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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA
JOHNSTOWN DIVISION**

ISLAM MAHMOUD ABDELRAHMAN
MAHMOUD ALY,

Petitioner,

v.

MARKWAYNE MULLIN, in his official capacity)
as Secretary of the Department of Homeland)
Security; **TODD BLANCHE**, in his official)
capacity as Attorney General of the United)
States; **TODD LYONS**, in his official)
capacity as Acting Director and Senior)
Official Performing the Duties of the)
Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs)
Enforcement; **DAVID O'NEILL**, in his)
official capacity as Field Office Director of the)
Philadelphia Field Office of U.S. Immigration)
and Customs Enforcement, Enforcement and)
Removal Operations; **LEONARD ODDO**,)
in his official capacity as Warden of the)
Moshannon Valley Ice Processing Center,)

Respondents.

Case No. _____

**MOTION FOR TEMPORARY
RESTRAINING ORDER**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	5
STATEMENT OF FACTS	2
I. Habeas Relief	2
II. Detention Authority Under the INA	3
STANDARD OF REVIEW	5
ARGUMENTS	5
I. Petitioner Has Established a Likelihood of Success on the Statutory Detention	5
A. Petitioner’s Prolonged Detention Without a Bond Hearing Is Unlawful Under the INA..	5
B. DHS’s Reliance on a Jurisdictional Technicality Has Deprived Petitioner of a Custody Review Mechanism.....	6
C. Continued Detention Violates Petitioner’s Fifth Amendment Right to Due Process.....	7
II. Petitioner Will Suffer Irreparable Harm Unless the Court Issues a Temporary Restraining Order	8
III. The Balance of Harms Weighs in Favor of Petitioner	10
CONCLUSION	11
VERIFICATION PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. § 2242	14
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE	15

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

I. CASES

<i>Alliance for the Wild Rockies v. Cottrell</i> , 632 F.3d 1127 (9th Cir. 2011)	5
<i>Clark v. Martinez</i> , 543 U.S. 371 (2005)	5
<i>Demore v. Kim</i> , 538 U.S. 510 (2003)	3, 4
<i>Foucha v. Louisiana</i> , 504 U.S. 71 (1992)	7
<i>Hernandez v. Sessions</i> , 872 F.3d 976 (9th Cir. 2017)	6, 9
<i>Jennings v. Rodriguez</i> , 138 S. Ct. 830 (2018)	4, 8
<i>Landon v. Plasencia</i> , 459 U.S. 21 (1982)	7
<i>Melendres v. Arpaio</i> , 695 F.3d 990 (9th Cir. 2012)	8
<i>Nken v. Holder</i> , 556 U.S. 418 (2009)	10
<i>O'Donnell v. Harris County</i> , 892 F.3d 147 (5th Cir. 2018)	10
<i>R.I.L.-R v. Johnson</i> , 80 F. Supp. 3d 164 (D.D.C. 2015)	8
<i>Rodriguez v. Robbins</i> , 804 F.3d 1060 (9th Cir. 2015), rev'd, <i>Jennings</i> , 138 S. Ct. 830	8
<i>Sajous v. Decker</i> , 2018 WL 2357266 (S.D.N.Y. May 23, 2018)	6, 9
<i>Winter v. Nat. Res. Def. Council, Inc.</i> , 555 U.S. 7 (2008)	5, 8
<i>Zadvydas v. Davis</i> , 533 U.S. 678 (2001)	5, 11

II. AGENCY / ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS

Matter of Q. Li, 29 I. & N. Dec. 66 (BIA 2025)	6
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III. STATUTES

8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5)(A)	5
8 U.S.C. § 1225(a)(1)	3
8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)	3, 6

8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A)	3
8 U.S.C. § 1226(a)	2, 3, 4, 6
8 U.S.C. § 1226(c)	3
8 U.S.C. § 1229a	3
8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)–(b)	3
28 U.S.C. § 2241(c)(3)	2

IV. REGULATIONS

8 C.F.R. § 1003.19(a)	3, 4, 6
8 C.F.R. § 1236.1(d)	3, 4, 6

INTRODUCTION

Petitioner ISLAM MAHMOUD ABDELRAHAM ALY is a citizen and national of Egypt who has been residing in the United States since his entry on or about July 23, 2024, pursuant to parole. Since his arrival, Petitioner has remained present in the United States while pursuing relief through a pending I-360 VAWA self-petition and a concurrently filed I-485 Application for Adjustment of Status. Petitioner has no criminal convictions and no history of violence.

On or about December 23, 2025, immigration authorities took Petitioner into custody, and he was subsequently placed in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) through Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”). Petitioner remains detained while his removal proceedings under section 240 of the Immigration and Nationality Act remain pending.

Petitioner has not received any individualized custody determination before an Immigration Judge. Instead, DHS has treated Petitioner as subject to detention without affording him a bond hearing, effectively depriving him of any opportunity for individualized custody review. As a result, Petitioner has been denied any individualized custody determination, and no assessment has been conducted to determine whether he poses a danger to the community or a risk of flight.

As a direct result of this failure to provide any meaningful custody review, Petitioner has been categorically denied access to any individualized custody determination. His detention continues without any meaningful procedural safeguards and without any individualized determination that his continued confinement is necessary. Petitioner’s detention—civil in name yet punitive in effect—has therefore become arbitrary and indefinite.

Petitioner is likely to succeed on the merits of his habeas claims because DHS's continued detention without any mechanism for individualized custody review violates the Immigration and Nationality Act, the Administrative Procedure Act, the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment, the equal protection component of the Fifth Amendment, the Suspension Clause of the United States Constitution, and the Accardi doctrine. DHS's detention authority does not permit the indefinite civil detention of a noncitizen who has received no individualized custody determination by a neutral decisionmaker.

Without immediate judicial intervention, Petitioner will continue to suffer irreparable harm, as he remains confined for an indefinite period while his removal proceedings remain pending and while he continues to pursue VAWA-based relief and adjustment of status before USCIS.

For these reasons, Petitioner respectfully requests that this Court: (1) enjoin Respondents from transferring Petitioner outside this District while this action is pending; (2) direct Respondents to provide Petitioner with a constitutionally adequate custody determination within three days before a neutral decisionmaker with authority to grant release, at which DHS bears the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that continued detention is warranted; and (3) grant such other and further relief as law and justice require.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Petitioner repeats and incorporates by reference each Statement of Facts contained in the Petition for *Writ of Habeas Corpus* as if fully set forth herein.

I. HABEAS RELIEF

To obtain habeas corpus relief, a petitioner must demonstrate that he is "in custody in

violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States." *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2241(c)(3). This Court has *habeas corpus* jurisdiction to consider the statutory and constitutional grounds for immigration detention that are unrelated to a final order of removal. *See Demore v. Kim*, 538 U.S. 510, 517-18 (2003).

II. DETENTION AUTHORITY UNDER THE INA

The Immigration and Nationality Act ("INA") establishes three principal statutory bases for the detention of noncitizens in removal proceedings. First, 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) authorizes the discretionary detention of noncitizens placed in standard removal proceedings under 8 U.S.C. § 1229a. Individuals detained under § 1226(a) are entitled to an individualized custody determination before an Immigration Judge and may seek release on bond or conditional parole. *See* 8 C.F.R. §§ 1003.19(a), 1236.1(d). By contrast, noncitizens falling within certain enumerated criminal categories are subject to mandatory detention under § 1226(c).

Second, the INA authorizes mandatory detention of certain arriving or recently arrived noncitizens placed in expedited removal or other admission-related proceedings under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b). Individuals encountered at or near the border are deemed "applicants for admission," 8 U.S.C. § 1225(a)(1), and must demonstrate that they are "clearly and beyond a doubt" entitled to be admitted. *Id.* § 1225(b)(2)(A). Those who cannot make such a showing "shall be detained" pending resolution of their cases, unless temporarily paroled under § 1182(d)(5)(A).

Third, individuals subject to a final order of removal fall under the post-order detention scheme set forth in 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)–(b), which authorizes detention only for a period reasonably necessary to effectuate removal. Sections 1226(a) and 1225(b)(2) were enacted through the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 ("IIRIRA"), while § 1226(c) was most recently amended by the Laken Riley Act in 2025.

Under this statutory framework, Petitioner's detention arises from DHS's classification of him as subject to detention without access to an individualized custody determination. Petitioner ISLAM MAHMOUD ABDELRAHAM ALY is a citizen and national of Egypt who entered the United States on or about July 23, 2024, pursuant to parole. Petitioner was later placed into removal proceedings under section 240 of the INA, and those proceedings remain pending. Petitioner has no criminal convictions and is not subject to any final order of removal.

On December 23, 2025, Petitioner was taken into ICE custody. Petitioner has not received a custody redetermination hearing before the Immigration Court. Instead, DHS has treated Petitioner as an arriving alien subject to detention without affording him access to a bond hearing or any individualized custody determination. As a result, Petitioner has remained detained without any individualized custody determination, despite the absence of any finding that he poses a danger to the community or a flight risk.

This position effectively deprives Petitioner—and similarly situated individuals—of the statutory and regulatory protections that Congress and the Executive have long provided to noncitizens in § 240 proceedings. It results in prolonged detention with no individualized assessment of necessity, contrary to the INA's structure and purpose and inconsistent with constitutional limits on civil confinement.

Accordingly, Petitioner's continued detention falls outside the narrow detention authority conferred by the INA, which requires individualized custody review and prohibits arbitrary or indefinite detention—protections that Petitioner has been categorically denied.

STANDARD OF REVIEW

Temporary restraining orders and preliminary injunctions are evaluated under the same standard in the Ninth Circuit. Under the framework established by the Supreme Court in *Winter v.*

Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., 555 U.S. 7, 20 (2008), a movant must demonstrate a likelihood of success on the merits, a likelihood of suffering irreparable harm in the absence of preliminary relief, that the balance of equities tips in the movant's favor, and that an injunction is in the public interest. The Ninth Circuit also recognizes a complementary "sliding scale" approach under which a movant may obtain relief by raising serious questions going to the merits and demonstrating that the balance of hardships tips sharply in his favor, so long as the remaining *Winter* factors are met. *Alliance for the Wild Rockies v. Cottrell*, 632 F.3d 1127, 1134–35 (9th Cir. 2011). A TRO is warranted where, as here, the petitioner faces ongoing constitutional violations and unlawful detention that threaten immediate, irreparable injury for which no adequate remedy exists at law.

ARGUMENTS

I. PETITIONER HAS ESTABLISHED A LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS ON THE STATUTORY DETENTION¹

A. Petitioner's Prolonged Detention Without a Bond Hearing Is Unlawful Under the INA

The Immigration and Nationality Act ("INA") authorizes civil immigration detention only when it serves a legitimate statutory purpose: ensuring appearance at future proceedings or protecting public safety. *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 690 (2001); *Clark v. Martinez*, 543 U.S. 371, 381 (2005). When detention ceases to advance those purposes or becomes arbitrary or

¹ See, e.g., *Alvarez Ortiz v. Freden*, No. 25-CV-960, *Ortiz v. Freden*, 2025 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 217654 (W.D.N.Y. Nov. 4, 2025) (granting temporary restraining order and requiring bond hearing within seven days); *Padron Covarrubias v. Vergara*, No. 5:25-CV-112, *Hernandez Capote v. Sec'y of United States Dep't of Homeland Sec.*, 2025 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 218136 (S.D. Tex. Oct. 8, 2025) (granting habeas relief under 8 USCS § 1226 and ordering a prompt bond hearing or release by a fixed deadline); *Guerrero Orellana v. Moniz*, No. 25-CV-12664, *Orellana v. Moniz*, 2025 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 196282 (D. Mass. Oct. 3, 2025) (holding that petitioner's detention is governed by § 1226(a) and enjoining continued custody without a bond hearing); *Lepe v. Andrews*, No. 1:25-CV-01163, *Lepe v. Andrews*, 2025 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 187233 (E.D. Cal. Sept. 23, 2025) (same).

indefinite, it exceeds the government's statutory authority.

Petitioner ISLAM MAHMOUD ABDELRAHAM ALY has now been detained since on or about December 23, 2025, when he was taken into custody by immigration authorities. He was subsequently placed into § 240 removal proceedings following service of a Notice to Appear, making his detention subject to the discretionary framework of 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a).

Petitioner has no history of violent or dangerous conduct, does not pose a threat to the community, and there is no evidence in the record establishing that he presents a danger to public safety. Despite these facts, he remains confined at the Moshannon Valley Correctional Center in Pennsylvania, without any individualized custody assessment.

Courts have repeatedly held that prolonged civil detention without an individualized bond hearing violates both the INA and the Due Process Clause. See *Hernandez v. Sessions*, 872 F.3d 976, 991 (9th Cir. 2017) (requiring individualized assessments for prolonged detainees); see also *Sajous v. Decker*, 2018 WL 2357266, at *11 (S.D.N.Y. May 23, 2018) (holding detention unreasonable where government failed to justify continued confinement). Because Petitioner's detention no longer serves any legitimate governmental interest, it has become arbitrary, excessive, and unlawful under the INA.

B. DHS's Reliance on a Jurisdictional Technicality Has Deprived Petitioner of a Custody Review Mechanism.

DHS asserts that Petitioner is subject to mandatory detention under § 1225(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act based on his classification as an arriving alien who was paroled into the United States. The government's own actions, however, demonstrate that Petitioner was placed into full removal proceedings under § 240 of the INA following service of a Notice to Appear.

Nevertheless, Petitioner has not received a custody redetermination hearing before the Immigration Court. Instead, DHS's classification has resulted in Petitioner's denial of access to a bond hearing or to any individualized custody determination. As a result, Petitioner has remained detained without any individualized custody determination.

This bureaucratic reclassification has placed Petitioner in administrative limbo: he is treated as an "arriving alien" for detention purposes but as a § 240 respondent for removal purposes. The statute does not authorize DHS to deny his access to a custody review process by manipulating jurisdictional labels. This misclassification is contrary to the INA, the governing regulations, and established precedent requiring individualized assessments of custody.

C. Continued Detention Violates Petitioner's Fifth Amendment Right to Due Process.

The Fifth Amendment guarantees that no person shall be deprived of liberty without due process of law, a protection that extends to all persons within the United States regardless of immigration status. *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 693; *Landon v. Plasencia*, 459 U.S. 21, 32 (1982). Petitioner's prolonged detention—without any custody redetermination hearing or individualized assessment of necessity—violates these core constitutional protections.

The Supreme Court has emphasized that "[f]reedom from imprisonment—from government custody, detention, or other forms of physical restraint—lies at the heart of the liberty that [the Due Process] Clause protects." *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 690 (quoting *Foucha v. Louisiana*, 504 U.S. 71, 80 (1992)). Applying the three-part balancing test of *Mathews v. Eldridge*, 424 U.S. 319, 335 (1976), Petitioner's due process claim easily prevails.

First, the private interest at stake—freedom from physical confinement—is one of the

most fundamental recognized in constitutional law; even more so, when the deprivation of liberty occurs outside the authority of the law.

Second, the risk of erroneous deprivation is extraordinarily high given DHS's unilateral detention classification and the absence of any individualized evaluation of Petitioner's actual danger or flight risk. Petitioner has not received any custody redetermination hearing, and has been denied access to a bond hearing or any meaningful custody review as a result of DHS's classification of him as an arriving alien. As a result, Petitioner has never received any individualized custody determination.

Third, the government's interest in maintaining custody is minimal here, as Petitioner has no history of violent or dangerous conduct and there is no evidence in the record establishing that he poses a danger to the community. Because the government has provided no constitutionally adequate procedure to review the lawfulness or necessity of Petitioner's detention, his continued confinement violates the Due Process Clause. At a minimum, due process requires a prompt bond hearing before a neutral adjudicator at which DHS bears the burden of establishing, by clear and convincing evidence, that continued detention is necessary.

II. PETITIONER WILL SUFFER IRREPARABLE HARM UNLESS THE COURT ISSUES A TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

Under *Winter v. Natural Resources Defense Council*, 555 U.S. 7 (2008), Petitioner must demonstrate that he will suffer irreparable harm in the absence of immediate injunctive relief. In the immigration detention context, courts have consistently recognized that ongoing, unlawful deprivation of physical liberty constitutes irreparable harm as a matter of law. See *Rodriguez v. Robbins*, 804 F.3d 1060, 1080–81 (9th Cir. 2015), rev'd on other grounds sub nom. *Jennings v. Rodriguez*, 138 S. Ct. 830 (2018); *R.I.L.-R v. Johnson*, 80 F. Supp. 3d 164, 191 (D.D.C. 2015) ("the

deprivation of physical liberty for even one day constitutes irreparable harm”). Petitioner’s continued confinement— without any individualized custody determination or meaningful opportunity to obtain release —inflicts exactly the sort of harm that the *Winter* standard contemplates.

Petitioner has been detained since on or about December 23, 2025, and remains confined at the Moshannon Valley Correctional Center in Pennsylvania, a secure civil detention facility whose conditions closely resemble those of a penal institution. Petitioner has not received any custody redetermination hearing before the Immigration Court. Instead, Petitioner has been denied access to any bond hearing or individualized custody determination as a result of DHS’s classification of him as an arriving alien. As a result, Petitioner has never received any individualized custody determination.

Courts have recognized that “[p]rolonged detention without an individualized determination of dangerousness or flight risk inflicts irreparable injury on detainees.” *Sajous v. Decker*, 2018 WL 2357266, at *12 (S.D.N.Y. May 23, 2018). The harm here is neither hypothetical nor remote; it is ongoing, acute, and directly attributable to Respondents’ refusal to provide Petitioner with a custody determination. See also *Leal-Hernandez v. Noem*, No. 1:25-cv-02428, 2025 WL 327685, at *37 (D. Md. Aug. 24, 2025) (finding irreparable harm where petitioner remained detained without any lawful process or review).

Petitioner’s continued incarceration has also caused significant emotional and psychological harm. The uncertainty of his detention, separation from family, and the restrictive conditions of confinement have imposed substantial stress and hardship that cannot be remedied after the fact. Such mental and emotional injuries cannot be undone after the fact, nor can they be

compensated monetarily. The Ninth Circuit has recognized that “every day of detention is another day of lost liberty that cannot be recovered.” *Hernandez v. Sessions*, 872 F.3d 976, 994 (9th Cir. 2017).

The public interest likewise favors immediate intervention. Preventing constitutional violations is always in the public interest. *Melendres v. Arpaio*, 695 F.3d 990, 1002 (9th Cir. 2012). Allowing DHS to continue detaining Petitioner indefinitely without lawful authority or individualized review undermines the integrity of the immigration system and erodes public confidence in the rule of law.

Accordingly, Petitioner has demonstrated irreparable harm of the highest order. Immediate judicial intervention is necessary to prevent further unlawful deprivation of liberty and to ensure compliance with the statutory and constitutional safeguards governing civil detention.

The final two *Winter* factors—the balance of equities and the public interest—strongly favor granting injunctive relief. Where the government is a party, these factors merge. *Nken v. Holder*, 556 U.S. 418, 435 (2009). Together, they require the Court to consider whether the harm to Petitioner from continued detention outweighs any harm to the government arising from his release or from providing a prompt bond hearing, and whether such relief advances or undermines the public interest.

Here, the equities tilt sharply in Petitioner’s favor. Every additional day of confinement inflicts a profound deprivation of liberty. It exacerbates the psychological and emotional harm that Petitioner has already suffered during his ongoing incarceration at the Moshannon Valley Processing Center in Philipsburg, Pennsylvania. Petitioner has no history of violent or dangerous conduct, and there is no evidence in the record establishing that he poses a threat to the community.

His continued detention serves no legitimate purpose under the Immigration and Nationality Act (“INA”). It directly contradicts the government’s stated interest in detaining only those who present a genuine risk of flight or a threat to public safety.

By contrast, the government faces minimal—if any—harm if relief is granted. Releasing Petitioner under reasonable supervision or providing him with a constitutionally adequate bond hearing does not impede any lawful enforcement objective. As courts have observed, “[t]he government suffers no harm when it is required to adhere to the Constitution.” *O’Donnell v. Harris County*, 892 F.3d 147, 155 (5th Cir. 2018). Administrative convenience cannot justify prolonged, unlawful detention that exceeds statutory authority or violates constitutional protections.

The public interest also strongly favors Petitioner. The public has an overriding interest in ensuring that immigration detention is conducted lawfully, in accordance with due process, and only for legitimate statutory purposes. See *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 690 (2001) (warning that indefinite civil detention “would raise serious constitutional concerns”); *Beltran v. Smith*, 458 F. Supp. 3d 1139, 1145 (D. Colo. 2020) (ordering release where detention no longer served INA objectives). Upholding constitutional safeguards for individuals in civil immigration custody reinforces the integrity of the justice system and affirms that the government must operate within the bounds of law and necessity.

Balancing these considerations, both the equities and the public interest weigh decisively in favor of Petitioner’s release or, at a minimum, a prompt bond hearing before a neutral adjudicator. Granting relief will prevent further irreparable harm to Petitioner and promote the

public's compelling interest in ensuring that the government complies with statutory and constitutional constraints governing civil detention.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, Petitioner ISLAM MAHMOUD ABDELRAHAM ALY has demonstrated a clear likelihood of success on the merits of his claims, will suffer irreparable harm in the absence of immediate relief, and has shown that the balance of equities and the public interest overwhelmingly favor granting a temporary restraining order. His continued detention—without any individualized custody determination and without any meaningful mechanism for obtaining release or judicial review—violates the Immigration and Nationality Act, the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment, the Administrative Procedure Act, the Suspension Clause of the United States Constitution, and the *Accardi* doctrine.

Accordingly, Petitioner respectfully requests that this Honorable Court:

1. Enjoin Respondents and their agents from transferring Petitioner outside the jurisdiction of this Court while this matter is pending;
2. Direct Respondents to provide him with a constitutionally adequate bond hearing before a neutral Immigration Judge within three (3) days, at which the government bears the burden of proving, by clear and convincing evidence, that continued detention is necessary; and
3. Grant such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: May 6, 2026

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Luis Angeles

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VERIFICATION PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. § 2242

I represent Petitioner, ISLAM MAHMOUD ABDELRAHAM ALY, and submit this verification on his behalf. I hereby verify that the factual statements made in the foregoing Temporary Restraining Order are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Dated: May 6, 2026

/s/Luis Angeles
Luis Angeles
Pending Pro Hac Vice Admission

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on May 6, 2026, I filed the foregoing petition for Temporary Restraining Order electronically through the CM/ECF system, which caused all parties or counsel to be served by electronic means as more fully reflected on the Notice of Electronic Filing.

Dated: May 6, 2026

/s/Luis Angeles
Luis Angeles
Pending Pro Hac Vice Admission