FILED
MAY 29 2026
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
BY DEPUTY

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

VANO NATSVALADZE,
[redacted]
Imperial Regional Adult Detention Facility
1572 Gateway Road
Calexico, CA 92231,

Petitioner,

v.

WARDEN, IMPERIAL REGIONAL ADULT DETENTION FACILITY;
TODD LYONS, Acting Director of ICE;
PAM BONDI, Attorney General of the United States; and
ICE ERO SAN DIEGO FIELD OFFICE DIRECTOR,

Respondents.

Civil Action No. '26CV3313 BJC MMP

PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS
AND EMERGENCY MOTION FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING
ORDER AND IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. § 2241

Petitioner Vano Natsvaladze, proceeding pro se, respectfully petitions this Court for a Writ of Habeas Corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241 and states as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Petitioner is currently detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") at Imperial Regional Adult Detention Facility in Calexico, California.
2. Petitioner is being subjected to continued immigration detention despite having an active Petition for Review pending before the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.
3. Petitioner's Ninth Circuit case is:

Natsvaladze v. Blanche
Case No. 26-2397

4. The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit officially docketed the Petition for Review on April 17, 2026.
5. The Ninth Circuit docketing notice expressly states:

"Your Petition for Review includes a request for stay of removal. Pursuant to G.O. 6.4(c), a stay of removal is in effect until that request has been addressed."

6. Petitioner therefore remains detained while active federal appellate litigation is pending.
7. Petitioner is not a danger to the community and is not a flight risk.
8. Petitioner has available sponsorship and community support.
9. Continued detention without meaningful custody review violates the Due Process Clause of the United States Constitution.
10. Petitioner respectfully requests immediate release, or in the alternative, an individualized bond or custody hearing before a neutral decisionmaker.

II. JURISDICTION

11. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241 because Petitioner is in federal custody within this judicial district.
12. Jurisdiction is also proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1651.
13. Venue is proper in the Southern District of California because Petitioner is detained within this district.

III. PARTIES

14. Petitioner Vano Natsvaladze is a citizen and national of Georgia.
15. Petitioner is detained at:

Imperial Regional Adult Detention Facility
1572 Gateway Road
Calexico, CA 92231

16. Respondent Warden is the immediate custodian of Petitioner.
17. Respondent Todd Lyons is the Acting Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.
18. Respondent Pam Bondi is the Attorney General of the United States.
19. Respondent ICE ERO San Diego Field Office Director supervises immigration detention operations involving Petitioner.

IV. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

20. Petitioner entered removal proceedings after being charged as an arriving alien under INA § 212(a)(7)(A)(i)(I).
21. Petitioner sought asylum, withholding of removal, and protection under the Convention Against Torture.
22. On June 4, 2025, the Immigration Judge denied relief and ordered Petitioner removed to Georgia.

23. Petitioner thereafter sought federal review before the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.
24. On April 17, 2026, the Ninth Circuit accepted and docketed Petitioner's Petition for Review.
25. The Ninth Circuit assigned Case Number 26-2397.
26. The Ninth Circuit acknowledged the filing of a stay request, which remains pending.
27. The Ninth Circuit established a briefing schedule and ordered continued proceedings in the appellate case.
28. Petitioner currently has a pending Petition for Review before the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Case No. 26-2397, Natsvaladze v. Blanche.
29. The Ninth Circuit expressly stated in its docketing notice that Petitioner's Petition for Review includes a request for stay of removal and that, pursuant to Ninth Circuit General Order 6.4(c), a stay of removal is in effect until that request has been addressed.
30. Transfer or removal of Petitioner while federal appellate proceedings remain pending would severely prejudice Petitioner's access to the courts and ability to litigate his claims.
31. Petitioner therefore respectfully requests emergency injunctive relief preventing Respondents from transferring or removing him during the pendency of this habeas action and while the Ninth Circuit proceedings remain active.
32. Despite the pending appellate proceedings, Petitioner remains in continued ICE detention.
33. Petitioner has a sponsor willing to house and support him upon release.
34. Petitioner has no known violent criminal history and poses no danger to the community.
35. Petitioner is willing to comply with all conditions of supervision, including reporting requirements, electronic monitoring, or any other reasonable conditions imposed by ICE or this Court.

V. GROUNDS FOR RELIEF

COUNT I

VIOLATION OF PROCEDURAL DUE PROCESS

36. Petitioner re-alleges and incorporates all previous paragraphs.
37. The Fifth Amendment guarantees due process protections to persons within the United States, including noncitizens in immigration custody.
38. Continued detention without meaningful review violates procedural due process.
39. Petitioner has remained detained while actively pursuing federal court review of his immigration proceedings.
40. Petitioner's detention has become unreasonably prolonged.
41. Respondents have failed to provide constitutionally sufficient custody review by a neutral decisionmaker.
42. Continued detention under these circumstances violates due process.

COUNT II

DETENTION IS NOT REASONABLY RELATED TO A LEGITIMATE

GOVERNMENT PURPOSE

43. Petitioner re-alleges and incorporates all previous paragraphs.
44. Civil immigration detention may not be punitive.
45. Petitioner is not a danger to the community.
46. Petitioner is not a flight risk.
47. Petitioner has meaningful community ties and sponsorship available.
48. Less restrictive alternatives to detention are available.

49. Continued detention is excessive and unconstitutional under the circumstances of this case.

COUNT III

REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

50. Petitioner re-alleges and incorporates all previous paragraphs.
51. Petitioner faces the risk of transfer and/or removal while his federal litigation remains pending.
52. Such transfer or removal could interfere with Petitioner's access to the courts and ability to litigate his pending Ninth Circuit case.
53. Petitioner respectfully requests that this Court temporarily restrain Respondents from transferring or removing Petitioner while this habeas proceeding is pending.

VI. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Petitioner respectfully requests that this Court:

A. Accept jurisdiction over this matter;

B. Issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241;

C. Order Respondents to immediately release Petitioner from ICE custody;

D. Alternatively, order an individualized custody or bond hearing before a neutral decisionmaker;

E. Issue a Temporary Restraining Order preventing transfer or removal during the pendency of this habeas proceeding;

F. Grant any other relief this Court deems just and proper;

G. Order Respondents not to transfer or remove Petitioner while:
(1) this habeas proceeding is pending; and
(2) Ninth Circuit Case No. 26-2397 remains pending.

Respectfully submitted,

VANO NATSVALADZE
[redacted]
Pro Se Petitioner

VERIFICATION

I, Vano Natsvaladze, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Executed on: 05.26.2026

Signature: [redacted]

VANO NATSVALADZE
Petitioner

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Vano Natsvaladze certify that on this 20 day of May, 2026, I mailed true and correct copies of this Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus and all supporting documents to the following:

Office of the United States Attorney
Civil Process Clerk
880 Front Street, Room 6293
San Diego, CA 92101

Office of the Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA)
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
880 Front Street
San Diego, CA 92101

[redacted]

VANO NATSVALADZE
Petitioner PRO Se