

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
COLUMBUS DIVISION**

ELENA MUKHANOVA,	:	
	:	
Petitioner,	:	
	:	Case No. 4:25-CV-102-CDL-AGH
v.	:	28 U.S.C. § 2241
	:	
WARDEN, STEWART DETENTION CENTER,	:	
	:	
	:	
Respondent.	:	

MOTION TO DISMISS

On March 21, 2025, Petitioner filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus (“Petition”). ECF No. 1. On April 14, 2025, Respondent filed his response. ECF No. 4. Respondent now files this Motion to Dismiss the Petition. Petitioner was removed from the United States to Georgia on August 12, 2025, and the Petition should consequently be dismissed as moot.

BACKGROUND

On August 12, 2025, the Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) removed Petitioner from the United States to Russia via commercial flight from Dulles Airport in Washington, DC. *See* Ex A, Form I-205, Warrant of Removal/Deportation. Because Petitioner is no longer in Respondent’s custody, the Court lacks subject-matter jurisdiction over her claims. Accordingly, the Court should dismiss the Petition as moot.

The case-or-controversy requirement of Article III, section 2 of the United States Constitution subsists through all stages of federal judicial proceedings. *See Spencer v. Kemna*, 523 U.S. 1, 7 (1998). A petitioner “must have suffered, or be threatened with, an actual injury traceable

to the defendant and likely to be redressed by a favorable judicial decision.” *Lewis v. Cont’l Bank Corp.*, 494 U.S. 472, 477 (1990). “The doctrine of mootness derives directly from the case or controversy limitation because an action that is moot cannot be characterized as an active case or controversy.” *Soliman v. United States*, 296 F.3d 1237, 1242 (11th Cir. 2002) (internal quotation marks and citation omitted). “Put another way, a case is moot when it no longer presents a live controversy with respect to which the court can grant meaningful relief.” *Fla. Ass’n of Rehab. Facilities, Inc. v. Fla. Dep’t of Health & Rehab. Servs.*, 225 F.3d 1208, 1217 (11th Cir. 2000) (internal quotation mark and citation omitted). Thus, “[i]f events that occur subsequent to the filing of a lawsuit or an appeal deprive the court of the ability to give the plaintiff or appellant meaningful relief, then the case is moot and must be dismissed.” *Al Najjar v. Ashcroft*, 273 F.3d 1330, 1336 (11th Cir. 2001). “Indeed, dismissal is required because mootness is jurisdictional.” *Id.*; *see also De La Teja v. United States*, 321 F.3d 1357, 1362 (11th Cir. 2003). Once a petitioner has been removed from the United States, the dispute regarding his detention is rendered moot and must be dismissed. *See Soliman*, 296 F.3d at 1243.

Here, Petitioner requested release from custody. Pet. 2-4, ECF No. 1. She was removed from the United States to Georgia on August 12, 2025, and is no longer in Respondent’s custody. Ex. A. Because Petitioner is not in Respondent’s custody, the Court can no longer give Petitioner any meaningful relief regarding her detention. Accordingly, the Petition is moot and should be dismissed.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated herein, Respondent respectfully requests that the Court dismiss the Petition.

Respectfully submitted, this 14th day of August, 2025.

WILLIAM R. KEYES
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that I have this date filed the Respondent's Motion to Dismiss with the Clerk of the United States District Court using the CM/ECF system, which will send notification of such filing to the following:

N/A

I further certify that I have this date mailed by United States Postal Service the document and a copy of the Notice of Electronic Filing to the following non-CM/ECF participants:

ELENA MUKHANOVA
A# 
Ste  n Center
P.O. Box 248
Lumpkin, GA 31815

This 14th day of August, 2025.

BY: /s/ Michael P. Morrill
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