

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

Khanh Truong Nguyen,

Case No.: _____

Petitioner

v.

**VERIFIED PETITION FOR WRIT OF
HABEAS CORPUS**

Pamela Bondi, Attorney General; Kristi Noem, Secretary of Homeland Security; Todd M. Lyons, Acting Director of U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement; Marcos Charles, Acting Executive Associate Director for Enforcement and Removal Operations; Mark Siegel, Field Office Director for Enforcement and Removal Operations; U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement; U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Scarlet Grant, Warden of Cimarron Correctional Facility.

**EXPEDITED HANDLING
REQUESTED PURSUANT TO 28
U.S.C. § 1657**

Respondents.

INTRODUCTION

1. Respondents are detaining Petitioner, Khanh Truong Nguyen (A ) , in violation of law.
2. Nguyen is a citizen of Vietnam who entered the United States as a lawful permanent resident after admission and inspection on March 22, 1990. Nguyen is subject to the 2020 Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) between Vietnam and the United States relating to repatriation of pre-1995 Vietnamese immigrants. *See generally Tran v. Scott*, No. 2:25-cv-01886-TMC-BAT, 2025 WL 2898638, at *2 (W.D.

Wash. Oct. 12, 2025).

3. Nguyen was ordered removed from the United States on July 26, 1999. No appeal was filed, meaning the order of removal was administratively final on July 26, 1999 if Nguyen waived appeal (which is unknown) or on August 25, 1999 if Nguyen reserved appeal.
4. On September 9, 1999, Nguyen filed a habeas corpus petition. *See Nguyen v. INS*, No. 1:99-CV-06317-OWW-DLB (E.D. Cal. 1999).
5. On May 16, 2000, Magistrate Dennis L. Beck issued a Report & Recommendation (“R&R”) recommending that Nguyen’s habeas corpus petition be granted and Nguyen be released by June 20, 2000. *See Exhibit 2, R&R at 9.* Central to this recommendation was the magistrate’s finding that “there is no reasonable likelihood that the INS will be able to remove petitioner.” *Id.* at 7.
6. On September 5, 2000, District Judge Oliver W. Wanger issued an Order ordering Nguyen’s immediate release. *See Exhibit 3, Order.* Judge Wanger determined Nguyen’s removal would “not be effectuated in the foreseeable future.” *Id.*
7. Nguyen remained in ICE custody with a final order from at least August 25, 1999 until being released on an Order of Supervision (“OOS”) under 8 C.F.R. §§ 241.4, 241.5, and 241.13 on or around September 6, 2000 after his habeas petition was granted.
8. Nguyen was redetained on September 11, 2025 at a regularly scheduled check-in appointment and has remained detained in the custody of immigration officials since

that date.

9. As of November 24, 2025, Nguyen's aggregate post-order detention time is at least 452 days¹ (190 days from Aug. 25, 1999 – Sept. 6, 2000 plus 74 days from Sept. 11, 2025 – Nov. 24, 2025). Nguyen's post-order detention time continues to accumulate. With each passing day, the period that constitutes the "reasonably foreseeable future" shrinks.
10. Nguyen's initial OOS issued pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 241.4(e) and 8 C.F.R. § 241.13 because it was determined there was no significant likelihood of removal in the reasonably foreseeable future. It was necessarily determined at that time that Nguyen did not present an ongoing danger or a flight risk. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 241.4(e)(2)-(6); 8 C.F.R. § 241.13.
11. Nguyen was required to complete regular check-ins with ICE from when he was placed on an OOS and when he was redetained in violation of law in 2025. Nguyen complied with all check-in requirements and made sure to update his address with ICE every time he moved.
12. On September 11, 2025, Nguyen was picked up and redetained by ICE at a scheduled check-in appointment despite having done nothing wrong and remaining in compliance with his OOS.
13. Since being ordered removed more than 25 years ago, Nguyen has never received travel documents from Vietnam. Every request for travel documents ever made by

¹ Increased by 30 days if Nguyen waived appeal on July 26, 1999.

Nguyen or on Nguyen's behalf has been denied.

14. Nguyen lacks a valid Vietnamese passport or other original evidence of Vietnamese citizenship.
15. Roughly 45 days after Nguyen was most recently detained by immigration officials, Nguyen was provided with a general questionnaire asking him a few questions about what family members he has in the United States and Vietnam. Nguyen has not been given any documents needed to apply for a Vietnamese travel document since being redetained on September 11, 2025. The government has not submitted a travel document request for Nguyen to the Vietnamese embassy even though Nguyen was detained nearly three months ago.
16. Since being detained in 2025, no government agent has expressed to Nguyen that a third-country removal is being attempted, much less expected to be successful.
17. Since being arrested on September 11, 2025, Nguyen has not received any Notice of Revocation of Release informing him of the reasons for his redetention. Similarly, Nguyen has not received a notice of Custody Determination or any other written decision explaining what changed circumstances allegedly justified or currently justify his redetention.
18. Nguyen remains detained at this time. He is housed in Cimarron Correctional Facility in Cushing, OK, a facility designed to house and punish convicted criminals. Nguyen's conditions of confinement are indistinguishable from those of convicted criminals.

19. The government is not in possession of any credible or persuasive documents or evidence that Nguyen's removal is likely to occur in the reasonably foreseeable future. This was true on September 11, 2025, and it remains true at the time of this petition's filing.
20. It remains true at the time of this filing that Nguyen cannot be deported to his country of origin, Vietnam, because he does not have a valid travel document and there is no significant likelihood that Vietnam will issue one to him in the reasonably foreseeable future.
21. The redetention of Nguyen serves no legitimate purpose. Instead, his detention is punitive. The redetention of Nguyen is designed to send a message to other individuals with final orders of removal that they need to leave the United States or they will be jailed indefinitely and without any process. This is especially obvious because Nguyen wants to return to Vietnam and is more than willing to show up for deportation if and when a travel document is obtained; detention for the purpose of facilitating removal is unnecessary.
22. Federal statutes and regulations require ICE to follow certain procedures before they redetained Nguyen. ICE failed to comply with these laws prior to redetaining Nguyen. These failures include:
 - a. Nguyen's redetention has not been reviewed or authorized by any member of the Headquarters Post-order Detention Unit ("HQPDU") or ERO HQ. *See* 8 C.F.R. §§ 241.13(b)(2), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h)(1), (h)(4)(i), (j) (all restricting ability to perform certain functions relevant to this petition to the

HQPDU); 8 C.F.R. § 241.4(c)(2)-(3), (d)(2), (e), (g)(2)-(3), (i)(1)-(3), (i)(7), (k)(2)-(4), (l)(3) (same).

- b. Nguyen's redetention has not been reviewed or authorized by the Executive Associate Commissioner or District Director. *See* 8 C.F.R. §§ 241.4(1), (c)(2)-(4), (d)(1)-(2), (i)(1), (i)(6), (j)(1)-(4), (k)(2), (k)(4), (l)(2)-(3).
- c. Nguyen has been redetained in the absence of changed circumstances capable of rebutting his prior showing of no significant likelihood of removal in the reasonably foreseeable future. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 241.13(i)(2); *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 699-700 (2001).
- d. Nguyen has not received a written decision stating the reasons for his redetention. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 241.13(g); *Momennia v. Bondi*, 2025 WL 3011896, at *6 (W.D. Okla. Oct. 15, 2025) ("ICE is required to issue a written decision. § 241.13(g)."); 8 C.F.R. § 241.4(h)(4), (k)(1)(i), (k)(2)(iii); 8 C.F.R. §§ 241.13(e)(1), (e)(2), (e)(6); *Pham v. Bondi*, No. 25-CV-1157-SLP, 2025 WL 3243870, at *1 n.2 and accompanying text (W.D. Okla. Nov. 20, 2025).
- e. Nguyen has not received an individualized post-detention interview to determine whether his OOS should be reinstated or to otherwise allow Nguyen to provide information to demonstrate there is no significant likelihood of his removal in the reasonably foreseeable future. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 241.13(i)(2)-(3).

23. To remedy his unlawful detention, Nguyen seeks declaratory and injunctive relief

in the form of immediate release from detention.

24. Pending the adjudication of his Petition, Nguyen seeks an order restraining the Respondents from transferring him to a location where he cannot reasonably consult with counsel, such a location to be construed as any location outside of the geographic jurisdiction of the day-to-day operations of U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement's ("ICE") Oklahoma City Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations in the State of Oklahoma.
25. Pending the adjudication of this Petition, Petitioner also respectfully requests that Respondents be ordered to provide seventy-two (72) hour notice of any movement of Nguyen.
26. Nguyen requests the same opportunity to be heard in a meaningful manner, at a meaningful time, and thus requests 72-hour notice prior to any removal or movement of him away from the State of Oklahoma.
27. Nguyen requests an emergency preliminary order requiring Respondents to give Nguyen due process prior to removing him to an allegedly safe third country in the form of a full merits hearing for asylum, withholding of removal, and DCAT before an immigration judge relating to the proposed country of removal with a right to an administrative appeal to the Board of Immigration Appeals, and further requests that this injunction be made permanent.
28. Nguyen requests an order compelling Respondents to release him pending the outcome of this petition.

29. In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1657, Nguyen requests that the district court issue an Order to Show Cause (“OSC”) giving the government no more than 7 days to file evidence and argument in response to the OSC. Nguyen further requests that the magistrate judge shorten the time for making any objections to the magistrate’s forthcoming Report & Recommendation from 14 days to 5 days.
30. Nguyen requests that the Court order his immediate release and return him to the conditions of his prior OOS.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

31. The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question), § 1361 (mandamus action), § 1651 (All Writs Act), and § 2241 (habeas corpus); Art. I, § 9, cl. 2 of the U.S. Constitution (“Suspension Clause”); 5 U.S.C. § 702 (Administrative Procedure Act); and 28 U.S.C. § 2201 (Declaratory Judgment Act). This action further arises under the Constitution of the United States and the Immigration and Nationality Act (“INA”), specifically, 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)(1)-(3) and 8 C.F.R. §§ 241.4, 241.13.
32. Because Nguyen seeks to challenge his custody as a violation of the Constitution and laws of the United States, jurisdiction is proper in this court.
33. Federal district courts have jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 to hear habeas petitions by noncitizens challenging the lawfulness or constitutionality of their detention by DHS. *Demore v. Kim*, 538 U.S. 510, 516–17 (2003); *Jennings v. Rodriguez*, 138 S. Ct. 830, 839–41 (2018); *Nielsen v. Preap*, 139 S. Ct. 954, 961–63 (2019); *Sopo v. U.S. Attorney Gen.*, 825 F.3d 1199, 1209-12 (11th Cir. 2016).

34. Under 28 U.S.C. § 1657, Nguyen’s petition “**shall**” be expedited for good cause. (emphasis added). The good cause consists of Nguyen’s credible and detailed allegations of indefinite and prolonged unlawful and unconstitutional civil confinement. Numerous other courts around the country, and in this district, have expedited these types of matters recently. *See Roble v. Bondi*, No. 25-cv-3196, 2025 WL 2443453 (D. Minn. Aug. 25, 2025); *Sarail A. v. Bondi*, No. 25-CV-2144, 2025 WL 2533673 (D. Minn. Sept. 3, 2025); *Sonam T. v. Bondi*, No. 25-CV-2834, *slip op.*, ECF No. 19 (D. Minn. Sept. 16, 2025); *see also Sonam T. v. Bondi*, No. 25-CV-2834, ECF No. 25 (D. Minn. Sept. 19, 2025) (ordering release); *Mehran S. v. Bondi*, No. 25-CV-3724, ECF No. 6 (D. Minn. Sept. 29, 2025) (providing 7 days to respond to OSC); *Mehran S. v. Bondi*, No. 25-CV-3724, ECF No. 11 (D. Minn. Sept. 29, 2025) (ordering release); *Omar J. v. Bondi*, No. 25-CV-3719 (D. Minn. Sept. 29, 2025), ECF No. 11; *Constantinovici v. Bondi*, No. 3:25-CV-02405-RBM-AHG (S.D. Cal. Sept. 17, 2025), ECF No. 5 (OSC gave the government 48 hours to respond); *Constantinovici v. Bondi*, No. 3:25-CV-02405-RBM-AHG (S.D. Cal. Oct. 10, 2025), ECF No. 15 (granting habeas petition less than one month after filing); *Momennia v. Bondi*, No. 5:25-CV-1067-J, ECF No. 9 (giving the government just 14 days to respond to OSC) (W.D. Okla. Sept. 17, 2025); *Momennia v. Bondi*, No. 5:25-CV-1067-J, ECF No. 12 at 1 n.1 (W.D. Okla. Oct. 3, 2025) (“This Order is in furtherance of the need recognized by the Magistrate Judge to proceed in this case in an expedited manner.”); *Momennia v. Bondi*, No. 5:25-CV-1067-J, ECF No. 16 (W.D. Okla. Oct. 9, 2025) (granting motion to

expedite in part); *Pham v. Bondi*, No. 5:25-CV-01157-SLP, ECF No. 14 (Oct. 8, 2025) (ordering government just 7 days to respond to OSC); *Yee S. v. Bondi*, No. 25-CV-02782-JMB-DLM, ECF No. 13 (D. Minn. Oct. 9, 2025) (granting habeas petition 4 days after TRO and motion to expedite was filed).

35. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 USC §§ 1391(b), (e)(1)(B), and 2241(d) because Nguyen is detained within this District. He is currently detained at the Cimarron Correctional Facility in Cushing, Oklahoma. Venue is also proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e)(1)(A) because Respondents are operating in this district.

PARTIES

36. Petitioner Nguyen is a citizen of Vietnam who entered the United States on March 22, 1990. Nguyen lacks a valid Vietnamese passport or other original evidence of Vietnamese citizenship. Nguyen's Alien Registration Number ("A number") is A [REDACTED]. Petitioner Nguyen is an alien with an administratively final removal order. Nguyen is currently in custody at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") detention center in Cushing, Oklahoma. Nguyen's aggregate period of civil immigration confinement exceeds six months and continues to grow. Nguyen is married to Anh Mai, who is a U.S. citizen. Nguyen and his partner (unmarried) of 19 years have three U.S. citizen children together. Nguyen also has two other children that are U.S. citizens from prior relationships.
37. Respondent Pamela Bondi is being sued in her official capacity as the Attorney General of the United States and the head of the Department of Justice, which

encompasses the BIA and the immigration judges through the Executive Office for Immigration Review. Attorney General Bondi shares responsibility for implementation and enforcement of the immigration detention statutes, along with Respondent Noem. Attorney General Bondi is a legal custodian of Nguyen.

38. Respondent Kristi Noem is being sued in her official capacity as the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. In this capacity, Secretary Noem is responsible for the administration of the immigration laws pursuant to § 103(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (“INA”), 8 U.S.C. § 1103(a), routinely transacts business in the District of Oklahoma, supervises the Oklahoma City ICE Field Office, and is legally responsible for pursuing Nguyen’s detention and removal. As such, Respondent Noem is a legal custodian of Nguyen.
39. Respondent Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) is the federal agency responsible for implementing and enforcing the INA, including the detention and removal of noncitizens.
40. Respondent Todd M. Lyons is the Acting Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and is sued in his official capacity. Defendant Lyons is responsible for Petitioner’s detention.
41. Respondent Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) is the subagency within the Department of Homeland Security responsible for implementing and enforcing the Immigration & Nationality Act, including the detention of noncitizens.
42. Respondent Marcos Charles is the Acting Executive Associate Director for ICE

Enforcement and Removal Operations (“ERO”).

43. Respondent Mark Siegel is being sued in his official capacity as the Field Office Director for the Oklahoma City Field Office for ICE within DHS. In that capacity, Field Director Siegel has supervisory authority over the ICE agents responsible for detaining Nguyen.
44. Respondent Scarlet Grant is being sued in her official capacity as the Warden of the Cimarron Correctional Facility. Because Petitioner is detained in the Cimarron Correctional Facility, Respondent Grant has immediate day-to-day control over Petitioner.

EXHAUSTION

45. ICE asserts authority to jail Nguyen pursuant to the mandatory detention provisions of 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)(1). No statutory requirement of exhaustion applies to Nguyen’s challenge to the lawfulness of his detention. *See, e.g., Araujo-Cortes v. Shanahan*, 35 F. Supp. 3d 533, 538 (S.D.N.Y. 2014) (“There is no statutory requirement that a habeas petitioner exhaust his administrative remedies before challenging his immigration detention.”); *Rodriguez v. Bostock*, No. 3:25-CV-05240-TMC, 2025 WL 1193850, at *11 (W.D. Wash. Apr. 24, 2025) (citing *Marroquin Ambriz v. Barr*, 420 F. Supp. 3d 953, 962 (N.D. Cal. 2019) (“this Court ‘follows the vast majority of other cases which have waived exhaustion based on irreparable injury when an individual has been detained for months without a bond hearing, and where several additional months may pass before the BIA renders a decision on a pending appeal.’”)); *Gomes v. Hyde*, No. 1:25-CV-11571-JEK, 2025

WL 1869299, at *5 (D. Mass. July 7, 2025) ((citing *Portela-Gonzalez v. Sec'y of the Navy*, 109 F.3d 74, 77 (1st Cir. 1997) (quoting *McCarthy v. Madigan*, 503 U.S. 140, 146 (1992))).

46. To the extent that prudential consideration may require exhaustion in some circumstances, Nguyen has exhausted all effective administrative remedies available to him as he has previously demonstrated to ICE's satisfaction that his removal is not substantially likely to occur in the reasonably foreseeable future. ICE has never rebutted this showing. Any further efforts would be futile.
47. Prudential exhaustion is not required when to do so would be futile or "the administrative body . . . has . . . predetermined the issue before it." *McCarthy v. Madigan*, 503 U.S. 140, 148 (1992), *superseded by statute on other grounds as stated in Woodford v. Ngo*, 548 U.S. 81 (2006).
48. Prudential exhaustion is also not required in cases where "a particular plaintiff may suffer irreparable harm if unable to secure immediate judicial consideration of his claim." *McCarthy*, 503 U.S. at 147. Every day Nguyen is unlawfully detained causes him and his family irreparable harm. *Jarpa v. Mumford*, 211 F. Supp. 3d 706, 711 (D. Md. 2016) ("Here, continued loss of liberty without any individualized bail determination constitutes the kind of irreparable harm which forgives exhaustion."); *Matacua v. Frank*, 308 F. Supp. 3d 1019, 1025 (D. Minn. 2018) (explaining that "loss of liberty" is "perhaps the best example of irreparable harm"); *Hamama v. Adducci*, 349 F. Supp. 3d 665, 701 (E.D. Mich. 2018) (holding that "detention has

inflicted grave” and “irreparable harm” and describing the impact of prolonged detention on individuals and their families).

49. Prudential exhaustion is additionally not required in cases where the agency “lacks the institutional competence to resolve the particular type of issue presented, such as the constitutionality of a statute.” *McCarthy*, 503 U.S. at 147–48. Immigration agencies have no jurisdiction over constitutional challenges of the kind Nguyen raises here. *See, e.g., Matter of C-*, 20 I. & N. Dec. 529, 532 (BIA 1992) (“[I]t is settled that the immigration judge and this Board lack jurisdiction to rule upon the constitutionality of the Act and the regulations.”); *Matter of Akram*, 25 I. & N. Dec. 874, 880 (BIA 2012); *Matter of Valdovinos*, 18 I. & N. Dec. 343, 345 (BIA 1982); *Matter of Fuentes-Campos*, 21 I. & N. Dec. 905, 912 (BIA 1997); *Matter of U-M-*, 20 I. & N. Dec. 327 (BIA 1991).
50. Because requiring Nguyen to exhaust administrative remedies would be futile, would cause him irreparable harm, and the immigration agencies lack jurisdiction over the constitutional claims, this Court should not require exhaustion as a prudential matter.
51. In any event, Nguyen has indeed exhausted all remedies available to him.
52. ICE has denied Nguyen release because: (A) it incorrectly believes Nguyen is responsible for reestablishing that removal is not substantially likely to occur in the reasonably foreseeable future, (B) ICE seeks to punish Nguyen for remaining in the United States after previously having been ordered removed, and (C) ICE seeks to punish Nguyen to send a message to similarly situated persons who have not yet

been detained as a way to encourage those similarly situated people to immediately leave the United States to avoid Nguyen's fate.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS & PROCEDURAL HISTORY

53. Nguyen re-alleges and incorporates by reference each allegation contained in ¶¶ 1-52 as if set forth fully herein.
54. On September 11, 2025, Nguyen was picked up and redetained by ICE at a scheduled check-in while doing nothing wrong and without being in violation of any condition of his OOS. He has remained detained in Respondents' custody since that date.
55. Each time ICE or Nguyen have tried to obtain a travel document for Nguyen, they have failed.
56. Nguyen was never served with a Notice of Revocation of Release ("Notice") purporting to revoke his OOS, nor does he recall having been given any sort of informal interview to challenge the Notice.
57. Assuming *arguendo* that Nguyen may have been served with a Notice, revoking his OOS, the Notice has not been reviewed by Petitioner's counsel, but likely claims in a conclusory manner that "ICE has determined there is a significant likelihood of removal in the reasonably foreseeable future in your case" based on unidentified "changed circumstances."
58. The Notice, if any, does not provide a reasoned basis for believing that there is now a significant likelihood of removal in the reasonably foreseeable future.

59. The Notice, if any, does not provide Nguyen with sufficient information to be in a position to rebut the factual allegations underlying the Notice at an informal interview.
60. The Notice, if any, does not provide enough information or detail to allow this Court to meaningfully review the relevant claims made in the Notice.
61. Nguyen does not understand the reason ICE now believes that there is a significant likelihood he will be removed in the reasonably foreseeable future.
62. The Notice, if any, does not allege that Nguyen has failed to comply with any of the terms of his OOS.
63. The Notice, if any, does not allege that Respondents have obtained a travel document allowing for Nguyen's immediate removal from the United States.
64. The Notice, if any, does not allege any new facts that might form an independent basis for taking Nguyen into custody.
65. At the time of Nguyen's arrest, up through the present, ICE has no information that could reasonably lead it to believe changed circumstances exist that justify redetention under 8 C.F.R. § 241.13(i)(2)-(3).
66. Nguyen satisfies the criteria for release at 8 C.F.R. § 241.4(e).
 - a. Travel documents for Nguyen are not available.
 - b. Removal of Nguyen is not practicable or in the public interest.
 - c. Nguyen is presently a non-violent person.
 - d. Nguyen is likely to remain nonviolent if released.

- e. Nguyen is not likely to pose a threat to the community following release.
 - f. Nguyen has not been convicted of any new offenses in recent history or since his most recent check-in prior to his arrest on September 11, 2025.
 - g. Nguyen is not likely to violate the conditions of release.
 - h. Nguyen does not pose a significant flight risk if released. Nguyen will appear for deportation if a travel document is obtained after he is released.
67. The factors for consideration at 8 C.F.R. § 241.4(f) all favor releasing Nguyen.
- a. Nguyen believes he has no disciplinary infractions or incident reports received while incarcerated in Service custody.
 - b. There is no evidence that indicates Nguyen presents a risk of recidivism.
 - c. No psychiatric or psychological reports indicate Nguyen's mental health poses a risk to any person.
 - d. Nguyen's long history of law-abiding conduct and lack of offenses similar to that which led to his deportation demonstrates compelling proof of rehabilitation.
 - e. Nguyen's long-term partner (unmarried) and five children are all citizens of the United States, demonstrating his strong ties to the community and United States.
 - f. Nguyen previously entered the United States lawfully and maintained lawful permanent residence for a period of years before getting into criminal trouble and getting ordered deported. Nguyen has been law-abiding for decades while living in compliance with the terms of his OOS.

- g. Nguyen is not a flight risk. He was arrested *at a scheduled check-in*. Nguyen will turn himself in for deportation if a travel document is obtained.
 - h. Nguyen's post-OOS conduct demonstrates that he has managed to adjust to life in a community, avoid engaging in acts of violence or criminal activity, does not pose a danger to the safety of anyone, and is unlikely to violate the conditions of his release from custody pending removal.
68. At the time of redetention, ICE had not yet begun the steps of having Nguyen apply for a travel document from detention for Vietnam nor some other allegedly safe third country. More than 70 days after Nguyen's redetention, ICE still has yet to take the initial steps in submitting a travel document to the Vietnamese embassy even though Nguyen was redetained in violation of regulation after having served more than 6 months in post-final-order immigration custody and after having previously established that there is no significant likelihood of his removal in the reasonably foreseeable future.
69. Respondents maintain Nguyen is ineligible for release from custody.
70. On April 30, 2025, the Department of Homeland Security issued a press release entitled *100 Days of Fighting Fake News*.² In that document, DHS referenced civil immigration detention and the present administration's heavy reliance on civil detention to accomplish its political aims. Specifically, the document states:
- The reality is that prison isn't supposed to be fun. It's a necessary measure to protect society and punish bad guys. It is not meant to be**

² Available at: <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/04/30/100-days-fighting-fake-news> (attached as Exhibit 1).

comfortable. **What's more: prison can be avoided by self-deportation.** CBP Home makes it simple and easy. If you are a criminal alien and we have to deport you, you could end up in Guantanamo Bay or CECOT. **Leave now.**

Exhibit 1 (emphasis added).

71. Myriad courts around the country have granted habeas corpus petitions and/or enjoined the current administration's attempts to use civil detention punitively against noncitizens. *See, e.g., Mohammed H. v. Trump*, No.: 25-CV-1576-JWB-DTS, --- F. Supp. 3d ---, 2025 WL 1692739, at *5 (D. Minn. June 17, 2025) (“Punishing Petitioner for protected speech or **using him as an example to intimidate other students into self-deportation is abusive and does not reflect legitimate immigration detention purposes.**”) (emphasis added); *Mahdawi v. Trump*, 781 F. Supp. 3d 214, 231-32 (D. Vt. Apr. 30, 2021) (recognizing that immigration detention cannot be motivated by the desire to punish speech or to deter others from speaking); *Ozturk*, 779 F. Supp. 3d 462, 493 (“So long as detention is motivated by those goals, and not a desire for punishment, the Court is generally required to defer to the political branches on the administration of the immigration system.”); *see also Fong Yue Ting v. United States*, 149 U.S. 698, 730 (1893) (“The order of deportation is not a punishment”); *See Roble v. Bondi*, No. 25-cv-3196, 2025 WL 2443453 (D. Minn. Aug. 25, 2025) (ordering release and characterizing the government's actions as “Kafkaesque”); *Sarail A. v. Bondi*, No. 25-CV-2144, 2025 WL 2533673 (D. Minn. Sept. 3, 2025) (ordering release); *Sonam T. v. Bondi*, No. 25-CV-2834, *slip op.*, ECF No. 19 (D. Minn. Sept. 16, 2025) (R&R recommending order of release); *see also Sonam T. v. Bondi*, No. 25-CV-2834,

ECF No. 25 (D. Minn. Sept. 19, 2025) (ordering release); *Mehran S. v. Bondi*, No. 25-CV-3724, ECF No. 11 (D. Minn. Sept. 29, 2025) (ordering release); *Omar J. v. Bondi*, No. 25-CV-3719 (D. Minn. Sept. 29, 2025), ECF No. 11 (ordering release); *Yee S. v. Bondi*, No. 25-CV-02782-JMB-DLM (D. Minn. Oct. 9, 2025), ECF No. 13 (granting habeas petition 4 days after TRO and motion to expedite was filed); *Constantinovici v. Bondi*, No. 3:25-CV-02405-RBM-AHG (S.D. Cal. Oct. 10, 2025), ECF No. 15 (granting habeas petition less than one month after filing).

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

72. Petitioner’s present detention is governed by 8 U.S.C. § 1231 and its implementing regulations at 8 C.F.R. pt. 241.
73. Section 1231 mandates detention “[d]uring the removal period.” *Accord* 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)(1)(A), (a)(2). However, the same sections also require the government to actually remove the alien during this removal period. 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)(1)(A).
74. The “removal period” is “90 days.” 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)(1)(A). Petitioner’s “removal period” ended on November 23, 1999.³
75. Detention past the removal period can be lawful in circumstances not presented here. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)(1)(C), (a)(6).
76. After a noncitizen has been detained past the removal period, they may seek and obtain their release by demonstrating “there is no significant likelihood of removal

³ Alternatively, if Nguyen waived appeal on July 26, 1999, his removal period ended on October 24, 1999.

to the country to which he or she was ordered removed, or to a third country, in the reasonably foreseeable future.” 8 C.F.R. § 241.13(a).

77. Once a noncitizen is released on an OOS, they are subject to certain conditions of release. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 241.13(h)(1).
78. Redetention is permitted where it is alleged a noncitizen violated the conditions of release. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 241.13(h)(2), (i).
79. Regulations also permit the government to withdraw or otherwise revoke release under specific circumstances. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 241.13(h)(4). One permissible reason to revoke release occurs when, “on account of changed circumstances, the Service determines that there is a significant likelihood that the alien may be removed in the reasonably foreseeable future.” 8 C.F.R. § 241.13(i)(2). Once such a determination is made, the noncitizen must “be notified of the reasons for revocation of [their] release” and must be provided with “an initial informal interview... to afford the alien an opportunity to respond to the reasons for revocation stated in the notification.” 8 C.F.R. § 241.13(i)(3). “The revocation custody review will include an evaluation of any contested facts relevant to the revocation and a determination whether the facts as determined warrant revocation and further denial of release.” *Id.* If a noncitizen is not released following the informal interview, “the provisions of [8 C.F.R. § 241.4] shall govern the alien’s continued detention pending removal.” 8 C.F.R. § 241.13(i)(2). Once the provisions of § 241.4 take effect, it appears that the consequence is a total reset of the 90-day removal period under 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a), though Nguyen respectfully submits the regulation is *ultra vires* to statute

as an arbitrary or capricious interpretation of statute that exceeds statutory authority. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 241.4(b)(4).

80. Under the Supreme Court’s decision in *Zadvydas v. Davis*, a person subject to a final order of removal cannot, consistent with the Due Process Clause, be detained indefinitely pending removal. 533 U.S. 678, 699-700 (2001). *Zadvydas* established a temporal marker: post-final order of removal detention of six months or less is presumptively constitutional. Detention periods of less than six months can be unconstitutional if the presumption of reasonableness is rebutted.

81. The 6-month *Zadvydas* clock does not reset upon every new iteration of detention. It is instead measured in the aggregate. At minimum, the 6-month *Zadvydas* clock must be measured in the aggregate when the required prerequisites for redetention, as identified by 8 C.F.R. §§ 241.13(g) and (i)(2)-(3) (*inter alia*) are not satisfied prior to redetention.

82. *Zadvydas* also stated:

After this 6-month period, once the alien 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 for detention to remain reasonable, as the period of prior post-removal confinement grows, what counts as the “reasonably foreseeable future” conversely would have to shrink.**

533 U.S. at 701 (emphasis added).

83. *Zadvydas* further held that civil detention violates due process unless special, nonpunitive circumstances outweigh an individual’s interest in avoiding restraint. 533 U.S. at 690 (immigration detention must remain “nonpunitive in purpose

and effect”) (emphasis added).

REMEDY

84. Respondents’ detention of Nguyen violates the Due Process Clause of the United States Constitution. Nguyen’s ongoing detention violates the Fifth Amendment’s guarantee that “[n]o person shall be . . . deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law.” U.S. Const., amend. V.
85. Due Process requires that detention “bear [] a reasonable relation to the purpose for which the individual [was] committed.” *Zadvydas, v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 690 (2001) (citing *Jackson v. Indiana*, 406 U.S. 715, 738 (1972)).
86. Nguyen seeks immediate release to the extent that Respondents justify his detention on the idea that Petitioner has failed to demonstrate that there is no significant likelihood of his removal in the reasonably foreseeable future; Respondents bear the burden of rebutting the prior showing made by Petitioner. 8 C.F.R. § 241.13(i)(2)-(3). Respondents have failed to meet this burden.
87. Nguyen seeks immediate release subject to the same conditions as his prior OOS.
88. Nguyen seeks immediate release to the extent that Respondents have violated his due process rights by failing to comply with 8 C.F.R. §§ 241.4 and/or 241.13.
89. Nguyen seeks immediate release to the extent that Respondents have redetained him for the purpose of punishing him for remaining in the United States despite his final order of removal.
90. Nguyen seeks immediate release to the extent that Respondents have redetained him

for the purpose of punishing him to send a message to similarly situated individuals for the purpose of encouraging those similarly situated persons to leave the United States before they share Nguyen's fate.

91. Although neither the Constitution nor the federal habeas statutes delineate the necessary content of habeas relief, *I.N.S. v. St. Cyr*, 533 U.S. 289, 337 (2001) (Scalia, J., dissenting) (“A straightforward reading of [the Suspension Clause] discloses that it does not guarantee any content to . . . the writ of habeas corpus”), implicit in habeas jurisdiction is the power to order release. *Boumediene v. Bush*, 553 U.S. 723, 779 (2008) (“[T]he habeas court must have the power to order the conditional release of an individual unlawfully detained.”).
92. The Supreme Court has noted that the typical remedy for unlawful detention is release from detention. *See, e.g., Munaf v. Geren*, 553 U.S. 674 (2008) (“The typical remedy for [unlawful executive detention] is, of course, release.”); *see also Wajda v. United States*, 64 F.3d 385, 389 (8th Cir. 1995) (stating the function of habeas relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 “is to obtain release from the duration or fact of present custody.”).
93. That courts with habeas jurisdiction have the power to order outright release is justified by the fact that, “habeas corpus is, at its core, an equitable remedy,” *Schlup v. Delo*, 513 U.S. 298, 319 (1995), and that as an equitable remedy, federal courts “[have] broad discretion in conditioning a judgment granting habeas relief [and are] authorized . . . to dispose of habeas corpus matters ‘as law and justice require.’” *Hilton v. Braunskill*, 481 U.S. 770, 775 (1987) (quoting 28 U.S.C. § 2243). An order

of release falls under court's broad discretion to fashion relief. *See, e.g., Jimenez v. Cronen*, 317 F. Supp. 3d 626, 636 (D. Mass. 2018) ("Habeas corpus is an equitable remedy. The court has the discretion to fashion relief that is fair in the circumstances, including to order an alien's release.").

94. Immediate release is an appropriate remedy in this case.

CAUSE OF ACTION

COUNT ONE: DECLARATORY RELIEF

95. Nguyen re-alleges and incorporates by reference each allegation contained in the preceding paragraphs as if set forth fully herein.
96. Nguyen requests a declaratory judgment pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2201 that Nguyen is detained pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)(1).
97. Nguyen requests a declaratory judgment pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2201 that Nguyen has previously demonstrated to ICE's satisfaction that there is no significant likelihood of his removal in the reasonably foreseeable future ("NSLRRFF").
98. Nguyen requests a declaratory judgment pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2201 that ICE did not rebut Nguyen's prior NSLRRFF showing prior to redetaining him.
99. Nguyen requests a declaratory judgment pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2201 that until ICE rebuts Nguyen's prior NSLRRFF showing, Nguyen may not be redetained.

**COUNT TWO: VIOLATION OF THE IMMIGRATION &
NATIONALITY ACT – 8 C.F.R. § 241.13(i)(2)-(3)**

100. Nguyen re-alleges and incorporates by reference each allegation contained in ¶¶ 1-94 as if set forth fully herein.

101. Section 1231(a)(1)-(3) of Title 8 of the U.S. Code and 8 C.F.R. § 241.13(i)(2)-(3) governs the detention, release, and redetention of aliens with final orders of removal.
102. Respondents have failed to comply with these provisions prior to redetaining Petitioner after Petitioner's release on an OOS.
103. No independent alternative basis supports Respondents' decision to redetain Petitioner.
104. Petitioner is therefore detained in violation of the INA.

COUNT THREE: VIOLATION OF THE FIFTH AMENDMENT

105. Nguyen re-alleges and incorporates by reference each allegation contained in ¶¶ 1-94 as if set forth fully herein.
106. The Fifth Amendment Due Process Clause protects against arbitrary detention and requires that detention be reasonably related to its purpose and accompanied by adequate procedures to ensure that detention is serving its legitimate goals. It further requires that detention cease when a noncitizen has established to the government's satisfaction that there is no significant likelihood of removal in the reasonably foreseeable future after the noncitizen has been ordered removed and has served six months in post-removal-order custody.
107. Nguyen is no longer subject to mandatory custody under the Immigration & Nationality Act. He has served more than six months in civil immigration detention. In order to terminate his prior detention, he established to the government's satisfaction that there was no significant likelihood of removal in the reasonably

foreseeable future. The government has not rebutted this with credible evidence. The government does not presently have a travel document for Nguyen. There are no new circumstances that otherwise justify Nguyen's redetention. Thus, Respondents have violated Nguyen's Fifth Amendment guarantee of due process.

108. Respondents have also independently violated Nguyen's Fifth Amendment due process right by incarcerating him to punish him and to otherwise send a message to similarly situated individuals that they must leave the United States to avoid a similar fate.

**COUNT FOUR: VIOLATION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE
PROCEDURES ACT – CONTRARY TO LAW AND ARBITRARY
AND CAPRICIOUS AGENCY POLICY**

109. Nguyen re-alleges and incorporates by reference each allegation contained in ¶¶ 1-94 as if set forth fully herein.
110. The APA provides that a “reviewing court shall . . . hold unlawful and set aside agency action, findings, and conclusions found to be . . . arbitrary and capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with law.” 5 U.S.C. § 706(2)(A).
111. Respondents have failed to articulate any reasoned explanation for redetaining Petitioner.
112. Respondents have failed to articulate any reasoned explanation for deviating from or otherwise ignoring or failing to comply with the plain language of 8 C.F.R. § 241.13(i)(2)-(3).
113. Respondents' decisions, which represent changes in the agencies' policies and

positions, have considered factors that Congress did not intend to be considered, have entirely failed to consider important aspects of the case, and have offered explanations for their decisions that run counter to the evidence before the agencies.

114. Respondents' decision to redetain Petitioner is arbitrary, capricious, and not in accordance with law, and as such, it violates the APA. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 706(2).

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Petitioner, Khanh Truong Nguyen, asks this Court for the following relief:

1. Assume jurisdiction over this matter.
2. Expedite consideration of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1657 because it is an action brought under 28 U.S.C. Ch. 153.
 - a. Issue an Order to Show Cause ordering Respondents to state the true cause of Petitioner's detention within 7 days of the Court's issuance of the OSC.
 - b. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1657, issue an Order shortening the time for making any objections to the magistrate's forthcoming Report & Recommendation from 14 days to 5 days
3. Issue an emergency preliminary order restraining Respondents from attempting to move Nguyen from the State of Oklahoma during the pendency of this Petition.
4. Issue an emergency preliminary order requiring Respondents to provide 72-hour notice of any intended movement of Nguyen.
5. Issue an emergency preliminary order requiring Respondents to give Nguyen due process prior to removing him to an allegedly safe third country in the form of a full

merits hearing for asylum, withholding of removal, and DCAT before an immigration judge relating to the proposed country of removal with a right to an administrative appeal to the Board of Immigration Appeals.

6. Order Nguyen's immediate release subject to the conditions of his prior OOS.
7. Declare that Respondents' action is arbitrary and capricious.
8. Declare that Respondents failed to adhere to binding regulations and precedent.
9. Declare that Petitioner's detention violates the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment.
10. Permanently enjoin Respondents from redetaining Nguyen under 8 C.F.R. § 241.13(i)(2)-(3) unless and until Respondents have obtained a travel document allowing for Respondent's removal from the United States.
11. Permanently enjoin Respondents from redetaining Nguyen under 8 C.F.R. § 241.13(i)(2)-(3) for more than three days after receiving a travel document.
12. Permanently enjoin Respondents from deporting Nguyen to an allegedly safe third country without first giving Nguyen due process in the form of a full merits hearing for asylum, withholding of removal, and DCAT before an immigration judge relating to the proposed country of removal with a right to an administrative appeal to the Board of Immigration Appeals.
13. Grant Nguyen reasonable attorney fees and costs pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d)(1)(A).
14. Grant all further relief this Court deems just and proper.

DATED: November 22, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

RATKOWSKI LAW PLLC

/s/ Nico Ratkowski

Nico Ratkowski (Atty. No.: 0400413)

332 Minnesota Street, Suite W1610

Saint Paul, MN 55101

P: (651) 755-5150

E: nico@ratkowskilaw.com

Attorney for Petitioner

Verification by Petitioner Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2242

I am submitting this verification because I am the Petitioner. I hereby verify that the statements made in the attached Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus, including the statements regarding my detention status, are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I declare under penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 that all of the factual allegations and statements in the Petition are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ Khanh Truong Nguyen
Khanh Truong Nguyen

Dated: November 22, 2025