

Bounpheng Soryadvongsa

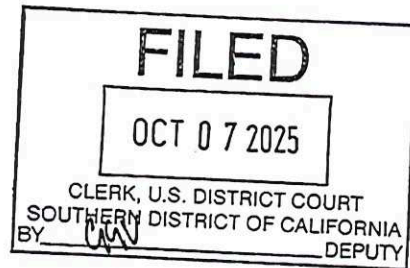
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Otay Mesa Detention Center

P.O. Box 439049

San Diego, CA 92143-9049

Pro Se¹



**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

BOUNPHENG SORYADVONGSA,

Petitioner,

v.

KRISTI NOEM, Secretary of the
Department of Homeland Security,
PAMELA JO BONDI, Attorney General,
TODD M. LYONS, Acting Director,
Immigration and Customs Enforcement,
JESUS ROCHA, Acting Field Office
Director, San Diego Field Office,
CHRISTOPHER LAROSE, Warden at
Otay Mesa Detention Center,

Respondents.

CIVIL CASE NO.: '25CV2663 AGS DDL

**Notice of Motion
and
Memorandum of Law
in Support of
Temporary Restraining Order**

¹ Mr. Soryadvongsa is filing this petition for a writ of habeas corpus and all associated documents with the assistance of the Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc. That same counsel also assisted the petitioner in preparing and submitting his request for the appointment of counsel, which has been filed concurrently with this petition, and all other documents supporting the petition. Federal Defenders has consistently used this procedure in seeking appointment for immigration habeas cases. The Declaration of Kara Hartzler in Support of Appointment Motion attaches case examples.

Introduction

Petitioner Bounpheng Soryadvongsa (“Petitioner”) faces immediate irreparable harm: (1) revocation of his release on immigration supervision, despite ICE’s failure to follow its own revocation procedures; (2) indefinite immigration detention with no reasonable prospect of removal in the reasonably foreseeable future to the country designated by the immigration judge (“IJ”); and (3) potential removal to a third country never considered by an IJ. This Court should grant temporary relief to preserve the status quo.

Since he was ordered removed, Petitioner has spent about 23 years in the United States without the government being able to remove him to Laos. Yet on September 23, 2025, the government re-detained him. ICE gave him no opportunity to contest his re-detention, and there are no apparent changed circumstances justifying it. ICE does not appear to have a travel document in hand, and Laos has overwhelmingly declined to issue travel documents for deportees. Worse yet, in the likely case that ICE still proves unable to remove Petitioner to Laos, ICE’s own policies allow ICE to remove him to a third country never before considered by the IJ in Petitioner’s case, with either 6-to-24 hours’ notice or no notice at all.

Petitioner is therefore facing both unlawful detention and a threat of removal to a dangerous third country without due process. The requested temporary restraining order (“TRO”) and injunction would preserve the status quo while Petitioner litigates these claims by (1) reinstating Petitioner’s release on supervision, and (2) prohibiting the government from removing him to a third country without an opportunity to file a motion to reopen with an IJ.

In granting this motion, this Court would not break new ground. Several courts have granted TROs or preliminary injunctions mandating release for post-final-removal-order immigrants like Petitioner. *See Phetsadakone v. Scott*, 2025 WL 2579569, at *6 (W.D. Wash. Sept. 5, 2025) (Laos); *Hoac v. Becerra*, No.

1 2:25-CV-01740-DC-JDP, 2025 WL 1993771, at *7 (E.D. Cal. July 16, 2025)
2 (Vietnam); *Phan v. Beccerra*, No. 2:25-CV-01757-DC-JDP, 2025 WL 1993735,
3 at *7 (E.D. Cal. July 16, 2025) (Vietnam); *Nguyen v. Scott*, No. 2:25-CV-01398,
4 2025 WL 2419288, at *29 (W.D. Wash. Aug. 21, 2025) (Vietnam). Several more
5 have ordered release² for petitioners whose immigration cases are still pending.
6 *See, e.g., Hinestroza v. Kaiser*, No. 25-CV-07559-JD, 2025 WL 2606983, at *2
7 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 9, 2025); *Sampiao v. Hyde*, No. 1:25-CV-11981-JEK, 2025 WL
8 2607924, at *12 (D. Mass. Sept. 9, 2025); *R.D.T.M. v. Wofford*, No. 1:25-CV-
9 01141-KES-SKO (HC), 2025 WL 2617255, at *6 (E.D. Cal. Sept. 9, 2025). These
10 courts have determined that, for these long-term releasees, liberty is the status
11 quo, and only a return to that status quo can avert irreparable harm.

12 Several courts have likewise granted temporary restraining orders
13 preventing third-country removals without due process. *See, e.g., J.R. v. Bostock*,
14 25-cv-01161-JNW, 2025 WL 1810210 (W.D. Wash. Jun. 30, 2025); *Vaskanyan v.*
15 *Janecka*, 25-cv-01475-MRA-AS, 2025 WL 2014208 (C.D. Cal. Jun. 25, 2025);
16 *Ortega v. Kaiser*, 25-cv-05259-JST, 2025 WL 1771438 (N.D. Cal. June 26,
17 2025); *Hoac v. Becerra*, No. 2:25-CV-01740-DC-JDP, 2025 WL 1993771, at *7
18 (E.D. Cal. July 16, 2025); *Phan v. Beccerra*, No. 2:25-CV-01757-DC-JDP, 2025
19 WL 1993735, at *7 (E.D. Cal. July 16, 2025). Petitioner therefore respectfully
20 requests that this Court grant this TRO and injunction.

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27 ² Because immigration detainees whose cases have not been adjudicated are entitled
28 only to a bond hearing—not to outright release—some of these TROs require
release unless ICE provides that hearing. But because *Zadydas* requires outright
release on supervision, a TRO fitted to Petitioner's claims should order that relief.

Statement of Facts

I. In 2002 and 2024, ICE tried and failed to remove Mr. Soryadvongsa because the Laotian consulate refused to issue travel documents.

Bounpheng Soryadvongsa and his family came to the United States in 1985 as refugees from Laos. Exhibit A to habeas petition, “Soryadvongsa Declaration,” at ¶ 1. Mr. Soryadvongsa became a lawful permanent resident and remained so until 2002, when he was ordered removed due to convictions relating to a firearm and drugs. *Id.* at ¶ 3. After he was ordered removed, he was detained pending his removal for three months. *Id.* at ¶ 4. After Mr. Soryadvongsa was convicted of several other offenses and released from criminal custody in 2024, ICE arrested him and put him on a wrist monitor for four months. *Id.* at ¶ 5. Since that time, Mr. Soryadvongsa has not violated his supervision or been convicted of any new offenses. *Id.* But on September 23, 2025, ICE arrested Mr. Soryadvongsa when his probation officer told him to come in. *Id.* at ¶ 6.

II. The government is carrying out deportations to third countries without providing sufficient notice and opportunity to be heard.

When removable immigrants cannot be removed to their home country—including Laotian immigrants—ICE has begun deporting those individuals to third countries without adequate notice or a hearing. As explained in greater detail in Petitioner’s habeas petition, the Administration has reportedly negotiated with countries to have many of these deportees imprisoned in prisons, camps, or other facilities. For example, the government paid El Salvador about \$5 million to imprison more than 200 deported Venezuelans in a maximum-security prison notorious for gross human rights abuses, known as CECOT. Edward Wong et al, *Inside the Global Deal-Making Behind Trump’s Mass Deportations*, N.Y. Times, June 25, 2025. In February, Panama and Costa Rica took in hundreds of deportees from countries in Africa and Central Asia and imprisoned them in hotels, a jungle camp, and a detention center. *Id.*; Vanessa Buschschluter, *Costa Rican court*

1 *orders release of migrants deported from U.S.*, BBC (Jun. 25, 2025). On July 4,
2 2025, ICE deported eight men to South Sudan. *See Wong, supra*. On July 15, ICE
3 deported five men to the tiny African nation of Eswatini, where they are
4 reportedly being held in solitary confinement. Gerald Imray, *3 Deported by US*
5 *held in African Prison Despite Completing Sentences, Lawyers Say*, PBS (Sept. 2,
6 2025). Many of these countries are known for human rights abuses or instability.
7 For instance, conditions in South Sudan are so extreme that the U.S. State
8 Department website warns Americans not to travel there, and if they do, to
9 prepare their will, make funeral arrangements, and appoint a hostage-taker
10 negotiator first. *See Wong, supra*.

11 On June 23 and July 3, 2025, in light of procedural arguments regarding the
12 viability of national class-wide relief rather than individual relief, the Supreme
13 Court issued a stay of a class-wide preliminary injunction issued in *D.V.D. v. U.S.*
14 *Department of Homeland Security*, No. CV 25-10676-BEM, 2025 WL 1142968,
15 at *1, 3 (D. Mass. Apr. 18, 2025). That national injunction had required ICE to
16 follow the statutory and constitutional requirements before removing an
17 individual to a third country. *U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec. v. D.V.D.*, 145 S. Ct.
18 2153 (2025) (mem.); *id.*, No. 24A1153, 2025 WL 1832186 (U.S. July 3, 2025).
19 On July 9, 2025, ICE rescinded previous guidance meant to give immigrants a
20 “‘meaningful opportunity’ to assert claims for protection under the Convention
21 Against Torture (CAT) before initiating removal to a third country” like the ones
22 just described. Exh. B to Habeas Petition.

23 Under the new guidance, ICE may remove any immigrant to a third country
24 “without the need for further procedures,” as long as—in the view of the State
25 Department—the United States has received “credible” “assurances” from that
26 country that deportees will not be persecuted or tortured. *Id.* at 1. If a country fails
27 to credibly promise not to persecute or torture releasees, ICE may still remove
28 immigrants there with minimal notice. *Id.* Ordinarily, ICE must provide 24 hours’

1 notice. But “[i]n exigent circumstances,” a removal may take place in as little as
2 six hours, “as long as the alien is provided reasonably means and opportunity to
3 speak with an attorney prior to the removal.” *Id.* Upon serving notice, ICE “will
4 not affirmatively ask whether the alien is afraid of being removed to the country
5 of removal.” *Id.* (emphasis original). Depending on whether immigrants assert a
6 credible fear, they will either be removed or screened by USCIS for withholding
7 or removal or Convention Against Torture (“CAT”) relief within 24 hours. *Id.* If
8 USCIS determines that an individual does not qualify, they will be removed there
9 despite asserting fear. *Id.*

10 Argument

11 To obtain a TRO, a plaintiff “must establish that he is likely to succeed on
12 the merits, that he is likely to suffer irreparable harm in the absence of preliminary
13 relief, that the balance of equities tips in his favor, and that an injunction is in the
14 public interest.” *Winter v. Nat. Res. Def. Council, Inc.*, 555 U.S. 7, 20 (2008);
15 *Stuhlbarg Int’l Sales Co. v. John D. Brush & Co.*, 240 F.3d 832, 839-40 & n.7
16 (9th Cir. 2001) (noting that a TRO and preliminary injunction involve
17 “substantially identical” analysis). A “variant[] of the same standard” is the
18 “sliding scale”: “if a plaintiff can only show that there are ‘serious questions
19 going to the merits—a lesser showing than likelihood of success on the merits—
20 then a preliminary injunction may still issue if the balance of hardships tips
21 sharply in the plaintiff’s favor, and the other two *Winter* factors are satisfied.”
22 *Immigrant Defenders Law Center v. Noem*, 145 F.4th 972, 986 (9th Cir. 2025)
23 (internal quotation marks omitted). Under this approach, the four *Winter* elements
24 are “balanced, so that a stronger showing of one element may offset a weaker
25 showing of another.” *All. for the Wild Rockies v. Cottrell*, 632 F.3d 1127, 1131
26 (9th Cir. 2011). A TRO may be granted where there are “‘serious questions going
27 to the merits’ and a hardship balance. . . tips sharply toward the plaintiff,” and so
28 long as the other *Winter* factors are met. *Id.* at 1132.

1 Here, this Court should issue a temporary restraining order and an
2 injunction because “immediate and irreparable injury . . . or damage” is occurring
3 and will continue in the absence of an order. Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(b). Not only have
4 Respondents re-detained Petitioner in violation of his due process, statutory, and
5 regulatory rights. ICE policy also allows them to remove him to a third country in
6 violation of his due process, statutory, and regulatory rights. This Court should
7 order Petitioner’s release and enjoin removal to a third country with no or
8 inadequate notice.

9
10 **I. Petitioner is likely to succeed on the merits, or at a minimum, raises serious merits questions.**

11 **A. Petitioner is likely to succeed on the merits of his claim that his detention violates *Zadvydas*.**

12 In *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678 (2001), the Supreme Court considered
13 a problem affecting people like Mr. Thai: Federal law requires ICE to detain an
14 immigrant during the “removal period,” which typically spans the first 90 days
15 after the immigrant is ordered removed. 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)(1)-(2). And after that
16 90-day removal period expires, ICE may detain the migrant while continuing to
17 try to remove them. *Id.* § 1231(a)(6). If that subsection were understood to allow
18 for “indefinite, perhaps permanent, detention,” it would pose “a serious
19 constitutional threat.” *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 699. In *Zadvydas*, the Supreme Court
20 avoided the constitutional concern by interpreting § 1231(a)(6) to incorporate
21 implicit limits. *Id.* at 689.

22 As an initial matter, *Zadvydas* held that detention is “presumptively
23 reasonable” for at least six months after the removal order becomes final. *Id.* at
24 701. This acts as a kind of grace period for effectuating removals. Following the
25 six-month grace period, courts must use a burden-shifting framework to decide
26 whether detention remains authorized. First, the petitioner must prove that there is
27 “good reason to believe that there is no significant likelihood of removal in the
28 reasonably foreseeable future.” *Id.*

1 If he does so, the burden shifts to “the Government [to] respond with
2 evidence sufficient to rebut that showing.” *Id.* Ultimately, then, the burden of
3 proof rests with the government: The government must prove that there is a
4 “significant likelihood of removal in the reasonably foreseeable future,” or the
5 immigrant must be released. *Id.*

6 Here, Petitioner was ordered removed more than six months ago, as his
7 removal order became final in 2002. *Soryadvongsa* Dec. at ¶ 3. He has also been
8 detained for more than six months cumulatively. *Id.* at ¶¶ 4–5. Thus, it is clear
9 that the *Zadvydas* grace period has ended.

10 There is also strong evidence that there is no “significant likelihood of
11 removal in the reasonably foreseeable future.” *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 701. Laos
12 refused to accept Mr. *Soryadvongsa* during the seven months he was detained in
13 2002 and 2024. *Soryadvongsa* Dec. at ¶ 4, 5. Nothing has changed since the last
14 time ICE attempted to deport him. And to date, there is no indication that ICE has
15 obtained a travel document.

16 Finally, Petitioner’s criminal history cannot change this equation. Not only
17 has Petitioner proved that he poses no danger or flight risk, *Zadvydas* also
18 squarely prohibits ICE from indefinitely detaining immigrants because they pose
19 risks of danger or flight. 533 U.S. at 684–91.

20 Thus, this Court will likely find that Petitioner warrants *Zadvydas* relief.

21 **B. Petitioner is likely to succeed on the merits of his claim that ICE**
22 **violated its own regulations.**

23 In addition to *Zadvydas*’s protections, a series of regulations provide extra
24 process for someone who, like Petitioner, is re-detained following a period of
25 release. Under 8 C.F.R. § 241.4(l), ICE may re-detain an immigrant on
26 supervision only with an interview and a chance to contest a re-detention. When
27 an immigrant is specifically released after giving good reason why they cannot be
28 removed, additional regulations apply: ICE may revoke a noncitizen’s release and

1 return them to ICE custody due to failure to comply with conditions of release, 8
2 C.F.R. § 241.13(i)(1), or if, “on account of changed circumstances,” a noncitizen
3 likely can be removed in the reasonably foreseeable future. *Id.* § 241.13(i)(2).

4 The regulations further provide noncitizens with a chance to contest a re-
5 detention decision. ICE must “notif[y] [the person] of the reasons for revocation
6 of his or her release.” *Id.* § 241.13(i)(3). ICE must then “conduct an initial
7 informal interview promptly” after re-detention “to afford the alien an opportunity
8 to respond to the reasons for revocation stated in the notification.” *Id.* During the
9 interview, the person “may submit any evidence or information” showing that the
10 prerequisites to re-detention have not been met, and the interviewer must evaluate
11 “any contested facts.” *Id.*

12 ICE is required to follow its own regulations. *United States ex rel. Accardi*
13 *v. Shaughnessy*, 347 U.S. 260, 268 (1954); *see Alcaraz v. INS*, 384 F.3d 1150,
14 1162 (9th Cir. 2004) (“The legal proposition that agencies may be required to
15 abide by certain internal policies is well-established.”). A court may review a re-
16 detention decision for compliance with the regulations. *See Phan v. Beccerra*, No.
17 2:25-CV-01757, 2025 WL 1993735, at *3 (E.D. Cal. July 16, 2025); *Nguyen v.*
18 *Hyde*, No. 25-cv-11470-MJJ, 2025 WL 1725791, at *3 (D. Mass. June 20, 2025)
19 (citing *Kong v. United States*, 62 F.4th 608, 620 (1st Cir. 2023)).

20 None of the prerequisites to detention apply here. Since ICE last tried to
21 deport him in 2024, Petitioner has not violated the conditions of his release. And
22 there are no changed circumstances that justify re-detaining him. ICE already
23 tried—and failed—to remove Petitioner twice and has given Petitioner no
24 indication that agents have a travel document in hand for him. Of course, ICE
25 may be planning to renew their request for a travel document from Laos. But
26 absent any evidence for “why obtaining a travel document is more likely this time
27 around[,] Respondents’ intent to eventually complete a travel document request
28 for Petitioner does not constitute a changed circumstance.” *Hoac v. Becerra*, No.

1 2:25-CV-01740-DC-JDP, 2025 WL 1993771, at *4 (E.D. Cal. July 16, 2025)
2 (citing *Liu v. Carter*, No. 25-3036-JWL, 2025 WL 1696526, at *2 (D. Kan. June
3 17, 2025)). Nor has Petitioner received the interview required by regulation. No
4 one from ICE has ever invited him to submit evidence to contest his detention. *Id.*

5 “[B]ecause officials did not properly revoke petitioner’s release pursuant to
6 the applicable regulations,” this Court will likely find that “petitioner is entitled to
7 his release” on an order of supervision. *Liu*, 2025 WL 1696526, at *3.

8
9 **C. Petitioner is likely to succeed on the merits of his claim that he is**
10 **entitled to adequate notice and an opportunity to be heard prior**
11 **to any third country removal.**

12 Finally, Petitioner is likely to succeed on the merits of his claim that he
13 may not be removed to a third country absent adequate notice and an opportunity
14 to be heard. U.S. law enshrines protections against dangerous and life-threatening
15 removal decisions. By statute, the government is prohibited from removing an
16 immigrant to any third country where a person may be persecuted or tortured, a
17 form of protection known as withholding of removal. *See* 8 U.S.C.

18 § 1231(b)(3)(A). The government “may not remove [a noncitizen] to a country if
19 the Attorney General decides that the [noncitizen’s] life or freedom would be
20 threatened in that country because of the [noncitizen’s] race, religion, nationality,
21 membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.” *Id.*; *see also* 8
22 C.F.R. §§ 208.16, 1208.16. Withholding of removal is a mandatory protection.

23 Similarly, Congress codified protections in the CAT prohibiting the
24 government from removing a person to a country where they would be tortured.
25 *See* FARRA 2681-822 (codified as 8 U.S.C. § 1231 note) (“It shall be the policy
26 of the United States not to expel, extradite, or otherwise effect the involuntary
27 return of any person to a country in which there are substantial grounds for
28 believing the person would be in danger of being subjected to torture, regardless
of whether the person is physically present in the United States.”); 28 C.F.R.

1 § 200.1; *id.* §§ 208.16-208.18, 1208.16-1208.18. CAT protection is also
2 mandatory.

3 To comport with due process, the government must provide notice of third
4 country removal and an opportunity to respond. Due process requires “written
5 notice of the country being designated” and “the statutory basis for the
6 designation, i.e., the applicable subsection of § 1231(b)(2).” *Aden v. Nielsen*, 409
7 F. Supp. 3d 998, 1019 (W.D. Wash. 2019); *accord D.V.D. v. U.S. Dep’t of*
8 *Homeland Sec.*, No. 25-cv-10676-BEM, 2025 WL 1453640, at *1 (D. Mass. May
9 21, 2025); *Andriasian v. INS*, 180 F.3d 1033, 1041 (9th Cir. 1999).

10 Due process also requires “ask[ing] the noncitizen whether he or she fears
11 persecution or harm upon removal to the designated country and memorialize in
12 writing the noncitizen’s response. This requirement ensures DHS will obtain the
13 necessary information from the noncitizen to comply with section 1231(b)(3) and
14 avoids [a dispute about what was said].” *Aden*, 409 F. Supp. 3d at 1019. “Failing
15 to notify individuals who are subject to deportation that they have the right to
16 apply for asylum in the United States and for withholding of deportation to the
17 country to which they will be deported violates both INS regulations and the
18 constitutional right to due process.” *Andriasian*, 180 F.3d at 1041.

19 If the noncitizen claims fear, measures must be taken to ensure that the
20 noncitizen can seek asylum, withholding, and relief under CAT before an
21 immigration judge in reopened removal proceedings. The amount and type of
22 notice must be “sufficient” to ensure that “given [a noncitizen’s] capacities and
23 circumstances, he would have a reasonable opportunity to raise and pursue his
24 claim for withholding of deportation.” *Aden*, 409 F. Supp. 3d at 1009
25 (citing *Mathews v. Eldridge*, 424 U.S. 319, 349 (1976) and *Kossov v. I.N.S.*, 132
26 F.3d 405, 408 (7th Cir. 1998)); *cf. D.V.D.*, 2025 WL 1453640, at *1 (requiring a
27 minimum of 15 days’ notice). “[L]ast minute” notice of the country of removal
28 will not suffice, *Andriasian*, 180 F.3d at 1041; *accord Najjar v. Lunch*, 630 Fed.

1 App'x 724 (9th Cir. 2016), and for good reason: To have a meaningful
2 opportunity to apply for fear-based protection, immigrants must have time to
3 prepare and present relevant arguments and evidence. Merely telling a person
4 where they may be sent, without giving them a chance to look into country
5 conditions, does not give them a meaningful chance to determine whether and
6 why they have a credible fear.

7 Respondents' third country removal program skips over these statutory and
8 constitutional procedural protections. According to ICE's July 7 guidance,
9 individuals can be removed to third countries "without the need for further
10 procedures," so long as "the [U.S.] has received diplomatic assurances." Exh. B to
11 Habeas Petition at 1. Petitioner is likely to succeed on the merits of his claim on
12 this fact alone, because the policy instructs officers to provide no notice or
13 opportunity to be heard. The same is true of the minimal procedures ICE offers
14 when no diplomatic assurances are present. The policy provides no meaningful
15 notice (6-24 hours), instructs officers *not* to ask about fear, and provides no actual
16 opportunity to see counsel and prepare a fear-based claim (6-24 hours), let alone
17 reopen removal proceedings.

18 Faced with similar arguments, several courts have recently granted
19 individual TROs against removal to third countries. *See J.R.*, 2025 WL 1810210;
20 *Vaskanyan*, 2025 WL 2014208; *Ortega*, 2025 WL 1771438; *Hoac*, 2025 WL
21 1993771, at *7; *Phan*, 2025 WL 1993735, at *7.

22 **II. Petitioner will suffer irreparable harm absent injunctive relief.**

23 Petitioner also meets the second factor, irreparable harm. "It is well
24 established that the deprivation of constitutional rights 'unquestionably constitutes
25 irreparable injury.'" *Melendres v. Arpaio*, 695 F.3d 990, 1002 (9th Cir. 2012)
26 (quoting *Elrod v. Burns*, 427 U.S. 347, 373 (1976)). Where the "alleged
27 deprivation of a constitutional right is involved, most courts hold that no further
28 showing of irreparable injury is necessary." *Warsoldier v. Woodford*, 418 F.3d

1 989, 1001-02 (9th Cir. 2005) (quoting 11A Charles Alan Wright et al., *Federal*
2 *Practice and Procedure*, § 2948.1 (2d ed. 2004)).

3 Here, the potential irreparable harm to Petitioner is even more concrete.
4 “Unlawful detention certainly constitutes ‘extreme or very serious damage, and
5 that damage is not compensable in damages.’” *Hernandez v. Sessions*, 872 F.3d
6 976, 999 (9th Cir. 2017). Third-country deportations pose that risk and more.
7 Recent third-country deportees have been held, indefinitely and without charge, in
8 hazardous foreign prisons. *See Wong et al., supra*. They have been subjected to
9 solitary confinement. *See Imray, supra*. They have been removed to countries so
10 unstable that the U.S. government recommends making a will and appointing a
11 hostage negotiator before traveling to them. *See Wong, supra*. These and other
12 threats to Petitioner’s health and life independently constitute irreparable harm.

13
14 **III. The balance of hardships and the public interest weigh heavily in**
15 **petitioner’s favor.**

16 The final two factors for a TRO—the balance of hardships and public
17 interest—“merge when the Government is the opposing party.” *Nken v. Holder*,
18 556 U.S. 418, 435 (2009). That balance tips decidedly in Petitioner’s favor. On
19 the one hand, the government “cannot reasonably assert that it is harmed in any
20 legally cognizable sense” by being compelled to follow the law. *Zepeda v. I.N.S.*,
21 753 F.2d 719, 727 (9th Cir. 1983). Moreover, it is always in the public interest to
22 prevent violations of the U.S. Constitution and ensure the rule of law. *See Nken*,
23 556 U.S. at 436 (describing public interest in preventing noncitizens “from being
24 wrongfully removed, particularly to countries where they are likely to face
25 substantial harm”); *Moreno Galvez v. Cuccinelli*, 387 F. Supp. 3d 1208, 1218
26 (W.D. Wash. 2019) (when government’s treatment “is inconsistent with federal
27 law, . . . the balance of hardships and public interest factors weigh in favor of a
28 preliminary injunction.”). On the other hand, Petitioner faces weighty hardships:
unlawful, indefinite detention and removal to a third country where he is likely to

1 suffer imprisonment or serious harm. The balance of equities thus favors
2 preventing the violation of “requirements of federal law,” *Arizona Dream Act*
3 *Coal. v. Brewer*, 757 F.3d 1053, 1069 (9th Cir. 2014), by granting emergency
4 relief to protect against unlawful detention and unlawful third country removal.

5 **IV. Petitioner gave the government notice of this TRO, and the TRO should**
6 **remain in place throughout habeas litigation.**

7 Upon filing this motion, proposed counsel emailed Janet Cabral, from the
8 United States Attorney’s Office, notice of this request for a temporary restraining
9 and all the filings associated with it. Additionally, Petitioner requests that this
10 TRO and injunction remain in place until the habeas petition is decided. Fed. R.
11 Civ. Pro. 65(b)(2). Good cause exists, because the same considerations will
12 continue to warrant injunctive relief throughout this litigation, and habeas
13 petitions must be adjudicated promptly. *See In re Habeas Corpus Cases*, 216
14 F.R.D. 52 (E.D.N.Y. 2003). A proposed order is attached.

Conclusion

For those reasons, Petitioner requests that this Court issue a temporary restraining order.

DATED: 10/6/25

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bounpheng S", is written over a horizontal line.

BOUNPHENG SORYADVONGSA
Petitioner

PROOF OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, caused to be served the within Motion for a Temporary Restraining Order by email to:

U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of California
Civil Division
880 Front Street
Suite 6253
San Diego, CA 92101

Date: 10-7-25


Kara Hartzler