

1 TODD BLANCHE
Acting Attorney General
2 BILAL A. ESSAYLI
First Assistant United States Attorney
3 DANIEL A. BECK
Assistant United States Attorney
4 Acting Chief, Civil Division
ALARICE M. MEDRANO
5 Assistant United States Attorney
Acting Chief, Complex and Defensive Litigation Section
6 WHITNEY C. WAKEFIELD (WA Bar No. 61571)
Special Assistant United States Attorney
7 Federal Building, Suite 7516
8 300 North Los Angeles Street
Los Angeles, California 90012
9 Telephone: (213) 894-2574
E-mail: Whitney.Wakefield@usdoj.gov

10 Attorneys for Federal Respondents

11
12 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
13 FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
14

15
16 PONCIANO NAVA MOJICA,
17 Petitioner,
18 v.
19 FERETI SEMAIA, *et al.*,
20 Respondents.
21

Case No. 5:26-cv-03028-MBK

**FEDERAL RESPONDENTS' ANSWER
TO PETITION FOR WRIT OF
HABEAS CORPUS**

Honorable Michael B. Kaufman
United States Magistrate Judge

1 Ponciano Nava Mojica ("Petitioner") filed a Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus
2 ("Petition") seeking his immediate release. *See* Dkt. 1. Petitioner primarily argues that
3 the Immigration Judge ("IJ") denied bond "without giving adequate consideration to the
4 substantial evidence of Petitioner's ties to the country." *Id.* at 2. To the extent Petitioner
5 challenges the outcome of his bond hearing, his arguments amount to "a request that the
6 Court re-weigh evidence concerning flight and danger and reach a different conclusion,"
7 which is barred by 8 U.S.C. § 1226(e). *See Nurlanov v. Santacruz Jr.*, No. 5:25-cv-
8 03572-MWF-DFM, Dkt. 25 (C.D. Cal. June 5, 2026) (Report and Recommendation
9 recommending denying Petitioner's claims challenging the Immigration Judge's
10 discretionary custody determinations).

11 Nonetheless, Petitioner appears to be a member of the class certified in *ICWC v.*
12 *Noem*, No. 2:25-cv-09848-AB-AS, Dkt. 57, 2026 WL 1455004 (C.D. Cal. May 20,
13 2026) (order granting motion for class certification). Should the Court enter relief,
14 judgment may be entered, and consistent with the "expeditious resolution" of § 2241
15 Immigration Petitions required by the General Order, no more filings or proceedings will
16 be necessary in this matter.

17 Respectfully submitted,

18 Dated: June 10, 2026

TODD BLANCHE
Acting Attorney General
BILAL A. ESSAYLI
First Assistant United States Attorney
DANIEL A. BECK
Assistant United States Attorney
Acting Chief, Civil Division
ALARICE M. MEDRANO
Assistant United States Attorney
Acting Chief, Complex and Defensive Litigation
Section

24
25 /s/ Whitney Wakefield

26 WHITNEY WAKEFIELD
Special Assistant United States Attorney

27 Attorneys for Federal Respondents
28