

United States District Court
Eastern District of Michigan

Carlos Martinez Ramirez,

Petitioner,

Civil No. 25-13444

v.

Honorable Thomas L. Ludington
Mag. Judge Curtis Ivy Jr.

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

Respondents.

**Response to Petitioner's Urgent Notification of New Authority and
Class Membership**

Respondents submit this response to petitioner's notice regarding the class action certification and orders in *Maldonado Bautista v. Santacruz*, No. 5:25-CV-01873-SSS-BFM, 2025 WL 3288403, at *9 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 25, 2025).

The *Maldonado Bautista* court granted class certification under Rule 23(b)(2) and partial summary judgment for the petitioners in that case but did not issue a class-wide declaratory judgment. The court also did not issue a class-wide injunction, which would not be permitted by law. Rather, the court set a January 9, 2026, joint status report deadline and January 16, 2026, status conference. 2025 WL 3288403.

The *Maldonado Bautista* court defined the certified class as follows:

Bond Eligible Class: All noncitizens in the United States without lawful status who (1) have entered or will enter the United States without inspection; (2) were not or will not be apprehended upon arrival; and (3) are not or will not be subject to detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c), § 1225(b)(1), or § 1231 at the time the Department of Homeland Security makes an initial custody determination.

Maldonado, 2025 WL 3288403 at *9.

Petitioner is a member of the *Maldonado Bautista* class. Petitioner entered the United States without inspection; he was not apprehended upon arrival; he is not subject to detention under § 1226(c) (criminal aliens), § 1225(b)(1) (arriving alien), or § 1231 (post final order of removal) at the time the Department of Homeland Security made their initial custody determination.

Because Petitioner is a member of the *Maldonado Bautista* class, the Court should dismiss or, in the alternative, stay this action. Certification of a 23(b)(2) class precludes individual suits for the same injunctive or declaratory relief. *See U.S. v. Sanchez-Gomez*, 584 U.S. 381, 387 (2018) (noting that “[t]he certification of a suit as a class action has important consequences for the unnamed members of the class, including being “bound by the judgment”) (cleaned up); *Groseclose v. Dutton*, 829 F.2d 581, 584 (6th Cir. 1987) (holding that individual class member could not proceed in individual case); *see Gillespie v. Crawford*, 858 F.2d 1101, 1103 (5th Cir. 1988) (“To allow individual suits would interfere with the orderly administration of the class action and risk inconsistent adjudications.”). Thus, Petitioner, who is an

individual class member cannot bring claims seeking equitable relief in this action and the habeas petition should be dismissed.

Assuming for the sake of argument that the Court finds that Petitioner is a member of the *Maldonado Bautista* class, but that dismissal is not warranted, the *Maldonado Bautista* court's decision does not have preclusive effect in this matter. As noted above, the *Maldonado Bautista* court did not enter a final judgment with respect to the class. Although the court stated it was extending “the same declaratory relief” to the class, a court cannot grant declaratory relief prior to the entry of a final judgment, *i.e.*, a declaratory judgment. *See Doran v. Salem Inn, Inc.*, 422 U.S. 922, 931 (1975) (“prior to final judgment there is no established declaratory remedy comparable to a preliminary injunction”). A pre-final judgment declaration is, by its nature, not a declaratory judgment “[b]ecause a preliminary declaration—unlike a final declaration—does not specifically bind anyone, it is more akin to an advisory opinion, which the Court is precluded from issuing by history and the implicit policies embodied in Article III.” *Vazquez Perez v. Decker*, No. 18-CV-10683 (AJN), 2019 WL 4784950, at *10 (S.D.N.Y. Sept. 30, 2019).

Absent an entry of final judgment with respect to the class, or a certification of partial final judgment under Rule 54(b), there is no declaratory judgment in *Maldonado Bautista*. The partial summary judgment ruling does not operate as a “judgment” because it is not an appealable order and “does not end the action as to

any of the claims or parties and may be revised at any time before the entry of a judgment adjudicating all the claims and all the parties' rights and liabilities." Fed. R. Civ. P. 54(a), (b). Thus, there is no class-wide judgment, let alone any final judgment that could have preclusive effect as to class members.

In short, the *Maldonado Bautista* court did not enter a class-wide judgment. As such, there is currently no declaratory relief, let alone relief with preclusive effect on *Maldonado Bautista* class members' claims concerning the proper interpretation of 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A)'s mandatory detention provision.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 4, 2025

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that on December 4, 2025, I electronically filed the foregoing paper with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, which will send notification of such filing to the parties of record.

/s/ Zak Toomey _____

Zak Toomey

Assistant U.S. Attorney