

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION

AMIN ZEHRA,

Petitioner,

v.

RANDALL TATE, *et al.*,

Respondents.

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Civil Action No. 4:25-CV-05625

**FEDERAL RESPONDENTS' STATEMENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH SHOW
CAUSE ORDER**

Respondents Randall Tate, Bret Bradford, Todd Lyons, and Kristi Noem (the “Federal Respondents”) file this Statement in response to the Court’s order to show cause with respect to Petitioner’s detention (ECF No. 5).

Petitioner brings this suit challenging the legality of his detention on the basis that his detention is unconstitutional pursuant to *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 121 S.Ct. 2491, 150 L.Ed.2d 653 (2001), and a violation of 8 C.F.R. § 241.4(I)(1)-(2). At this juncture, the Federal Respondents can confirm that Petitioner has a final order of removal to Pakistan and was granted withholding of removal to Pakistan in 2006. *See* ECF No. 1 ¶ 2. Upon information and belief, ICE took Petitioner into custody on November 22, 2025, for purposes of effectuating his removal order, and the agency has been pursuing third-country removal.

For immediate purposes of responding to the Court’s show cause order, including “a statement of the authority by which the petitioner is held” (ECF No. 5 at 3), the Federal Respondents submit that Petitioner Amin Zehra is held pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)(6),

which provides that an alien ordered removed who is inadmissible “may be detained beyond the removal period[.]” Petitioner’s claims, while legal, turn on the particular facts of this case. The Supreme Court has stated that while detention beyond the removal period is permissible, it is limited “to a period reasonably necessary to bring about that alien’s removal from the United States.” *Zadydas*, 533 U.S. at 689. Thus, Petitioner’s *Zadydas* challenge will turn on whether there is a significant likelihood of his removal in the reasonably foreseeable future, which is a fact-intensive inquiry.

Likewise, by way of his regulatory challenge, Petitioner alleges (1) that ICE failed to conduct the requisite informal interview upon revocation of his supervised release, and (2) that his supervised release was not authorized by the someone with the authority to do so. *See* ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 41–43. This challenge is also a fact-based inquiry. The Federal Respondents are presently compiling the requisite facts for the Government itself, and in turn the Court, to make an informed determination.

The Federal Respondents anticipate being able to gather the relevant facts, including on the likelihood of removal, by no later than Friday, January 9, 2026. Thus, unless otherwise directed by the Court, the Federal Respondents will file a summary judgment motion by no later than Friday, January 9, 2026.

Dated: December 29, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

NICHOLAS J. GANJEI
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

By: /s/ Shawn D. Ren

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on December 29, 2025, the foregoing was filed and served on counsel for
Petitioner via the Court's CM/ECF service.

/s/ Shawn D. Ren
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Assistant United States Attorney