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Attorney for Petitioner

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY**

Yulieth Gomez Mejia,

Petitioner,

v.

Jason Woosley, Jailer, Grayson County
Detention Center

Todd M. Lyons, Acting Director, or his agent,
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement;

Kristi Noem, Secretary of the U.S. Department of
Homeland Security;

Pam Bondi, Attorney General of the United States,
in their official capacities,

Respondents.

Case No. 4:25-cv-82-GNS

**PETITION FOR WRIT OF
HABEAS CORPUS**

**ORAL ARGUMENT
REQUESTED**

INTRODUCTION

1. Petitioner Yulieth Gomez Mejia is a citizen and national of Colombia.
2. She entered the United States on December 11, 2022, and was subsequently paroled by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on December 13, 2022, under INA § 212(d)(5)(A). On July 31, 2023, she filed an Application for Asylum and For Withholding of Removal with USCIS. Her minor child is a derivative on this application. On July 28, 2025, she was detained unlawfully and remains unlawfully detained by DHS.
3. Accordingly, to vindicate Petitioner's constitutional rights, this Court should grant the instant petition for writ of habeas corpus.

4. Petitioner asks this Court to find that she is unlawfully detained and order her released.

JURISDICTION

5. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §2241 (habeas corpus) and 28 U.S.C. §1331(federal question).

VENUE

6. Venue is proper because Petitioner is detained at Grayson County Detention Center, in Grayson County, KY, which is within the jurisdiction of this District.

REQUIREMENTS OF 28 U.S.C. § 2243

7. The Court must grant the petition for writ of habeas corpus or issue an order to show cause (OSC) to the Respondents “forthwith,” unless the Petitioner is not entitled to relief. 28 U.S.C. § 2243. If an order to show cause is issued, the Court must require Respondents to file a return “within *three days* unless for good cause additional time, not exceeding twenty days, is allowed.” *Id.* (emphasis added).
8. Courts have long recognized the significance of the habeas statute in protecting individuals from unlawful detention. The Great Writ has been referred to as “perhaps the most important writ known to the constitutional law of England, affording as it does a *swift* and imperative remedy in all cases of illegal restraint or confinement.” *Fay v. Noia*, 372 U.S. 391, 400 (1963) (emphasis added).

PARTIES

9. Petitioner Yulieth Gomez Mejia presented herself at the United States Mexico Border seeking asylum in December of 2022. She was subsequently paroled into the United States by the DHS under INA § 212(d)(5)(A). On May 1, 2025, she reported as directed to Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE) in Indianapolis, Indiana. She was

unreasonably detained and subsequently transferred to Kentucky. Petitioner is currently detained at Grayson County Detention Center in Grayson County, Kentucky. She is in the custody, and under the direct control, of Respondents and their agents.

10. Respondent Jailer Jason Woosley is the Jailer of Grayson County Detention Center, and he has immediate physical custody of Petitioner pursuant to the facility's contract with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to detain noncitizens and is a legal custodian of Petitioner. Respondent Jason Woosley is a legal custodian of Petitioner.
11. Respondent, Todd M. Lyons, is the Acting Director of Field Office of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Respondent, Lyons is a legal custodian of Petitioner and has authority to release her.
12. Respondent Kristi Noem is sued in her official capacity as the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). In this capacity, Respondent, Kristi Noem, is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the Immigration and Nationality Act and oversees U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement the component agency responsible for Petitioner's detention. Respondent Krisit Noem is a legal custodian of Petitioner.
13. Respondent, Pam Bondi, is sued in her official capacity as the Attorney General of the United States and the senior official of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). In that capacity, she has the authority to adjudicate removal cases and to oversee the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), which administers the immigration courts and the BIA. Respondent Pam Bondi is a legal custodian of Petitioner.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. Petitioner Yulieth Gomez Mejia is a citizen and national of Colombia.
2. On December 11, 2022, Ms. Gomez Mejia entered the United States with her minor child via the southern border with Mexico, seeking asylum. She remained in the custody and control of DHS while she was vetted. Her fingerprints were taken, her identity was processed into a federal data base, and she was questioned by federal agents.
3. At the discretion of the United States, she was then released into the United States pursuant to INA §212(d)(5)(A). DHS paroled her into the United States. She was never served a warrant or a Notice to Appear (NTA). She was not put in removal proceedings.
4. On July 31, 2023, Ms. Gomez Mejia filed an I-589 Application for Asylum and Withholding of Removal to the USCIS, including her minor child as a derivative applicant. USCIS issued Petitioner an acknowledgement of receipt. She has been awaiting her asylum interview with USCIS and was issued a work permit and social security card.
5. On July 28, 2025, Ms. Gomez Mejia appeared at the ICE office for a routine check-in. She was detained without cause and subsequently transferred to Grayson County Detention Facility.
6. Ms. Gomez Mejia was told by the ICE agents who arrested her that she should not have been paroled when she entered the United States and was “processed too quickly” and are now putting her in expedited removal proceedings.
7. At the time of her detention, Ms. Gomez Mejia was fully compliant with ICE, and she had an affirmative asylum application pending with USCIS which allows her to stay in the United States until that case is adjudicated. She had no criminal history and had

attended all ICE check-ins. No circumstances justified a change in her custody status, other than the unilateral and arbitrary decision by ICE to reprocess her.

8. ICE has not properly effectuated the expedited removal process of Petitioner. Instead, she is being unlawfully detained without any process. She has no court date to her knowledge and no bond. She sits in a detention facility, hours away from her child, her family, and her job.
9. Ms. Gomez Mejia is not a danger to the community nor a flight risk. She has no criminal record. Her current detention stems solely from her voluntary compliance with ICE's instructions to appear in person. Prior to her arrest, she was waiting for her asylum interview with USCIS.
10. Her continued detention is legally unjustified, a violation of her due process rights, and a violation of her rights under the United States Constitution.
11. The Respondents' decision to detain Ms. Gomez Mejia was arbitrary and capricious from the outset. There was no legal or factual basis to alter her custody status. DHS has unlawfully implemented a nationwide pattern of arrests targeting individuals who cooperate with ICE at their scheduled check-ins and are arresting individuals and continuing their detention without following any adequate procedures as required by the Due Process Clause.

CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

COUNT ONE

Violation of Fifth Amendment Right to Due Process

14. The allegations in the above paragraphs are realleged and incorporated herein. On information and belief, Petitioner is currently unlawfully detained by federal agents in violation of her constitutional rights to due process of law.
15. The Due Process Clause permits civil immigration detention only where detention is reasonably related to the government's interests in preventing flight or protecting the community from danger and is accompanied by adequate procedures to ensure that detention serves those goals.
16. The Due Process Clause requires that the Petitioner is afforded adequate procedural protections to assert her liberty interest. The government bears the burden of proof in demonstrating such detention is justified.
17. The Petitioner has received no due process and has not been afforded any adequate procedural protections. She was unlawfully detained without any legal basis and no warrant. She continues to be held without any bond or process in violation of her constitutional rights.

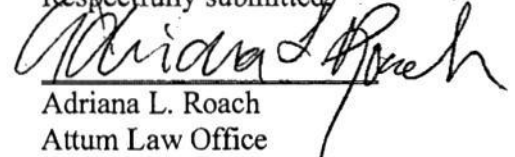
PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, Petitioner respectfully requests this Court to grant the following:

- (1) Assume jurisdiction over this matter;
- (2) Issue an Order to Show Cause ordering Respondents to show cause why this Petition should not be granted within three days.

- (3) Order that the Petitioner shall not be transferred outside the jurisdiction of the Western District of Kentucky,
- (4) Declare that Petitioner's detention violates the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution.
- (5) Issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus ordering Respondents to release Petitioner immediately.
- (6) Award Petitioner attorney's fees and costs under the Equal Access to Justice Act, and on any other basis justified under law; and
- (7) Grant any further relief this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: July 31, 2025

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

I represent Petitioner, Yulieth Gomez Mejia, and submit this verification on her behalf. I hereby verify that the factual statements made in the foregoing Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Dated this 31st day of July, 2025.

s/Adriana L. Roach
Adriana L. Roach