

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**

**Case No. 25-cv-24981-LIEBOWITZ**

**GERSON OCAMPO FERNANDEZ,**

Petitioner,

v.

**GARRETT RIPA**, in his official capacity as Field Office Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Miami Field Office;

**KRISTI NOEM**, in her official capacity as the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security;

**TODD M. LYONS**, in his official capacity as Senior Official Performing the Duties of Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement;

**PAMELA BONDI**, in her official capacity as Acting Attorney General of the United States.

Respondents.

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**SECOND AMENDED PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS**

The Petitioner, Gerson Ocampo Fernandez (“Mr. Ocampo”), submits this second amended petition for writ of habeas corpus. This second amended petition is being submitted prior to submission of a forthcoming notice of added parties per the court clerk’s instruction to filer [ECF No. 6] with the four (4) Respondents now correctly included in the style of the case above and in the body of this petition. Petitioner alleges as follows:

## INTRODUCTION

1. On September 16, 2025, Mr. Ocampo, a Cuban asylum seeker, dutifully appeared for a routine appointment with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at Miramar when Respondents arbitrarily chose to detain him. A 25-year-old young man with no criminal history remains detained at Krome North Processing Center, in Miami, Florida, where he is approaching two months of incarceration separated from his family in Miami, Florida. As further explained *infra*, Respondents lacked the authority to arrest and detain him under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), its implementing regulations, and the Constitution.

2. Petitioner appeared for a custody redetermination hearing on October 17, 2025 before an immigration judge (IJ) in Miami, Florida, but the IJ denied bond. The IJ based this decision on an erroneous agency decision that is a stark departure from decades of historical practice. *See Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I&N Dec. 216 (B.I.A. 2025), Petitioner's detention on this basis violates the plain language of the Immigration and Nationality Act. § 1225(b)(2)(A) does not apply to individuals like Petitioner who previously entered and are now residing in the United States. Instead, such individuals are subject to a different statute, § 1226(a), which allows for release on conditional parole or bond. That statute expressly applies to people who—like Petitioner—are charged as inadmissible for having entered the United States without inspection.

3. Respondents' erroneous legal interpretation is plainly contrary to the statutory framework governing immigrant detention and contrary to decades of agency practice applying § 1226(a) to people like Petitioner. Petitioner seeks a writ of habeas corpus requiring that he be released unless Respondents provide a bond hearing under § 1226(a) within seven (7) days.

**JURISDICTION & VENUE**

4. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under Art. I § 9, cl. 2 of the U.S. Constitution (the Suspension Clause), 28 U.S.C. § 2241 (habeas corpus), 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question jurisdiction); and 28 U.S.C. § 2201 (Declaratory Judgment Act).

5. Federal district courts have jurisdiction to hear habeas claims by non-citizens challenging the lawfulness of their detention. *See, e.g., Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 687 (2001).

6. Venue is proper in this district and division pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241(c)(3) and 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) and (e)(1) because Petitioner is currently detained in this district and division and events or omissions giving rise to this action occurred in this district and division.

**PARTIES**

7. Petitioner, Gerson Ocampo Fernandez, is a native and citizen of Cuba and asylum applicant who is currently detained at Krome North Processing Center, in Miami, Florida.

8. Respondent Garrett Ripa is the Field Office Director for the ICE Miami Field Office. In that capacity, he is charged with overseeing Krome, which is owned by ICE and operated by a contractor, and has the authority to make custody determinations regarding individuals detained there. Therefore, Respondent Ripa is the immediate custodian of Petitioner. He is sued in his official capacity.

9. Respondent Kristi Noem is the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). She supervises ICE, an agency within DHS that is responsible for the administration and enforcement of immigration laws, and she has supervisory responsibility for and authority over the detention and removal of non-citizens throughout the United States.

Secretary Noem is the ultimate legal custodian of Petitioner. Respondent Noem is sued in her official capacity.

10. Respondent Todd Lyons in his official capacity as Senior Official Performing the Duties of Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the sub-agency of DHS related to immigration enforcement and detention. He is also Petitioner's legal custodian and is sued in his official capacity.

11. Respondent Pamela Bondi is the Attorney General of the United States. As the Attorney General, she oversees the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), including all immigration judges (IJs) and the BIA. Respondent Bondi is sued in her official capacity.

### **LEGAL BACKGROUND**

#### **A. Detention During Removal Proceedings**

12. Section 1229a of Title 8 of the U.S. Code (Section 240 of the INA) describes the primary process through which the government seeks to remove noncitizens from the United States. It specifies that “[u]nless otherwise specified in this chapter, a proceeding under this section shall be the sole and exclusive procedure for determining whether an alien may be . . . removed from the United States.” 8 U.S.C. § 1229a(a)(3).

13. To initiate removal proceedings against a non-citizen under Section 1229a, the Government must issue the non-citizen an NTA. 8 U.S.C. § 1229(a)(1). Most non-citizens go through removal proceedings from outside detention. But ICE is increasingly detaining non-citizens during their removal proceedings.

14. Section 1226 of Title 8 of the U.S. Code is the default provision that governs the arrest and detention of non-citizens pending removal proceedings. It states that “on a warrant

issued by the Attorney General,<sup>1</sup> a[] [non-citizen] may be arrested and detained pending a decision on whether the [non-citizen] is to be removed from the United States” 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a). Non-citizens arrested upon a warrant and in ongoing removal proceedings are eligible to seek bond from an IJ. *Id.* § 1226(a)(2).

15. A separate provision governs the detention of people who seek admission to the United States at the border. It states that “in the case of a [non-citizen] who is an applicant for admission, if the examining immigration officer determines that a [non-citizen] seeking admission is not clearly and beyond a doubt entitled to be admitted, the non-citizen shall be detained for a proceeding under section 1229a of this title.” 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A). IJs do not have jurisdiction to grant bond for such “applicant[s] for admission,” though DHS retains the discretion to release such non-citizens on a specific type of parole “for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit.” 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5)(A).

#### **EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES**

16. No exhaustion is statutorily required for the petitioner’s habeas claims because “Section 2241 itself does not impose an exhaustion requirement,” *Santiago-Lugo v. Warden*, 785 F.3d 467, 474 (CA11 2015).

17. Regardless, “[w]here Congress does not say there is a jurisdictional bar, there is none.” *Santiago-Lugo v. Warden*, 785 F.3d 467, 473 (11th Cir. 2015). The fact that it did not limit courts’ subject matter jurisdiction to decide unexhausted § 2241 claims compel the conclusion that any failure of [the respondent] to exhaust administrative remedies is not a jurisdictional defect.” *Id.* at 474.

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<sup>1</sup> In 2003, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) within the Department of Justice (DOJ) became what is now ICE, which is housed within DHS. Therefore, some statutory references to the “Attorney General,” like this one, now refer to the Secretary of DHS.

18. In the absence of a statutorily mandated exhaustion requirement, whether to apply a common law exhaustion requirement is a decision that rests soundly within the broad discretion of district courts. *See J.N.C.G. v. Warden, Stewart Detention Ctr.*, No. 4:20-CV- 62-MSH, 2020 WL 5046870, at \*3 (M.D. Ga. Aug. 26, 2020) (citing *McCarthy v. Madigan*, 503 U.S. 140, 144 (1992)); *see also Richardson v. Reno*, 162 F.3d 1338, 1374 (11th Cir. 1998); *Yahweh v. U.S. Parole Comm'n*, 158 F. Supp. 2d 1332, 1341 (S.D. Fla. 2001).

19. Here, there is no reason to require exhaustion of administrative remedies, as Petitioner has no meaningful alternative to habeas relief, and has already requested bond from the immigration court. *Boz v. United States*, 248 F.3d 1299, 1300 (11th Cir. 2001) (“[A] petitioner need not exhaust their administrative remedies where the administrative remedy will not provide relief commensurate with the claim.”); *Linfors v. United States*, 673 F.2d 332, 334 (11th Cir. 1982) (“[E]xhaustion is not required where no genuine opportunity for adequate relief exists . . . or an administrative appeal would be futile[.]”). In light of the BIA’s recent decision in *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I&N Dec. 216 (B.I.A. 2025), exhaustion would be futile because the outcome of the administrative process can be reasonably anticipated and would not constitute an adequate remedy.

20. Accordingly, Petitioner urgently seeks and is entitled to habeas relief because he has no meaningful opportunity to challenge the constitutionality of his detention through any available administrative process. *See Boumediene*, 553 U.S. 723, 783 (2008).

#### **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

21. Petitioner entered the United States without inspection on or around March 11, 2022, where he was subsequently placed in standard removal proceedings under 8 U.S.C. §1229a. He timely applied for asylum.

22. At an ICE check-in on September 16, 2025, Mr. Ocampo was detained under a Warrant for Arrest based upon “biometric confirmation of the subject’s identity and a records check for federal databases that affirmatively indicate, by themselves or in addition to other reliable information, that the subject either lacks immigration status or notwithstanding such status is removable under U.S. immigration law.” See Exhibit “A,” Warrant for Arrest. Mr. Ocampo complied with biometrics requirements, and his asylum application is still pending. Upon information, knowledge, and belief, his detention was entirely arbitrary because no new, intervening circumstances formed the basis of his detention after his release from Respondents’ custody in March 2022.

23. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has detained Petitioner and placed him into federal custody. The Petitioner has no known criminal history. Petitioner is from Cuba and entered the United States on or about March 11, 2022. Mr. Ocampo’s aunt, Ms. Maricel Ronda Betancourt (“Ms. Ronda”) has offered to sponsor Mr. Ocampo and support him in any and all future immigration proceedings. Ms. Ronda is a Lawful Permanent Resident. See Exh B, Sponsorship Letter with Permanent Resident card and Florida Driver’s License.

24. In both the Warrant for Arrest and his prior Order of Release on Recognizance, Respondents themselves cite to 8 U.S.C. § 1226 (§236 of the INA) as the relevant detention authority. See Exh. “A,”; Exhibit “C,” Order of Release on Recognizance. 8 U.S.C. §1226 relates to discretionary detention, not mandatory detention.

25. While awaiting adjudication of his application for asylum, Mr. Ocampo has continued to contribute meaningfully to his community. He maintained steady employment and otherwise demonstrated compliance with all immigration-related obligations. He has no history of failing to appear for any immigration-related appointments or proceedings.

26. An Immigration Judge denied his request for custody redetermination citing specifically to *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I&N Dec. 216, 228 (BIA 2025).

27. In support of his bond motion, Mr. Ocampo Fernandez had submitted copious evidence of family, employment, and community ties and support in the United States. See Exhibit "D" Letters of Support for Mr. Ocampo.

28. Petitioner remains detained at the Krome North Processing Center, in Miami, Florida, and is in removal proceedings, as of the date of this petition.

## ARGUMENT

### **A. Petitioner's Continued Detention Is Unlawful Because He Is Not Subject to Mandatory Detention Under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)**

29. Respondents have unlawfully subjected him to mandatory detention pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2), despite the fact that he was apprehended inside the United States after having resided here for several years. As a result, Respondents have deprived him of his liberty without due process, contrary to the Fifth Amendment and the INA.

30. Upon information, knowledge, and belief, at the Petitioner's scheduled bond hearing in immigration court, DHS asserted that Petitioner is properly detained under § 1225(b)(2) and that DHS therefore lacks authority to release him on bond. The Immigration Judge found that because § 1225(b)(2) mandates detention until the conclusion of removal proceedings, Petitioner's custody is lawful and the Court lacks jurisdiction to review it. Petitioner disputes these contentions and submits that his detention falls squarely within the scope of § 1226(a), which provides for discretionary detention and permits release on bond or conditional parole pending completion of removal proceedings.

31. The IJ's bond denial relies on the BIA decision *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I. & N. Dec. 216 (BIA 2025), which district courts across the country have roundly rejected. See e.g.,

*Barrera v. Tindall*, No. 3 :25-CV-541-RGJ, 2025 WL 2690565 (W.D. Ky. Sept. 19, 2025); *Zumba v. Bondi*, No. 25-CV-14626-KSH-, 2025 WL 2753496 (D.N.J. Sept. 26, 2025); *Lopez-Arevelo v. Ripa*, No. EP-25-CV-337-KC, 2025 WL 2691828 (W.D. Tex. Sept. 22, 2025); *Lopez-Campos*, No. 2:25-CV12486, 2025 WL 2496379 (E.D. Mich. Aug. 29, 2025); *Valencia Zapata v. Kaiser*, No. 25-CV07492-RFL, 2025 WL 2741654 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 26, 2025). This Court should also decline to follow *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, whose interpretation of § 1225 is at odds with the text of § 1225 and § 1226, is inconsistent with earlier BIA decisions, and renders superfluous the recent Laken Riley Act amendments to § 1226(c).

32. Specifically, the Chief United States District Judge Cecilia M. Altonaga, recently issued a decision in *Alvarez Puga*, rejecting the Respondents' reliance on *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*. In that decision, the Court explained:

“Respondents’ reliance on the BIA’s decision in *Matter of Yajure Hurtado* — rejecting the argument that a noncitizen who entered the United States without inspection and has resided here for years is not ‘seeking admission’ under section 1225(b)(2)(A) — is also misplaced. The Court need not defer to the BIA’s interpretation of law simply because the statute is ambiguous. *See Loper Bright Enters. v. Raimondo*, 603 U.S. 369, 413 (2024) (“[C]ourts need not and under the APA may not defer to an agency interpretation of the law simply because a statute is ambiguous.” (alteration added)). As explained, the statutory text, context, and scheme of section 1225 do not support a finding that a noncitizen is ‘seeking admission’ when he never sought to do so. Additionally, numerous courts that have examined the interpretation of section 1225 articulated by Respondents — particularly following the BIA’s decision in *Matter of Yajure Hurtado* — have rejected their construction and adopted Petitioner’s. … For these reasons, the Court finds that section 1226(a) and its implementing regulations govern Petitioner’s detention, not section 1225(b)(2)(A). Petitioner is entitled to an individualized bond hearing as a detainee under section 1226(a).”

*See Alvarez Puga v. Assistant Field Office Director, Krome North Service Processing Center et al.*, No. 1:25-cv-24535 (S.D. Fla. Oct. 15, 2025) at \*10.

33. This case turns on the statutory distinction between § 1226(a) and § 1225(b)(2) of the INA. Section 1226(a) governs the arrest and detention of noncitizens already present in the United States pending removal proceedings, while § 1225(b)(2) governs the detention of

noncitizens arriving at the border or ports of entry. In enacting these provisions, Congress expressly recognized the greater due process rights of noncitizens residing within the United States as compared to those of “arriving” noncitizens. *See H.R. REP. 104-469*, pt. 1, at 163–66 (“an alien present in the U.S. has a constitutional liberty interest to remain in the U.S.”), citing *Knauff v. Shaughnessy*, 338 U.S. 537 (1950).

34. Consistent with this statutory framework, immigration agencies and courts have long applied § 1226(a)—not § 1225(b)(2)—to noncitizens apprehended inside the United States who were not seeking admission at the border. *See Maldonado v. Feely*, No. 25-cv-01542-RFB-EJY (D. Nev. Sept. 17, 2025) (“Despite being applicants for admission, aliens who are present without admission or parole will be eligible for bond and bond redetermination... inadmissible aliens, except for arriving aliens, have available to them bond redetermination hearings before an immigration judge, while arriving aliens do not.”) (citing *Inspection and Expedited Removal of Aliens*, 62 Fed. Reg. 10312, 10323 (Mar. 6, 1997)).

35. Nonetheless, on July 8, 2025, DHS issued a notice instructing ICE officers to detain all noncitizens “who have not been admitted” under § 1225(b)(2), regardless of where they were apprehended. *See ICE Memo: Interim Guidance Regarding Detention Authority for Applications for Admission*, AILA Doc. No. 25071607 (July 8, 2025). The Notice purports to eliminate bond eligibility for such individuals, directing that they “may not be released from ICE custody except by INA § 212(d)(5) parole.”

36. This expansive interpretation contradicts the statutory text, legislative history, and consistent judicial authority in multiple circuits. *See, e.g., Merino v. Noem*, No. 25-cv-23845 (S.D. Fla. Oct. 15, 2025), *Lopez-Campos v. Raycraft*, No. 2:25-CV-12486, 2025 WL 2496379 (E.D. Mich. Aug. 29, 2025); *Rodriguez v. Bostock*, 779 F. Supp. 3d 1239 (W.D. Wash. 2025); *Gomes v.*

*Hyde*, No. 1:25-cv-11571-JEK, 2025 WL 1869299 (D. Mass. July 7, 2025); *Bautista v. Santacruz*, No. 5:25-cv-01873-SSS-BFM (C.D. Cal. July 28, 2025); *Rosado v. Figueroa*, No. 2:25-cv-02157-DLR, 2025 WL 2337099 (D. Ariz. Aug. 11, 2025). Each of these courts rejected DHS's position and held that noncitizens residing in the United States when taken into custody are detained under § 1226(a) and therefore entitled to a bond hearing.

37. Petitioner, who has lived in the United States for about three (3) years and was apprehended well inside the country, is therefore not seeking admission. His detention under § 1225(b)(2) is unlawful. Because § 1226(a) governs his custody, Petitioner is entitled to a custody redetermination and to consideration for bond based on individualized factors. The government's continued reliance on § 1225(b)(2) to deny bond violates both the statute and Petitioner's constitutional right to due process.

**B. Petitioner's Continued Detention Violates His Substantive and Procedural Due Process Rights**

38. The Fifth Amendment guarantees that no person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law. U.S. CONST. amend. V. This protection extends to all persons within the United States—citizens and noncitizens alike—regardless of immigration status. *See Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 693 (2001). Because Petitioner has been detained for an extended period without a meaningful opportunity to seek release, his detention offends both procedural and substantive due process.

39. Civil immigration detention must always “bear[] a reasonable relation to the purpose for which the individual was committed.” *Demore v. Kim*, 538 U.S. 510, 527 (2003) (citing *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 690). The Supreme Court has made clear that there are only two plausible purposes for immigration detention: ensuring a non-citizen's appearance at his removal proceedings and/or preventing danger to the community. *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 690. Indeed, where

civil detention “is of potentially *indefinite* duration,” courts have “also demanded that the dangerousness rationale be accompanied by some other special circumstance.” *Id.* If immigration detention is not reasonably related to one of these purposes, it is essentially punitive and therefore violative of the Due Process Clause. *See id.*

40. To determine whether the Government’s procedures satisfy procedural due process, courts apply the three-part balancing test from *Mathews v. Eldridge*, 424 U.S. 319 (1976). *See Rodriguez Diaz v. Garland*, 53 F.4th 1189, 1206 (9th Cir. 2022). Under *Mathews*, courts consider: (1) the private interest affected by the government action; (2) the risk of erroneous deprivation of that interest through existing procedures and the probable value of additional safeguards; and (3) the government’s interest, including administrative or fiscal burdens of additional process. *Mathews*, 424 U.S. at 335. Each of these factors strongly favors Petitioner.

41. First, the Petitioner’s liberty interest is undoubtedly substantial. Freedom from physical constraint is “the most elemental of liberty interests.” *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld*, 542 U.S. 507, 525 (2004). Petitioner has been detained for almost a month without any individualized assessment of flight risk or danger despite his long residence in the United States, family ties, and lack of any disqualifying criminal record because the IJ refused to consider those factors, finding he lacked jurisdiction to set bond.

42. Second, the risk of erroneous deprivation is extreme. The IJ’s refusal to even consider bond, based on DHS’s position that Petitioner is subject to “mandatory detention” under §1225(b)(2), deprived him of the only procedural mechanism designed to test the necessity of his continued confinement. This result effectively transformed the bond hearing into an empty formality, denying Petitioner a meaningful opportunity to contest his detention. Courts have consistently held that procedures which categorically foreclose individualized review of detention

violate due process. *See Günaydin v. Trump*, No. 25-cv-1151, 2025 WL 1459154 (D. Minn. May 21, 2025) (describing DHS's unilateral detention authority as creating "not just a risk, but a likelihood" of erroneous deprivation).

43. Third, the Government's interests are adequately protected by the individualized bond determination procedure already contemplated by §1226(a). As the Ninth Circuit recognized in *Hernandez v. Sessions*, 872 F.3d 976, 994 (9th Cir. 2017), "the government has no legitimate interest in detaining individuals who have been determined not to be a danger to the community and whose appearance at future proceedings can be reasonably ensured by less restrictive conditions." Far from imposing any undue burden, allowing bond hearings for noncitizens apprehended inside the United States promotes fairness and efficiency.

44. Accordingly, under *Mathews*, the procedures used to detain Petitioner fail to satisfy procedural due process. The IJ's refusal to exercise jurisdiction, based solely on DHS's misclassification of Petitioner as subject to §1225(b)(2), constituted a denial of any meaningful opportunity to be heard. The Government's blanket invocation of "mandatory detention" cannot substitute for constitutionally required process.

45. Even apart from procedural deficiencies, Petitioner's continued confinement violates substantive due process. Government detention is constitutionally permissible only when it occurs in a criminal context with robust procedural protections, or in civil circumstances where a "special justification" outweighs the individual's liberty interest. *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 690. No such justification exists here.

46. Petitioner's confinement is purely civil and ostensibly intended to ensure his presence for removal proceedings. Yet the Government has offered no individualized justification for his ongoing detention, no finding that he poses a danger or flight risk, because the IJ never

reached those issues. Detaining a long-term Florida resident without such a finding serves no legitimate regulatory goal and instead amounts to impermissible punishment.

47. Respondents rely on *Matter of Yajure-Hurtado*, 28 I. & N. Dec. 1 (BIA 2025), to argue that the IJ lacked jurisdiction to consider bond under §1225(b)(2). That reliance is misplaced. As discussed *supra*, Petitioner was apprehended well inside the United States, after residing here for several years. He is therefore properly detained under §1226(a), which provides for discretionary release on bond. The BIA’s decision in *Yajure-Hurtado* cannot override Congress’s clear statutory distinction between §1225(b)(2) (governing those seeking admission at the border) and §1226(a) (governing those already present in the United States).

48. By adopting DHS’s erroneous interpretation, the IJ effectively denied Petitioner any opportunity for an individualized bond determination. This denial renders his continued detention arbitrary, indefinite, and unconstitutional. *See Rodriguez v. Bostock*, 779 F. Supp. 3d 1239 (W.D. Wash. 2025) (holding that detention of noncitizens apprehended within the U.S. under §1225(b)(2) violates due process and exceeds statutory authority).

49. Because Petitioner’s detention falls under §1226(a), he is entitled to a prompt and meaningful bond hearing at which the Government bears the burden to justify continued detention by clear and convincing evidence. The IJ’s refusal to conduct such a hearing, and DHS’s misapplication of *Yajure-Hurtado*, violated the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment.

**CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

**COUNT I**

**VIOLATION OF THE DUE PROCESS CLAUSE OF THE FIFTH AMENDMENT**  
**Substantive Due Process**

50. The Supreme Court has found that the “Due Process Clause applies to all persons within the United States, including [non-citizens], whether their presence is lawful, unlawful, temporary, or permanent.” *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 682.

51. Immigration detention must always “bear[] a reasonable relation to the purpose for which the individual was committed.” *Demore*, 538 U.S. at 527. Petitioner has been detained for almost a month without any individualized custody determination. At his initial bond hearing, the Immigration Judge declined to exercise jurisdiction, citing *Matter of Yajure-Hurtado*, 28 I. & N. Dec. 1 (BIA 2025), and therefore refused to assess whether Petitioner posed a danger or flight risk. As a result, Petitioner remains confined without any finding that his detention is necessary to serve a legitimate regulatory purpose. Such unexamined and indefinite detention bears no reasonable relation to ensuring appearance at removal proceedings or protecting public safety.

52. By categorically denying Petitioner the opportunity for individualized review, Respondents have transformed a civil regulatory scheme into punitive confinement in violation of substantive due process. The Fifth Amendment forbids detention that is arbitrary, excessive in relation to its purpose, or unsupported by individualized justification. *See Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 690. Because Petitioner has never been found to be a danger or flight risk, and because Respondents have provided no special justification for continued incarceration, his detention is not reasonably related to its purpose and thereby violates his due process rights.

## **COUNT II**

### **VIOLATION OF THE DUE PROCESS CLAUSE OF THE FIFTH AMENDMENT**

#### **Procedural Due Process**

53. Under *Mathews v. Eldridge*, 424 U.S. 319 (1976), courts evaluate whether adjudicatory procedures sufficiently protect individuals’ due process rights.

54. Petitioner has been denied any meaningful process to challenge his confinement. Although the Immigration Court scheduled a bond hearing, the Immigration Judge declined jurisdiction and refused to consider release, citing *Matter of Yajure-Hurtado*, 28 I. & N. Dec. 1 (BIA 2025). As a result, Petitioner was never afforded an individualized determination of whether he poses a danger or flight risk. Respondents' application of *Matter of Yajure-Hurtado* and the resulting refusal to hold a bond hearing violate the procedural component of the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment.

### **COUNT III**

#### **VIOLATION OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT, 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a)**

##### **No Authority to Detain**

55. 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) authorizes immigration detention only during pending removal proceedings. Respondents' reliance on § 1225(b)(2) to deny Petitioner a bond hearing and to classify him as subject to mandatory detention is contrary to the plain language and structure of the INA, as well as its legislative history and judicial interpretation.

56. Because Petitioner is not subject to mandatory detention, Respondents lack authority to detain him without providing a meaningful opportunity for release on bond. Continued confinement under § 1225(b)(2) exceeds the government's statutory authority and violates both the INA and the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment.

##### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Petitioner respectfully requests that this Court:

- a. Assume jurisdiction over this matter;
- b. Order, under the All Writs Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1651, that Respondents not transfer

Petitioner outside of the jurisdiction of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida during the pendency of this petition;

- b. Declare that Respondents' actions or omissions violate the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and/or the Immigration and Nationality Act;
- c. Order Respondents to provide Petitioner with a prompt and constitutionally adequate bond hearing before An Immigration Judge with jurisdiction under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), at which the Government bears the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that continued detention is justified;
- d. In the alternative, order Petitioner's immediate release from custody if a bond hearing is not held within fourteen (14) days of this Court's order;
- e. Award Petitioner reasonable fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act, 5 U.S. Code § 504;
- d. Grant any other further relief this Court deems just and proper.

This 5th day of November 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

BY: /s/ Felix A. Montanez  
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