



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**BY ECF**

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

**Re: *Chen v. Rokosky*, No. 25-17580  
Answer to § 2241 Petition**

Dear Judge Padin:

This Office represents Respondents in this habeas matter filed by a noncitizen challenging the legality of his detention by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2). We respectfully submit this letter response in light of the Court’s recent decision in *Lomeu v. Lyons*, No. 25-16589 (EP), 2025 WL 2981296 (D.N.J. Oct. 23, 2025) and its memorandum order in *Moreira Da Silva v. LaForge*, No. 25-17095 (EP), ECF No. 6 (D.N.J. Nov. 13, 2025).

Respondents stipulate to the following facts asserted in the Petition. Petitioner is a native of China. Pet. ¶ 1. He entered the United States in November 2023 without having been paroled or admitted. *Id.* ¶¶ 1, 16. On November 13, 2025, ICE officers arrested Petitioner. *Id.* ¶ 18. ICE has detained Petitioner since November 13, 2025. *Id.* ¶ 2. Petitioner is in ICE detention without bond because ICE considers him an “applicant for admission” under § 1225(b)(2). *See Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I&N Dec. 215 (BIA 2025). *Id.* ¶¶ 4, 24, 25, 26. Petitioner argues his detention without bond under § 1225(b)(2) is unlawful and he seeks either immediate release or a bond hearing under § 1226(a). *Id.*, Prayer for Relief ¶¶ 3, 4. Petitioner was detained in New Jersey when he filed the Petition. *Id.* ¶¶ 2, 10.

Respondents contend, as it did in *Lomeu*, that the Petitioner’s detention is governed by § 1225(b)(2) because he is an alien who entered without inspection or parole and was initially detained by immigration authorities in the interior of the country without having been lawfully admitted. As such, he is an “applicant for admission” who is not entitled to a bond hearing. *See Lomeu v. Lyons*, Civ. No. 25-16589 (EP), ECF No. 7, Gov’ts’ Br. at 9-18 (citing *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*).

Respondents also contend that the only remedy, if the Court finds § 1225 does not apply, is a bond hearing under § 1226(a) not immediate release. *See id.*

In *Lomeu*, the Court disagreed with *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*. The Court sided with the many courts around the country that have concluded that § 1225(b)(2) applied exclusively to encounters at the border, while 1226(a) applies to aliens, like Petitioner, who were already present in the country, albeit unlawfully, at the time of their encounter with immigration authorities.

Here, Respondents acknowledge that their answer to this Petition relies on the same statutory arguments made in *Lomeu*, and this Petition asserts the same relevant facts as those in *Lomeu*. Given the similar issues, the importance of efficient resolution of this habeas petition, and the preservation of the Court's and the parties' resources, Respondents incorporate by reference their position in *Lomeu*.<sup>1</sup>

We thank the Court for its attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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cc: Counsel of record (by ECF)

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<sup>1</sup> In recent matters, the Court has summarily adjudicated § 1225(b)(2) habeas matters without requiring a formal answer because Respondents stipulated to material facts and legal issues. *See Moreira Da Silva v. LaForge*, No. 25-17095 (EP), ECF No. 6 (D.N.J. Nov. 13, 2025) (ordering bond hearing following status conference); *Vicens-Marquez v. Soto*, No. 25-16906 (KSH), ECF No. 15 (same).