectfully assures the Court that he will fully comply with all conditions and requirements established by the Court.

35. Petitioner respectfully requests an opportunity to remain in the United States in order to support and care for his minor child and is willing to follow all rules and conditions necessary to be granted that opportu

VII. GROUNDS FOR RELIEF

Petitioner respectfully submits that his continued detention violates the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

A. Prolonged and Unreasonable Detention

Petitioner has been detained since December 27, 2025. Civil immigration detention must remain reasonably related to its purpose and cannot become excessive or indefinite.

Petitioner has remained in custody for several months despite having no criminal history and strong family ties in the United States.

Under these circumstances, continued detention becomes unreasonable and violates the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment.

B. Lack of Meaningful Bond Review

Petitioner requested a bond hearing; however, the Immigration Judge denied bond stating that the court lacked jurisdiction.

As a result, Petitioner has not received a meaningful opportunity to challenge his detention before a neutral decision-maker.

Without a meaningful custody determination, Petitioner's detention becomes constitutionally problematic.

C. Petitioner is Not a Danger or a Flight Risk

Petitioner has no criminal history.

Petitioner has strong family ties in the United States, including a child residing in the United States.

Petitioner also has a sponsor willing to provide housing and support if he is released.

These factors demonstrate that Petitioner does not pose a danger to the community and is not a risk of flight.

VIII. REQUEST FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Petitioner respectfully requests that this Court:

1. Issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus.
2. Order Respondents to show cause why Petitioner should not be released from custody.
3. Order an immediate bond hearing before a neutral decision-maker.
4. Alternatively, order Petitioner's release from detention under appropriate supervision.
5. Grant any other relief that the Court deems just and proper.
6. Grant Petitioner release from detention under reasonable conditions, including bond, electronic monitoring, or any other conditions the Court finds appro

Petitioner respectfully requests that the Court review this matter as soon as practicable.

Petitioner is currently detained and faces the possibility of being asked to sign voluntary departure documents at any time. Petitioner respectfully seeks guidance from the Court before making any decision that could affect his rights.

Petitioner would be deeply grateful for a prompt response from the Court, as he is pursuing this petition in good faith and wishes to fully understand his legal options before taking further action.

Petitioner respectfully thanks the Court for its time and consideration.

IX. DECLARATION

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Respectfully submitted,

Yelsin Yasmir Lainez Espinoza

A-Number: 

Stewart Detention Center

146 CCA Road

Lumpkin, Georgia 31815

Signature: Y. Y. L. E

Date: 03/17/2026