

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
Carlos Enrique Cabrera-Cruz
Petitioner,

V.

Todd Blanche, U.S. Attorney General
Markwayne Mullin, Secretary of DHS,
Todd Lyons, Director of ICE
Cristopher LaRose Warden of Otay Mesa Detention Center
Respondent(s).

'26CV3792 CAB JLB

PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS PURSUANT TO U.S.C. 2241 UNDER IMMIGRATION DETAINEE PROLONGED DETENTION AND TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER, INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Petitioner Carlos Enrique Cabrera-Cruz native and citizen of Cuba, currently detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ICE at Otay Mesa Detention Center San Diego CA, 92143, respectfully petitions this Court for a writ of Habeas Corpus under U.S.C. 2241 and request for a Temporary Restraining Order, Injunctive Relief.
2. Petitioner has been in immigration proceedings since 5-22-2026 approximately six months pursuant to 8 U.S.C. 1231 (a), despite ICE inability to execute the removal order due to the lack of diplomatic cooperation or practical ability to carry out removals to Cuba for Petitioner.
3. Petitioner seeks immediate release from detention on the grounds that continued detention violates the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment and the Supreme Court ruling in *Zadvydas v. Davis 533 U.S. 678 (2001).*

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. This court has Jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. 2241 and Article I, Section 9, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution.
5. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. 1391 (e) because Petitioner is detained within the Jurisdiction of this court at Imperial Regional Detention Facility.

III. PARTIES

6. Petitioner is a native and citizen of Cuba who is currently detained by ICE.
7. Respondent's are U.S. Government officials with custody over Petitioner or authority over Immigration detention and removal.

VI. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

8. Petitioner has a final order of removal since 1999 by an Immigration Judge.
9. Petitioner has remained in ICE custody continuously since 5-22-2026.
10. ICE has not been able to secure travel documents or deport Petitioner to Cuba due to the lack of diplomatic cooperation or practical ability to carry out removals to Cuba.
11. Petitioner has fully cooperated with ICE efforts to secure travel documents.
12. More than six months have passed since the apprehension of Petitioner by ICE.
13. There is no significant likelihood of removal in the foreseeable future.

V. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Prolonged Immigration Detention Violates Due Process (Fifth Amendment)

14. My detention for the past few months without release violates the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment. Immigration detention is civil, not punitive.
15. Habeas Corpus relief extends to a person "in custody under or by color of the authority of the United States" if the person can show he is "in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States." 28 U.S.C 2241 (c)(1), (c)(3): see also *Antonelli v. Warden*, U.S.P *Atlanta*, 542 F.3d 1348, 1352 (11th Cir. 2008) (holding a petitioner's claims are proper under 28 U.S.C section 2241 if they concern the continuation of confinement).
16. Under *Zadvydas v. Davis, 533 U.S. 678 (2001)*, post-final order detention beyond six months is presumptively unreasonable if there is no significant likelihood of removal in the foreseeable foreseeable future.
17. Continued detention Violates the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment.
18. ICE bears the burden to show a significant likelihood of removal; it has not met that burden.

Conditions and Length of Detention Render Custody Excessive Relative to Its Purpose.

19. Immigration detention is meant to ensure appearance at proceedings and protect the community. Detention lasting more than few months is not reasonable related to those purposes and has become punitive. Lesser restrictions can achieve those goals.

Existence of Pending Proceedings Before Immigration Court Does Not Divest District Court of Habeas Corpus Jurisdiction.

20. In *Fofana v. Albence*, Petitioner filed a Habeas Corpus petition requesting their immediate release from detention lasting while they await decisions in pending removal or Asylum proceedings before the immigration courts *(Fofana v. Albence, 454 F.Supp.3d 651 (2020).* The court exercised jurisdiction over the detention challenge despite the ongoing immigration proceedings.
21. Similarly, in *Valdez v. Joyce,---F.Supp.3d...(2025)*, a petitioner with removal proceedings and an asylum application pending before immigration court successfully petitioned for a writ of haeas corpus challenging his detention, and court granted immediate release from custody *(Valdez v. Joyce,---F.Supp.3d---(2025)*

VI. CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Violation of the Fifth Amendment Due Process Clause and 8U.S.C. 1231 (a) (6)

22. Petitioner's continued detention violates the Constitution and *Zadvydas* because:
    * There is no significant likelihood of removal in the foreseeable future.
    * Petitioner has fully cooperated with removal efforts.
    * Ice's prolonged detention is punitive and lacks jurisdiction.

VII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

A. Issues a writ of Habeas Corpus directing Respondent's to immediately release Petitioner from custody and request for Injunctive Relief. Temporary Restraining Order.

B. Grant such further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully Submitted

[redacted]

Date: 6-22-2026

Carlos Enrique Cabrera-Cruz

[redacted]

Otay Mesa Detention Center
P.O. Box 439049
San Diego,CA 92143