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Chuny Touch



Otay Mesa Detention Center
P.O. Box 439049
San Diego, CA 92143-9049

Pro Se¹

FILED
Nov 12 2025
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
BY *s/ Anthony Hazard* DEPUTY

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

CHUNY TOUCH,
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.: '25CV3118 RBM AHG

**Notice of motion and memorandum
of law in support of temporary
restraining order**

¹ Mr. Touch is filing this motion, habeas petition, and all associated documents with the assistance of the Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc. Federal Defenders has consistently used this procedure in seeking appointment for immigration habeas cases.

1
2 **I. Introduction**

3 Petitioner Chuny Touch faces immediate irreparable harm: (1) revocation
4 of his release on immigration supervision after five years of living in the
5 community, despite ICE's failure to follow its own revocation procedures;
6 (2) indefinite immigration detention with no individualized, significantly likely
7 prospect of removal to Cambodia in the reasonably foreseeable future; and
8 (3) potential removal to a prison in an unidentified, potentially dangerous third
9 country never considered by an IJ. This Court should grant temporary relief of his
10 release on his pre-existing order of supervision to preserve the status quo.

11 Mr. Touch has spent the last five years in the community on an order of
12 supervision. Throughout that time, the government has proved unable to remove
13 him to Cambodia. Yet on August 21, 2025, the government re-detained him when
14 he appeared as scheduled at his check-in. ICE gave him no opportunity to contest
15 his re-detention, and did not identify changed circumstances justifying it. ICE
16 does not appear to have a travel document in hand. Worse yet, in the case that ICE
17 still proves unable to remove Mr. Touch to Cambodia, ICE's own policies allow
18 ICE to remove him to a third country never before considered by an IJ, with either
19 6-to-24 hours' notice or no notice at all.

20 Mr. Touch is facing both unlawful detention and a threat of removal to a
21 dangerous third country without due process. The requested temporary restraining
22 order ("TRO") would preserve the status quo while Petitioner litigates these
23 claims by (1) reinstating Mr. Touch's release on supervision, and (2) prohibiting
24 the government from removing him to a third country without an opportunity to
25 file a motion to reopen with an IJ.

26 In granting this motion, this Court would not break new ground. Courts in
27 this district and around the Ninth Circuit have granted TROs or preliminary
28 injunctions mandating release for post-final-removal-order immigrants like

1 Petitioner. *See, e.g., Sun v. Noem*, 2025 WL 2800037, No. 25-cv-2433-CAB (S.D.
2 Cal. Sept. 30, 2025); *Van Nguyen v. Noem*, 2025 WL 2770623, No. 25-cv-2334-
3 JES, *3 (S.D. Cal. Sept. 29, 2025); *Truong v. Noem*, No. 25-cv-02597-JES, ECF
4 No. 10 (S.D. Cal. Oct. 10, 2025); *Khambounheuang v. Noem*, No. 25-cv-02575-
5 JO-SBC, ECF No. 12 (S.D. Cal. Oct. 9, 2025); *see also, e.g., Phetsadakone v.*
6 *Scott*, 2025 WL 2579569, at *6 (W.D. Wash. Sept. 5, 2025); *Hoac v. Becerra*, No.
7 2:25-CV-01740-DC-JDP, 2025 WL 1993771, at *7 (E.D. Cal. July 16, 2025);
8 *Ngueyn v. Beccerra*, No. 2:25-CV-01757-DC-JDP, 2025 WL 1993735, at *7
9 (E.D. Cal. July 16, 2025); *Nguyen v. Scott*, No. 2:25-CV-01398, 2025 WL
10 2419288, at *29 (W.D. Wash. Aug. 21, 2025). These courts have determined that,
11 for these long-term releasees, liberty is the status quo, and only a return to that
12 status quo can avert irreparable harm.

13 Courts have likewise granted temporary restraining orders preventing third-
14 country removals without due process. *See, e.g., Van Nguyen v. Noem*, 2025 WL
15 2770623 at *3; *Nguyen v. Noem*, No. 25-cv-2391-BTM, ECF No. 6 (S.D. Cal.
16 Sept. 18, 2025); *Louangmilith v. Noem*, 2025 WL 2881578, No. 25-cv-2502-JES,
17 *4 (S.D. Cal. Oct. 9, 2025); *see also, e.g., J.R. v. Bostock*, 25-cv-01161-JNW,
18 2025 WL 1810210 (W.D. Wash. Jun. 30, 2025); *Vaskanyan v. Janecka*, 25-cv-
19 01475-MRA-AS, 2025 WL 2014208 (C.D. Cal. Jun. 25, 2025); *Ortega v. Kaiser*,
20 25-cv-05259-JST, 2025 WL 1771438 (N.D. Cal. June 26, 2025); *Hoac v. Becerra*,
21 No. 2:25-CV-01740-DC-JDP, 2025 WL 1993771, at *7 (E.D. Cal. July 16, 2025);
22 *Nguyen v. Beccerra*, No. 2:25-CV-01757-DC-JDP, 2025 WL 1993735, at *7
23 (E.D. Cal. July 16, 2025).

24 Mr. Touch therefore respectfully requests that this Court grant this TRO.
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1 **II. Statement of Facts**

2 **A. Mr. Touch is ordered removed, held in ICE custody, and**
3 **released as ICE proves unable to deport him for the next 25**
4 **years, until he is arrested at his annual ICE check-in.**

5 In 1984, Mr. Touch fled Cambodia and entered the United States as a
6 refugee. Declaration of Chuny Touch, Exhibit A (“Exh. A”) ¶ 1. He soon obtained
7 a green card. *Id.*

8 In 1995, Mr. Touch was convicted of second-degree murder and attempted
9 murder. *Id.* at ¶ 2. As a result of this conviction, Mr. Touch was placed in removal
10 proceedings. *Id.* at ¶ 2. An immigration judge ordered him removed on June 16,
11 2020. *Id.* at ¶ 3.

12 But ICE was not able to effectuate Mr. Touch’s removal to Cambodia. For
13 three months, ICE tried and failed to obtain travel documents for him. *Id.* at ¶ 4.
14 Finally, ICE released him on an order of supervision. *Id.* In the years since his
15 removal order, Mr. Touch has never missed a check-in appointment and has no
16 new criminal convictions. *Id.* at ¶ 5.

17 On August 21, 2025, ICE officials arrested Mr. Touch during his annual
18 check in appointment. *Id.* at ¶ 6. They did not provide him any notice or give him
19 an interview or an opportunity to contest his detention. *Id.*

20 **B. The government is carrying out deportations to third countries**
21 **without providing sufficient notice and opportunity to be heard.**

22 When removable immigrants cannot be removed to their home country,
23 ICE has begun deporting those individuals to third countries without adequate
24 notice or a hearing. As explained in greater detail in Petitioner’s habeas petition,
25 the Administration has reportedly negotiated with countries to have many of these
26 deportees imprisoned in prisons, camps, or other facilities. For example, the
27 government paid El Salvador about \$5 million to imprison more than 200
28 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

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

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

26 Under the new guidance, ICE may remove any immigrant to a third country
27 “without the need for further procedures,” as long as—in the view of the State
28 Department—the United States has received “credible” “assurances” from that

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

13 Argument

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

1 (9th Cir. 2011). A TRO may be granted where there are “serious questions going
2 to the merits’ and a hardship balance. . . tips sharply toward the plaintiff,” and so
3 long as the other *Winter* factors are met. *Id.* at 1132.

4 Here, this Court should issue a temporary restraining order and an
5 injunction because “immediate and irreparable injury . . . or damage” is occurring
6 and will continue in the absence of an order. Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(b). Not only have
7 Respondents re-detained Petitioner in violation of his due process, statutory, and
8 regulatory rights. ICE policy also allows them to remove him to a third country in
9 violation of his due process, statutory, and regulatory rights. This Court should
10 order Petitioner’s release and enjoin removal to a third country.

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

13 **A. Petitioner is likely to succeed on the merits of his claim that ICE**
14 **violated its own regulations.**

15 The regulations set forth the procedures for someone who, like Petitioner, is
16 re-detained following a period of release. Under 8 C.F.R. § 241.4(l), ICE may re-
17 detain an immigrant on supervision only with an interview and a chance to contest
18 a re-detention. When an immigrant is specifically released after giving good
19 reason why they cannot be removed, additional regulations apply: ICE may
20 revoke a noncitizen’s release and return them to ICE custody due to failure to
21 comply with conditions of release, 8 C.F.R. § 241.13(i)(1), or if, “on account of
22 changed circumstances,” a noncitizen likely can be removed in the reasonably
23 foreseeable future. *Id.* § 241.13(i)(2).

24 The regulations further provide noncitizens with a chance to contest a re-
25 detention decision. ICE must “notif[y] [the person] of the reasons for revocation
26 of his or her release.” *Id.* § 241.13(i)(3). ICE must then “conduct an initial
27 informal interview promptly” after re-detention “to afford the alien an opportunity
28 to respond to the reasons for revocation stated in the notification.” *Id.* During the

1 interview, the person “may submit any evidence or information” showing that the
2 prerequisites to re-detention have not been met, and the interviewer must evaluate
3 “any contested facts.” *Id.*

4 ICE is required to follow its own regulations. *United States ex rel. Accardi*
5 *v. Shaughnessy*, 347 U.S. 260, 268 (1954); *see Alcaraz v. INS*, 384 F.3d 1150,
6 1162 (9th Cir. 2004) (“The legal proposition that agencies may be required to
7 abide by certain internal policies is well-established.”). A court may review a re-
8 detention decision for compliance with the regulations. *See Nguyen v. Beccerra*,
9 No. 2:25-CV-01757, 2025 WL 1993735, at *3 (E.D. Cal. July 16, 2025); *Nguyen*
10 *v. Hyde*, No. 25-cv-11470-MJJ, 2025 WL 1725791, at *3 (D. Mass. June 20,
11 2025) (citing *Kong v. United States*, 62 F.4th 608, 620 (1st Cir. 2023)).

12 None of the prerequisites to detention apply here. Since ICE last tried to
13 deport him in 2020, Petitioner has not missed a check-in appointment and has no
14 new criminal convictions. And there are no changed circumstances that justify re-
15 detaining him. ICE already tried—and failed—to remove Petitioner and has given
16 Petitioner no indication that agents have a travel document in hand for him. Of
17 course, ICE may be planning to renew their request for a travel document from
18 Cambodia. But absent any evidence for “why obtaining a travel document is more
19 likely this time around[,] Respondents’ intent to eventually complete a travel
20 document request for Petitioner does not constitute a changed circumstance.”
21 *Hoac v. Beccerra*, No. 2:25-CV-01740-DC-JDP, 2025 WL 1993771, at *4 (E.D.
22 Cal. July 16, 2025) (citing *Liu v. Carter*, No. 25-3036-JWL, 2025 WL 1696526,
23 at *2 (D. Kan. June 17, 2025)). Nor has Petitioner received an interview where he
24 was able to respond to the purported “reasons” for his revocation.

25 “[B]ecause officials did not properly revoke petitioner's release pursuant to
26 the applicable regulations,” this Court will likely find that “petitioner is entitled to
27 his release” on an order of supervision. *Liu*, 2025 WL 1696526, at *3.
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C. Petitioner is likely to succeed on the merits of his claim that his detention violates *Zadvydas*.

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

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

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

Here, Petitioner was ordered removed more than six months ago, as his removal order became final in 2020. Touch Dec. at ¶ 3. Thus, it is clear that the *Zadvydas* grace period has ended.

1 There is also strong evidence that there is no “significant likelihood of
2 removal in the reasonably foreseeable future.” *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 701.
3 Cambodia refused to accept Mr. Touch for three months when he was detained in
4 2020. Touch Dec. at ¶ 4, 5. Nothing has changed since the last time ICE
5 attempted to deport him. And to date, there is no indication that ICE has obtained
6 a travel document.

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

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

12 **D. Petitioner is likely to succeed on the merits of his claim that he is**
13 **entitled to adequate notice and an opportunity to be heard prior**
14 **to any third country removal.**

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

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

26 Similarly, Congress codified protections in the CAT prohibiting the
27 government from removing a person to a country where they would be tortured.
28 *See* FARRA 2681-822 (codified as 8 U.S.C. § 1231 note) (“It shall be the policy

1 of the United States not to expel, extradite, or otherwise effect the involuntary
2 return of any person to a country in which there are substantial grounds for
3 believing the person would be in danger of being subjected to torture, regardless
4 of whether the person is physically present in the United States.”); 28 C.F.R.
5 § 200.1; *id.* §§ 208.16-208.18, 1208.16-1208.18.

6 To comport with due process, the government must provide notice of third
7 country removal and an opportunity to respond. Due process requires “written
8 notice of the country being designated” and “the statutory basis for the
9 designation, i.e., the applicable subsection of § 1231(b)(2).” *Aden v. Nielsen*, 409
10 F. Supp. 3d 998, 1019 (W.D. Wash. 2019); *accord D.V.D. v. U.S. Dep’t of*
11 *Homeland Sec.*, No. 25-cv-10676-BEM, 2025 WL 1453640, at *1 (D. Mass. May
12 21, 2025); *Andriasian v. INS*, 180 F.3d 1033, 1041 (9th Cir. 1999).

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

22 If the noncitizen claims fear, measures must be taken to ensure that the
23 noncitizen can seek asylum, withholding, and relief under CAT before an
24 immigration judge in reopened removal proceedings. The amount and type of
25 notice must be “sufficient” to ensure that “given [a noncitizen’s] capacities and
26 circumstances, he would have a reasonable opportunity to raise and pursue his
27 claim for withholding of deportation.” *Aden*, 409 F. Supp. 3d at 1009
28 (citing *Mathews v. Eldridge*, 424 U.S. 319, 349 (1976) and *Kossov v. I.N.S.*, 132

1 F.3d 405, 408 (7th Cir. 1998)); *cf. D.V.D.*, 2025 WL 1453640, at *1 (requiring a
2 minimum of 15 days’ notice). “[L]ast minute” notice of the country of removal
3 will not suffice, *Andriasian*, 180 F.3d at 1041; *accord Najjar v. Lunch*, 630 Fed.
4 App’x 724 (9th Cir. 2016), and for good reason: To have a meaningful
5 opportunity to apply for fear-based protection, immigrants must have time to
6 prepare and present relevant arguments and evidence. Merely telling a person
7 where they may be sent, without giving them a chance to look into country
8 conditions, does not give them a meaningful chance to determine whether and
9 why they have a credible fear.

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

21 Faced with similar arguments, several courts have recently granted
22 individual TROs against removal to third countries. *See J.R.*, 2025 WL 1810210;
23 *Vaskanyan*, 2025 WL 2014208; *Ortega*, 2025 WL 1771438; *Hoac*, 2025 WL
24 1993771, at *7; *Nguyen*, 2025 WL 1993735, at *7.

25 **III. Petitioner will suffer irreparable harm absent injunctive relief.**

26 Petitioner also meets the second factor, irreparable harm. “It is well
27 established that the deprivation of constitutional rights ‘unquestionably constitutes
28 irreparable injury.’” *Melendres v. Arpaio*, 695 F.3d 990, 1002 (9th Cir. 2012)

1 (quoting *Elrod v. Burns*, 427 U.S. 347, 373 (1976)). Where the “alleged
2 deprivation of a constitutional right is involved, most courts hold that no further
3 showing of irreparable injury is necessary.” *Warsoldier v. Woodford*, 418 F.3d
4 989, 1001-02 (9th Cir. 2005) (quoting 11A Charles Alan Wright et al., *Federal*
5 *Practice and Procedure*, § 2948.1 (2d ed. 2004)).

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

16
17 **IV. The balance of hardships and the public interest weigh heavily in
petitioner’s favor.**

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

1 law, . . . the balance of hardships and public interest factors weigh in favor of a
2 preliminary injunction.”). On the other hand, Petitioner faces weighty hardships:
3 unlawful, indefinite detention and removal to a third country where he is likely to
4 suffer imprisonment or serious harm. The balance of equities thus favors
5 preventing the violation of “requirements of federal law,” *Arizona Dream Act*
6 *Coal. v. Brewer*, 757 F.3d 1053, 1069 (9th Cir. 2014), by granting emergency
7 relief to protect against unlawful detention and unlawful third country removal.

8 **V. Petitioner gave the government notice of this TRO, and the TRO should**
9 **remain in place throughout habeas litigation.**

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

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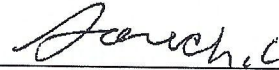
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Conclusion

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

DATED: 11.9.25

Respectfully submitted,



CHUNY TOUCH

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: 11-12-25


Kara Hartzler

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Chuny Touch



Otay Mesa Detention Center
P.O. Box 439049
San Diego, CA 92143-9049

Pro Se

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

CHUNY TOUCH,

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.:

**[PROPOSED] ORDER
GRANTING PETITIONER'S
MOTION FOR A TEMPORARY
RESTRAINING ORDER**

Upon consideration of Petitioner Chuny Touch's Motion for a Temporary Restraining Order ("TRO") and injunction and all material submitted in support thereof and in opposition thereto (if applicable), and the applicable law, it is hereby ORDERED that the motion is GRANTED.

Until further order of this Court, Respondents are hereby ordered to:

- (1) Immediately release Petitioner from custody;
- (2) Restore Petitioner to the status quo prior to his re-detention by reinstating his prior order of supervision;

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(3) Provide the following process prior to removal to a country other than the country or countries designated during immigration proceedings as the country of removal on the non-citizen's order of removal, *see D.V.D. v. U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec.*, No. CV 25-10676-BEM, 2025 WL 1453640, at *1 (D. Mass. May 21, 2025):

- a. written notice to both Petitioner and Petitioner's counsel in a language Petitioner can understand;
- b. a meaningful opportunity, **and a minimum of ten days**, to raise a fear-based claim for CAT protection prior to removal;
- c. if he is found to have demonstrated "reasonable fear" of removal to the country, Respondents must move to reopen Petitioner's immigration proceedings;
- d. if Petitioner is not found to have demonstrated a "reasonable fear" of removal to the country, a meaningful opportunity, **and a minimum of fifteen days**, for the Petitioner to seek reopening of his immigration proceedings.

Because the same considerations justifying this TRO will continue to affect Petitioner throughout the time he litigates his habeas petition, and because the petition will be resolved promptly, this Court finds good cause under Fed. R. Civ. Pro. 65(b)(2) to extend this TRO beyond 14 days. This Court therefore **ORDERS** that this TRO is effective until this Court issues a final decision on Petitioner's habeas petition or until further order of the Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED

Dated this ____ day of _____ 2025.

United States District Judge _____