

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN DIEGO DIVISION**

MIGUEL ANGEL GARCIA-MORALES,

Agency No 

Petitioner,

v.

KRISTI NOEM, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, et. al.,

Respondents.

PETITIONER'S PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS

Murray D. Hilts
Law Offices of Murray D. Hilts
3020 Meade Ave.
San Diego, CA 92116
(619) 688-1174 (office)
(619) 285-1977 (fax)
murrayhiltslaw@hotmail.com

Attorneys for Petitioner,

MIGUEL ANGEL GARCIA-MORALES

1 MURRAY D. HILTS, ESQ. (CA Bar No. 169690)
2 LAW OFFICES OF MURRAY D. HILTS
3 3020 MEADE AVE.
4 SAN DIEGO, CA 92116
5 TEL: (619) 688-1174
6 FAX: (619) 285-1977
7 *Attorney for Petitioner*

8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN DIEGO DIVISION**

MIGUEL ANGEL GARCIA-MORALES,)
)
Petitioner,)
)
v.)
)
Kristi NOEM, in her official capacity as Secretary)
of Homeland Security, Christopher J. LAROSE,)
in his official capacity as Warden of Otay Mesa)
Detention Center, Gregory J. ARCHAMBEAULT,)
in his official capacity as San Diego Field Office)
Director, ICE Enforcement Removal Operations;)
Todd LYONS, in his official capacity as Acting Director)
of ICE; and Pamela BONDI, U.S.)
Attorney General; IMMIGRATION AND)
CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT; DEPARTMENT OF)
HOMELAND SECURITY,)
)
Respondents.)

'25CV3254 CAB BLM

**PETITION FOR WRIT
OF HABEAS CORPUS**



I. INTRODUCTION

1. Petitioner MIGUEL ANGEL GARCIA-MORALES (“Petitioner”) is a 42-year-old Mexican national who last entered the United States in 2014.
2. On September 2, 2025, Petitioner was detained by Respondents at the Otay Mesa Detention Center.
3. Petitioner has not requested a custody redetermination as the impact

1 of the Board of Immigration Appeals (“BIA”) decision in *Matter of Yajure*
2 *Hurtado*, 28 I&N Dec. 216 (BIA 2025) has meant that all requests for custody
3 redetermination under Petitioner’s circumstances have been dismissed for lack
4 of jurisdiction.

5
6 4. Petitioner therefore seeks a writ of habeas corpus directing his
7 immediate release.

8
9 **II. VENUE AND JURISDICTION**

10
11 5. This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 (habeas corpus),
12 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question), and Article I, § 9, cl. 2 of the Constitution
13 (Suspension Clause), as Petitioner is presently in custody under the authority
14 of the United States and challenging his detention as in violation of the
15 Constitution, laws, or treaties of the United States.

16
17 6. The federal district courts have jurisdiction under Section 2241 to
18 hear habeas claims by individuals challenging the lawfulness of their detention
19 by ICE. *See Jennings v. Rodriguez*, 583 U.S. 281, 290-92 (2018).

20
21 7. Venue is proper because Petitioner is detained in the Otay Mesa
22 Detention Center, within the San Diego Division, and Respondent LaRose is his
23 immediate custodian. *See* 28 U.S.C. §§ 2241(d), 1391(e).

24
25 **III. PARTIES**

26
27 8. Petitioner is a 42-year-old Mexican national who resides in San Diego,

1 California. He is currently detained by Respondents at the Otay Mesa
2 Detention Center in San Diego, California, pending removal proceedings.

3 9. Respondent Christopher J. LaRose is the Warden of Otay Mesa
4 Detention Center. Respondent La Rose is responsible for the operation of the
5 Detention Center where Petitioner is detained. As such, Respondent LaRose
6 Detention Center where Petitioner is detained. As such, Respondent LaRose
7 has immediate physical custody of the Petitioner. He is being sued in his
8 official capacity.

9 10. Respondent Gregory J. Archambeault is the San Diego Field Office
10 Director (“FOD”) for ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations. Respondent
11 Archambeault is responsible for the oversight of ICE operations at the Otay
12 Mesa Detention Center. Respondent Archambeault is being sued in his official
13 capacity.
14

15 11. Respondent Todd Lyons is the Acting Director of ICE. Respondent
16 Lyons is responsible for the administration of ICE and the implementation and
17 enforcement of the immigration laws, including immigrant detention. As such,
18 Respondent Lyons is a legal custodian of Petitioner and is being sued in his
19 official capacity.
20

21 12. Respondent Kristi Noem is the Secretary of the Department of
22 Homeland Security (“DHS”). As Secretary of DHS, Secretary Noem is
23 responsible for the general administration and enforcement of the immigration
24 laws of the United States. Respondent Secretary Noem is being sued in her
25 official capacity.
26
27
28

1 **IV. EXHAUSTION OF REMEDIES**

2 13. No statutory exhaustion requirement applies. *See* 8 § U.S.C. 2241;
3 *Laing v. Ashcroft*, 370 F.3d 994, 998 (9th Cir. 2004). Therefore, exhaustion is not
4 jurisdictionally required.
5

6 14. Additionally, further agency steps will be futile. Recently, the BIA
7 published *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 28 I&N Dec. 216 (BIA 2025). In its decision,
8 the BIA adopted DHS' reading of 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2), finding individuals
9 similarly situated to Petitioner ineligible for release on bond.
10

11 15. In Petitioner's case, any request for custody redetermination will be
12 dismissed by the Immigration Court for lack of jurisdiction and any appeal to
13 the BIA will be dismissed. *Matter of Yajure Hurtado* currently controls in
14 Petitioner's case and any attempt to request agency evaluation of his detention
15 will be futile.
16

17 **V. STATEMENT OF FACTS**

18 16. Petitioner is a Mexican national born on September 29, 1983. He last
19 entered the United States in 2014.
20

21 17. On or about September 2, 2025, Petitioner was apprehended by ICE.
22

23 18. Petitioner has remained in Respondents' custody since that time.
24

25 19. Petitioner's next master hearing is scheduled for November 26, 2025,
26 at 1:00 p.m. before Immigration Judge Eugene H. Robinson Jr. at 7488
27 Calzada de la Fuente, San Diego, California.
28

VII. CAUSES OF ACTION

COUNT ONE

8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), NOT 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b), APPLIES TO PETITIONER

23. Petitioner incorporates paragraphs 1 through 22 as if fully set out herein.

24. Recently, Respondents began arguing that those in situations similar to Petitioner are detained pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2), which mandates the detention of an “applicant for admission” throughout the entirety of removal proceedings.

25. Respondents’ newly formulated definition of “applicant for admission,” which would include any noncitizen who has not been formally admitted regardless of years of residence in the United States, directly contradicts both the plain text of the statute and controlling Ninth Circuit precedent.

26. As the Ninth Circuit explained in interpreting the phrase “applicant for admission” under § 1225(b)(1), “*an immigrant submits an ‘application for admission’ at a distinct point in time,*” and stretching that phrase to apply “*potentially for years or decades ... would push the statutory text beyond its breaking point.*” *United States v. Gambino-Ruiz*, 91 F.4th 981, 988–89 (9th Cir. 2024) (citing *Torres v. Barr*, 976 F.3d 918, 922–26 (9th Cir. 2020) (en banc)).

27. Because Petitioner has resided continuously in the United States since 2014, his period as an “applicant for admission” has long since closed.

28. Numerous courts across the United States have considered this issue

1 subsequent to Respondents’ new policy of treating the vast majority of
2 immigrants in their custody as being detained pursuant to 8 U.S.C. §
3 1225(b)(2) and the BIA’s decision supporting this interpretation in *Matter of*
4 *Yajure Hurtado*, 28 I&N Dec. 216 (BIA 2025).

5
6 29. This Court, joining the general consensus with other courts across
7 this country, has previously held those similarly situated to Petitioner are
8 being held under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) and therefore are not subject to mandatory
9 detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b). *See e.g., Martinez Lopez v. Noem, et al.*, No:
10 25-cv-2717-JES-AHG, 2025 WL 3030457 (S.D. Cal. Oct. 30, 2025).

11
12
13 **COUNT TWO**
14 **(PROCEDURAL DUE PROCESS)**

15 30. Petitioner incorporates paragraphs 1 through 22 as if fully set out
16 herein.

17 31. The Fifth Amendment forbids deprivation of liberty without notice
18 and a meaningful opportunity to be heard before a neutral decision-maker. Due
19 process protects “all ‘persons’ within the United States, including [non-
20 citizens], whether their presence here is lawful, unlawful, temporary, or
21 permanent.” *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 698 (2001).

22
23 32. Subsection 1003.19(i)(2) strips Petitioner of that protection by
24 allowing the prosecuting agency—after losing at the bond hearing—to veto the
25 Immigration Judge’s order with a one-page notice that requires no showing of
26 danger, flight risk, or likelihood of success on appeal.

- 1 4) Order Respondents to file a response within 3 business days of the filing of
- 2 this petition;
- 3 5) Award attorneys' fees to Petitioner; and
- 4 6) Grant any other and further relief which this Court deems just and proper.
- 5

6 I affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

7
8 Respectfully submitted this 21st day of November, 2025.

9 /s/ Murray D. Hilts

10 The Law Offices of Murray D. Hilts
11 3020 Meade Ave.
12 San Diego, CA 92116
13 CA Bar # 2169690

14 *Attorney for Petitioner*