



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney's Office
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Civil Division

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BY ECF

Hon. Esther Salas, U.S.D.J.
U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey
50 Walnut Street
Newark, NJ 07102

**Re: *Cruz Coreas v. Soto*, 25-17234
Response to Request for Immediate Release**

Dear Judge Salas:

This Office represents Respondents in the above habeas matter. We write in response to the Court's December 19, 2025, text order, ECF No. 5, and to update the Court on Petitioner's detention authority. Respondents were timely notified of this action but, due to an administrative error concerning the assigning and tracking of this action, we inadvertently missed the answer deadline. We apologize for the oversight and to Petitioner and counsel for the mistake. Our Office takes adherence to court orders very seriously, and time-sensitive matters implicating constitutional liberty interests are the highest priority of the Civil Division. Since this and a small number of recent oversights, we have devoted additional resources to the calendaring and assigning of immigration habeas deadlines to ensure timely responses to orders to answer.

As to the merits, Respondents confirm that Petitioner is detained under § 1225(b)(2), and accordingly, under this Court's decisions, is entitled to a bond hearing. In terms of scheduling a bond hearing, ICE has informed this Office that the immigration courts are closed on December 24, 25, and 26. Because of the missed deadline to answer the petition, and the upcoming immigration court closures, Respondents ask the Court to enter any order it deems just under the circumstances.

We thank the Court for its attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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U.S. Deputy Attorney General

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Chief of Staff &
Associate Deputy Attorney General
Special Attorney

By: *s/ Alex Silagi*
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cc: Counsel of record (by ECF)