

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA (BATON ROUGE DIVISION)

CHANTHILA SOUVANNARATH,

Petitioner,

v.

KEVIN JORDAN, Warden, Camp 57 ICE Processing Center; TODD LYONS, Acting Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; PAMELA BONDI, Attorney General of the United States; KRISTI NOEM, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security; FIELD OFFICE DIRECTOR, DHS/ICE Oakdale Field Office; CHIEF COUNSEL, OPLA New Orleans; and the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Respondents.

EMERGENCY MOTION FOR STAY OF REMOVAL AND EXPEDITED ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

I. RELIEF REQUESTED

Petitioner moves this Court for:

1. An immediate temporary stay of removal preventing ICE from transferring or deporting him pending judicial determination of this petition; and
2. An expedited order requiring the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and ICE to show cause within a short, court-set deadline why Petitioner should not be released and declared a U.S. citizen.

II. GROUNDS FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF

1. Imminent Harm. ICE officers have informed Petitioner that he will be placed on the next flight to Laos. Removal would be unlawful and cause irreparable harm because Petitioner is a U.S. citizen by derivation under former INA § 321(a).
2. Likelihood of Success on the Merits. Petitioner's father, Billy Koulthasen (formerly Bounpheng Souvannarath), naturalized in 1988 when Petitioner was six years old and already a lawful permanent resident in his father's custody. The Fifth Circuit's holdings in *Nehme v. INS*, 252 F.3d 415 (5th Cir. 2001); *Bustamante-Barrera v. Gonzales*, 447 F.3d 388

(5th Cir. 2006); and *Omolo v. Gonzales*, 452 F.3d 404 (5th Cir. 2006) establish that these facts satisfy every element of § 321(a).

3. Balance of Hardships. The hardship to Petitioner—unlawful exile from the United States—far outweighs any administrative burden on the government in maintaining the status quo while the Court reviews the case.

4. Public Interest. The public interest always favors preventing the illegal removal of a U.S. citizen. See *Ng Fung Ho v. White*, 259 U.S. 276 (1922).

III. REQUESTED TIMELINE FOR GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Petitioner requests that the Court:

Issue an immediate temporary stay of removal upon docketing of this motion;

Order the Department of Homeland Security and ICE to file a written response within seven (7) days of service of the Court's order; and

After receiving the response, schedule an expedited hearing or ruling within ten (10) days thereafter.

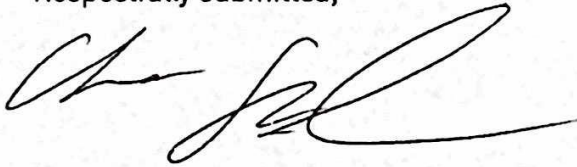
Given Petitioner's detention since June 18 2025 and his imminent deportation, this short schedule is essential to prevent irreparable harm.

IV. CONCLUSION

Petitioner respectfully prays that this Court:

1. Grant an immediate temporary stay of removal;
2. Order Respondents to show cause within seven (7) days why the writ should not issue;
3. Schedule expedited consideration within ten (10) days of the government's response;
and
4. Grant any further relief the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,



Chanthila Souvannarath

A#



ID#



Camp 57 ICE Processing Center

17544 Tunica Trace, Angola, LA 70712

Date:

10/15/25

PROOF OF SERVICE

I, Chanthila Souvannarath, declare under penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 that on the date indicated below, I placed true and correct copies of the following documents in the U.S. Mail, first-class postage prepaid:

Emergency Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus (28 U.S.C. § 2241);

Memorandum of Law in Support of Petition;

Emergency Motion for Stay of Removal and Immediate Release; and

Exhibit A (Father's Certificate of Naturalization).

Copies were addressed to each of the following:

1. Clerk of Court

U.S. District Court, Middle District of Louisiana

777 Florida Street, Suite 139

Baton Rouge, LA 70801

2. Kevin Jordan, Warden

Camp 57 ICE Processing Center

17544 Tunica Trace

Angola, LA 70712

3. Field Office Director, ICE Oakdale Field Office

1010 East Whatley Road

Oakdale, LA 71463

4. Todd Lyons, Acting Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

500 12th Street SW

Washington, DC 20536

5. Chief Counsel, OPLA New Orleans

423 Canal Street, Suite 450

New Orleans, LA 70130

6. United States Attorney

Middle District of Louisiana

777 Florida Street, Suite 208

Baton Rouge, LA 70801

7. Attorney General of the United States

U.S. Department of Justice

950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20530

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: 10/15/25

Signature: 

Chanthila Souvannarath

A  ID# 

Camp 57 ICE Processing Center

17544 Tunica Trace

Angola, LA 70712