

AO 242 (Rev. 09/17) Petition for a Writ of Habeas Corpus Under 28 U.S.C. § 2241

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the Western District of Louisiana

RECEIVED U.S. DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA NOV 20 2025

Carolina Herrera Soriano

Petitioner

v.

Case No. 25-cr-174 (Supplied by Clerk of Court) DANIEL J. MCCOY, CLERK

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Respondent (name of warden or authorized person having custody of petitioner)

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS UNDER 28 U.S.C. § 2241

Personal Information

- 1. (a) Your full name: Carolina Herrera Soriano (b) Other names you have used:
2. Place of confinement: (a) Name of institution: South Louisiana ICE Processing Center (b) Address: 3843 E Stagg Avenue, Basile LA 70515
3. (c) Your identification number: A# [redacted] Are you currently being held on orders by: [redacted]
4. Are you currently: [redacted] Immigration and Customs Enforcement ICE Detention
Are you currently: [redacted] A pretrial detainee (waiting for trial on criminal charges) [redacted] Serving a sentence (incarceration, parole, probation, etc.) after having been convicted of a crime
If you are currently serving a sentence, provide: (a) Name and location of court that sentenced you: (b) Docket number of criminal case: (c) Date of sentencing:
[redacted] Being held on an immigration charge [redacted] Other (explain): ICE mandatory detention. In removal proceedings under section 240 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Decision or Action You Are Challenging

- 5. What are you challenging in this petition: [redacted] How your sentence is being carried out, calculated, or credited by prison or parole authorities (for example, revocation or calculation of good time credits)


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- Pretrial detention
- Immigration detention
- Detainer
- The validity of your conviction or sentence as imposed (for example, sentence beyond the statutory maximum or improperly calculated under the sentencing guidelines)
- Disciplinary proceedings
- Other (explain): _____

6. Provide more information about the decision or action you are challenging:

(a) Name and location of the agency or court: U.S. Immigration and Customs

Enforcement

(b) Docket number, case number, or opinion number: A# 

(c) Decision or action you are challenging (for disciplinary proceedings, specify the penalties imposed):

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement refusing to release me from immigration detention. I am being illegally detained in immigration custody; my mandatory detention is unreasonable over 137 days after final removal order.

(d) Date of the decision or action: June 30th 2025

Your Earlier Challenges of the Decision or Action

7. **First appeal**

Did you appeal the decision, file a grievance, or seek an administrative remedy?

Yes No

(a) If "Yes," provide:

(1) Name of the authority, agency, or court: _____

(2) Date of filing: _____

(3) Docket number, case number, or opinion number: _____

(4) Result: _____

(5) Date of result: _____

(6) Issues raised: _____

(b) If you answered "No," explain why you did not appeal: Detainee willfully wishes to

depart from the United States pursuant to the final order of the immigration judge of removal.

8. **Second appeal**

After the first appeal, did you file a second appeal to a higher authority, agency, or court?

Yes No

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(a) If "Yes," provide:

(1) Name of the authority, agency, or court: _____

(2) Date of filing: _____

(3) Docket number, case number, or opinion number: _____

(4) Result: _____

(5) Date of result: _____

(6) Issues raised: _____

(b) If you answered "No," explain why you did not file a second appeal: _____

9. **Third appeal**

After the second appeal, did you file a third appeal to a higher authority, agency, or court?

Yes

No

(a) If "Yes," provide:

(1) Name of the authority, agency, or court: _____

(2) Date of filing: _____

(3) Docket number, case number, or opinion number: _____

(4) Result: _____

(5) Date of result: _____

(6) Issues raised: _____

(b) If you answered "No," explain why you did not file a third appeal: _____

10. **Motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255**

In this petition, are you challenging the validity of your conviction or sentence as imposed?

Yes

No

If "Yes," answer the following:

(a) Have you already filed a motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 that challenged this conviction or sentence?

Yes

No

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If "Yes," provide:

- (1) Name of court: _____
- (2) Case number: _____
- (3) Date of filing: _____
- (4) Result: _____
- (5) Date of result: _____
- (6) Issues raised: _____

(b) Have you ever filed a motion in a United States Court of Appeals under 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3)(A), seeking permission to file a second or successive Section 2255 motion to challenge this conviction or sentence?

Yes No

If "Yes," provide:

- (1) Name of court: _____
- (2) Case number: _____
- (3) Date of filing: _____
- (4) Result: _____
- (5) Date of result: _____
- (6) Issues raised: _____

(c) Explain why the remedy under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 is inadequate or ineffective to challenge your conviction or sentence: _____

11. Appeals of immigration proceedings

Does this case concern immigration proceedings?

Yes No

If "Yes," provide:

- (a) Date you were taken into immigration custody: _____
- (b) Date of the removal or reinstatement order: 06/30/2025
- (c) Did you file an appeal with the Board of Immigration Appeals?

Yes No

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If "Yes," provide:

- (1) Date of filing: _____
 - (2) Case number: _____
 - (3) Result: _____
 - (4) Date of result: _____
 - (5) Issues raised: _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

(d) Did you appeal the decision to the United States Court of Appeals?

Yes No

If "Yes," provide:

- (1) Name of court: _____
 - (2) Date of filing: _____
 - (3) Case number: _____
 - (4) Result: _____
 - (5) Date of result: _____
 - (6) Issues raised: _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

12. **Other appeals**

Other than the appeals you listed above, have you filed any other petition, application, or motion about the issues raised in this petition?

Yes No

If "Yes," provide:

- (a) Kind of petition, motion, or application: _____
 - (b) Name of the authority, agency, or court: _____
 - (c) Date of filing: _____
 - (d) Docket number, case number, or opinion number: _____
 - (e) Result: _____
 - (f) Date of result: _____
 - (g) Issues raised: _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

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Grounds for Your Challenge in This Petition

- 13. State every ground (reason) that supports your claim that you are being held in violation of the Constitution, laws, or treaties of the United States. Attach additional pages if you have more than four grounds. State the facts supporting each ground. Any legal arguments must be submitted in a separate memorandum.

GROUND ONE: Violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)(6)

(a) Supporting facts (Be brief. Do not cite cases or law.):

I have been detained by ICE beyond the removal period authorized by statute. ICE is not likely to remove me in the near future. See attached memorandum with additional specific facts.

Question (b) below is not applicable

(b) Did you present Ground One in all appeals that were available to you?

Yes No

GROUND TWO: Violation of due process clause of the first amendment to the U.S. Constitution

(a) Supporting facts (Be brief. Do not cite cases or law.):

ICE is depriving me of my right to liberty/freedom. I have been detained by ICE for a prolonged period. See attached memorandum with additional specific facts.

Question (b) below is not applicable.

(b) Did you present Ground Two in all appeals that were available to you?

Yes No

GROUND THREE:

(a) Supporting facts (Be brief. Do not cite cases or law.):

(b) Did you present Ground Three in all appeals that were available to you?

Yes No

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GROUND FOUR:

(a) Supporting facts *(Be brief. Do not cite cases or law.):*

(b) Did you present Ground Four in all appeals that were available to you?

Yes No

14. If there are any grounds that you did not present in all appeals that were available to you, explain why you did not: This is not applicable in this matter

Request for Relief

15. State exactly what you want the court to do: Order my immediate release from ICE custody. Terminate my mandatory detention.

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Declaration Under Penalty Of Perjury

If you are incarcerated, on what date did you place this petition in the prison mail system:

I declare under penalty of perjury that I am the petitioner, I have read this petition or had it read to me, and the information in this petition is true and correct. I understand that a false statement of a material fact may serve as the basis for prosecution for perjury.

Date: 11/7/25



Signature of Petitioner

Signature of Attorney or other authorized person, if any

25-cv-1794

Carolina Herrera Soriano
South Louisiana ICE Processing Center
3843 East Stagg Avenue
Basile, LA 70515

RECEIVED
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA
NOV 20 2025

BY: DANIEL J. McCOY CLERK
KW

DETAINED

PRO SE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW
IMMIGRATION COURT
BASILE, LOUISIANA

File No. A 

In the Matter of:
Carolina Herrera Soriano

In removal proceedings.

United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana

**RESPONDENT'S BRIEF / MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN SUPPORT OF PETITION FOR A
WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS UNDER 28 U.S.C. § 2241**

INTRODUCTION

- Petitioner, Herrera Soriano, Carolina, petitions this Court for a writ of Habeas corpus to remedy Petitioner's indefinite detention by Respondents. Petitioner submits this Memorandum of Law in Support of the Petition for a Writ of Habeas Corpus.
- As the Supreme Court held in *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678 (2001), non-citizens cannot be detained indefinitely if the government is unable to carry out their removal. Instead, detention after a final order of removal is authorized only when removal is reasonably foreseeable. As a guide to courts, the Court in *Zadvydas* established a presumption that detention after final order of removal was permissible for the six months. Detention after a final order may be unlawful even when six months have not passed, particularly if it is clear that the United States will not be able to effect a non-citizen's removal. But after that six-month period, once a non-citizen provides "good reason to believe that there is no significant likelihood of removal in the reasonably foreseeable future, the Government must respond with evidence sufficient to rebut that showing." And the longer a non-citizen has been detained, the stronger the government's showing must be.
- Petitioner is entitled to release under the framework of *Zadvydas* unless the government promptly demonstrates that there is a significant likelihood of removal in the reasonably foreseeable future.
- Petitioner respectfully requests that the Court use its authority under 28 U.S.C. § 2243 to order the Respondents to file a return within three days, unless they can show good cause for additional time. See 28 U.S.C. § 2243 (stating that an order to show cause why a petition for a writ of Habeas corpus should be denied is returnable "within three days unless for good cause additional time, not exceeding twenty days, is allowed"). In order to permit full judicial review of the claims herein and requested relief, Petitioner respectfully request that the Court order Respondents not to transfer Petitioner outside the jurisdiction of this Court pending consideration of this Petition.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

- Petitioner was born in: Cuba
- Petitioner entered the United States legally on or about: September 1997
- An Immigration Judge granted Petitioner a status "Withholding of Removal" on or about June 30th 2025.
- Regarding Appeals: Petitioner did not file an appeal with the Board of Immigration Appeals ("BIA").
- Petitioner has cooperated fully with all of ICE's efforts to remove Petitioner. Petitioner has cooperated with ICE in the following ways: endless written/documented requests through the internal system of communication that is monitored by the Deportation Officers.
- Petitioner has cooperated with ICE by providing information about Petitioner's country of birth and country of citizenship.
- Petitioner has cooperated with ICE by providing fingerprints, and other identification documents including original of Petitioner's passport information.
- Nonetheless, ICE has been unable to remove Petitioner from the United States. ICE is unlikely to remove Petitioner in the reasonably foreseeable future.
- Petitioner is not a citizen of the country ICE is seeking to deport her to Cuba or a third country.
- Petitioner has certain health conditions that make international travel risky to her health. Petitioner suffers from: asthma, bipolar disorder and serious heart conditions. She has unexpected chronic anemia, which means she needs blood transfusions throughout the year.
- Regarding Petitioner Detention: petitioner was detained while Petitioner's immigration claims were pending for many months.
- If released, Petitioner will be supported by family and friends in the United States.

ARGUMENT

This action arises under the Constitution of the United States and the Immigration and Nationality Act (“INA”) §§ 101-507, 8 U.S.C. § 1101-1537, amended by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, Pub. L.No. 104-208, 110 Stat. 3009-1570.

This Court has Jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 2241, the Suspension Clause, U.S. Const. art. I § 9, cl. 2, and 28 U.S.C. § 1331, as Petitioner is presently in custody under color of the authority of the United States, and Petitioner's custody is in violation of the Constitution, laws, of treaties of the United States. *See Zadvydas*, 566 U.S. 678. This Court may grant relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 (habeas corpus), 5 U.S.C. § 702 (establishing the right of review for a person suffering a legal wrong due to agency action), and 28 U.S.C. § 1651 (All Writs Act).

The Due Process clause applies to all persons in the United States, “whether their presence here is lawful, unlawful, temporary or permanent.” *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. At 693. In *Zadvydas*, the Supreme Court emphasized, “[f]reedom from imprisonment – from government custody, detention, or other forms of physical lies at the heart of the liberty that [the Due process] Clause protests.” 533 U.S. At 690 (citing *Foucha v. Louisiana*, 504 U.S. 71, 80 (1992)). The Court noted, “[a] statute permitting indefinite detention of an alien would raise a serious constitutional problem.” *Id.*; *see also Plyer v. Doe*, 457 U.S. 202, 210 (1982) (“Aliens, even aliens whose presence in this country is unlawful, have long been recognized as ‘persons’ guaranteed due process of law by the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments.”).

Under 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)(2), non-citizen subject to final orders of removal “shall” be detained during the first 90 days – the “removal period” – and they “shall” be removed during this period under § 1231(a)(1). Under 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)(6), the government “may” continue detention beyond the 90-day removal period if a non-citizen falls within certain broad categories of removability or is determined “to be a risk to the community or unlikely to comply with the order of removal.” 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)(6).

In *Zadvidas*, the Supreme Court construed 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)(6) to authorize detention only where it is significantly likely that removal will occur in the reasonably foreseeable future, in order to avoid the serious due process concerns that would be presented by permitting detention for an indefinite period of time. *Zadvidas*, 533 U.S. 678. After a non-citizen meets her initial burden to show

that no such likelihood of removal exists, the burden shifts to the Government to “respond with evidence sufficient to rebut [the alien’s] showing.” *Id.* At 701.

Courts have rejected concluding claims by ICE agents which claim, without submitting concrete factual information about scheduled flights or repatriation agreements, that removal is imminent. “[A] theoretical possibility of eventually being removed does not satisfy the government’s burden once the removal period has expired and the petitioner establishes good reason to believe his removal is not significantly likely in the reasonably foreseeable future.” *Balza v. Barr*, No. 6:20-CV-00866, 2020 WL 6143643, at *5 (W.D. La. Sept. 17, 2020) (internal quotation marks citation omitted). “[I]f [ICE] has no idea of when it might reasonably expect [Petitioner] to be repatriated, [a] Court certainly cannot conclude that [a] removal is likely to occur – or even that it might occur – in the reasonably foreseeable future.” *Id.* At *5 (internal quotation marks citation omitted). *See also, Gomez Barco v. Witte*, No. 6:20-CV-00497, 2020 WL 7393786 (W.D. La. Dec. 16, 2020) (ordering release of a petitioner who was detained longer than six months because ICE had not been able to secure necessary travel documents, noting that the ICE officer “clearly has no factual basis for his ‘belief’ that there is no foreseeable impediment to Petitioner’s removal or that her removal is imminent,” and that there was no foundation for the “expectation” that the COVID-19 related travel restrictions in place would soon be lifted); *Balza v. Barr*, No. 6:20-CV-00866, 2020 WL 6064881 (W.D. La. Oct. 14, 2020) (same).¹ In granting Ms. Balza’s release, the court considered and rejected a concluding declaration by a local ICE Assistant Field Officer that removal was imminent. *Id.* At *5. In *Alexis v. Smith*, the petitioner, Mr. Alexis, had been in detention for almost a year and subject to a removal order for over a year.

An ICE official testified to an informal agreement that permitted removals but acknowledged that there were far fewer removals to Haiti in the aftermath of the 2010 hurricane. The Haitian government had an issue with identity documents and it was unknown when that would be resolved. The magistrate did not credit ICE’s vague statements that it was “endeavoring to rectify the issue” and concluded there was no end in sight for detention, and recommended release. The District Court Judge agreed and ordered release. ICE then released Mr. Alexis on an Order of Supervised release and moved to get the judgment vacated on remoteness, which it was. However, this does not invalidate the reasoning and conclusions of the Magistrate Judge and District Court Judge on this subject, and this case is still informative and persuasive to the body of law on this subject. *Alexis v. Smith*, No. CIV.A. 11-0309, 2011 WL 3924247 (W.D. La. Aug. 3, 2011), report and recommendation adopted, No.

CIV.A. 11-0309, 2011 WL 3954945 (W.D. La. Sept. 6, 2011), vacated, No. CV 11-0309, 2011 WL 13386020 (W.D. La. Sept. 15, 2011).

Courts in this District have – pursuant to *Zadvydas* – released individuals who have been detained for over six months. *See, e.g., Gomez Barco*, 2020 WL 7393786 (ordering release of an immigrant detainee who was a native and citizen of Venezuela who was detained longer than six months because ICE had not been able to secure necessary travel documents); *Balza*, 2020 WL 6143643, at *5 (ordering release of petitioner and noting that “[a]fter more than a year of detention, Petitioner's removal need not necessarily be imminent, but it cannot be speculative”) (internal quotation marks omitted).

Under *Zadvydas*, courts have found that there is no significant likelihood of removal and granted relief where:

No country will accept the petitioner. *See, e.g., Jabir v. Ashcroft*, No. 03-2480, 2004 WL 60318 (E.D. La. Jan. 8, 2004) (granting habeas relief to petitioner detained for more than fourteen months after numerous countries refused to repatriate the petitioner).²

The petitioner's country of origin refuses to issue a travel documents. *See, e.g., Alexis v. Smith*, No. 11-0309, 2011 WL 3924247 (W.D. La. Aug. 3, 2011) (granting Habeas relief to petitioner detained for approximately one year due to the Haitian government rejecting the quality of identity documents provided); *Fermine v. Dir. of Immigr. & Customs Enf't*, No. 2:06-cv-1578, 2007 WL 2284606 (W.D. La. May 23, 2007) (granting habeas relief to petitioner detained for fifteen months due to Trinidad's refusal to issue travel documents); *Lijadu v. Gonzales*, No. 06-1208, 2006 WL 3933850 (W.D. La. Dec. 18, 2006) (granting Habeas relief to petitioner detained nineteen months because Nigeria refused to issue travel documents due to petitioner's HIV status).³

There is no removal agreement between the United States and a country. In these scenarios, courts have found that the lack of a formal agreement regarding repatriation, lack of diplomatic relationship, and lack of a functioning government support a finding that there is no significant likelihood of removal. *See, e.g., Negusse v. Gonzales*, No. 06-1382, 2007 WL 708615 (W.D. La. Mar. 1, 2007) (granting Habeas relief to petitioner detained for approximately one year because the United States did not have a repatriation agreement with Ethiopia and Ethiopia would not issue travel documents because one of petitioner's parents was not Ethiopian).⁴

There is no response from a country designated for removal or a significant delay in receiving a response. *See, e.g., Gonzales-Rondon v. Gillis*, 5:19-cv-109-DCB-MTP, 2020 WL 3428983 (S.D. Miss. June 23, 2020) (granting Habeas relief to petitioner detained thirteen months where there was no response from Venezuelan officials).⁵

ICE fails to take action to secure travel documents for a prolonged period. *See, e.g., Senor*, 401 F. Supp. 3d at 430-31 (granting Habeas relief after ICE initially requested travel documents but where “there [wa]s no indication from the record that anyone ha[d] taken any further action in the eight months since that time ... to facilitate Senor's receipt of the necessary travel documents”).⁶

As the length of detention grows, the period of time that would be considered the “reasonably

foreseeable future” shrinks. *See, e.g., Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. At 701 (stating that as the length of time in detention grows “what counts as the ‘reasonably foreseeable future’ conversely would have to shrink”); *Senor*, 401 F. Supp. 3d at 430 (“[T]he passage of time combined with the ‘government [being] no closer to ... repatriating [a detainee] than they were once they first took him into custody’ [is] sufficient to meet that ‘initial burden.’”); *Lawrikow*, 2009 WL 2905549, at *12. Petitioner’s continue detention is unlawful, and Petitioner is unlikely to be removed in the reasonably foreseeable future. Therefore, Petitioner’s detention violates the statute and she is entitled to immediate release. Petitioner’s detention also violates the Due Process Clause. The Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment forbids the government from depriving any “person” of liberty “without due process of law.” U.S. Const. amend. V. “Freedom from imprisonment – from government custody, detention, or other forms of physical restraint – lies at the heart of the liberty” that the Due Process Clause protects. *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. At 690 (citing *Foucha v. Louisiana*, 504 U.S. 71, 80 (1992)). Civil immigration detention violates due process if it is not reasonably related to its statutory purpose. *See id.* (citing *Jackson v. Indiana*, 406 U.S. 715, 738 (1972)). In the immigration context, the Supreme Court has recognized only two valid purposes for civil detention: to mitigate the risk of flight and prevent danger to the community. *Id.* Petitioner’s prolonged civil detention, which has lasted well beyond the end of the removal period, and which is likely to continue indefinitely, is no longer reasonably related to the primary statutory purpose of ensuring imminent removal. Thus, Petitioner’s detention violates Petitioner’s right to due process.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Petitioner's indefinite detention violates the detention statute and is unconstitutional. Petitioner respectfully requests that this Court order Respondents to show cause why the writ should not be granted "within three days unless for good cause additional time, not exceeding twenty days, is allowed," and set a hearing on this Petition within five days of the return, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2243 and grant the Writ of Habeas Corpus ordering Respondents to immediate release Petitioner from their custody.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature: 

Name: Carolina Herrera Soriano

A-Number: 

Detention Center: South Louisiana ICE Processing Center

Address: 3843 Stagg Avenue, Basile, LA 70515