



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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*Civil Division*

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December 18, 2025

**Via Electronic Filing**

Hon. Karen M. Williams, U.S.D.J.  
United States District Court  
Mitchell H. Cohen Building  
& U.S. Courthouse  
4<sup>th</sup> & Cooper Streets  
Camden, NJ 08101

**Re: *Ventura Pineda v. Bondi*, No. 25-cv-17911 (KMW)  
Answer to § 2241 Petition**

Dear Judge Williams:

This Office represents Respondents in the above-referenced habeas matter filed by an alien challenging the legality of his detention by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2). We respectfully submit this letter response in light of the many recent decisions in this District in § 1225(b)(2) cases.<sup>1</sup>

Petitioner, a native and citizen of El Salvador, entered the United States at an unknown place and unknown time. *Cf.* Pet ¶ 11, ECF No. 1. On November 17, 2025, ICE arrested Petitioner. *Id.* ¶ 15. Since then, ICE has detained Petitioner without bond under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2) and the Board of Immigration Appeals' ("BIA") decisions *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I. & N. Dec. 216 (BIA 2025) and *Matter of Q.*

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., *Perez v. Lyons*, No. 25-cv-17186 (ESK), 2025 WL 3238540 (D.N.J. Nov. 19, 2025); *Ayala Amaya v. Bondi*, No. 25-cv-16428-ESK, 2025 WL 3033880 (D.N.J. Oct. 30, 2025); *Patel v. Almodovar*, No. 25-cv-15345 (SDW), 2025 WL 3012323 (D.N.J. Oct. 28, 2025); *Lomeu v. Soto*, No. 25-cv-16589 (EP), 2025 WL 2981296 (D.N.J. Oct. 23, 2025); *Contreras Maldonado v. Cabezas*, No. 25-cv-13004 (JKS), 2025 WL 2985256 (D.N.J. Oct. 23, 2025); *Bethancourt Soto v. Soto*, No. 25-cv-16200 (CPO), 2025 WL 2976572 (D.N.J. Oct. 22, 2025); *Mugliza Castillo v. Lyons*, No. 25-cv-16219 (MEF), 2025 WL 2940990 (D.N.J. Oct. 10, 2025); *Rivera Zumba v. Bondi*, No. 25-14626 (KSH), 2025 WL 2753496 (D.N.J. Sept. 26, 2025), *appeal filed sub nom. Rivera Zumba v. U.S. Attorney Gen.*, No. 25-3328 (3d Cir. Dec. 2, 2025).

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*Li*, 29 I. & N. Dec. 66 (BIA 2025). Petitioner argues that his detention without bond under § 1225(b)(2) is unlawful. Pet. ¶¶ 19, 20, ECF No. 1.

Respondents respectfully contend, as they have in all prior § 1225(b)(2) matters in this District, that Petitioner's detention is governed by § 1225(b)(2) because he is an alien who entered without inspection or parole who 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, e.g., De Fatima Lomeu v. Soto*, No. 25-cv-16589 (EP), Resp'ts' Br at 8-18 (ECF No. 7). Respondents also contend that the only remedy, if the Court finds § 1225 does not apply, is a bond hearing under § 1226(a) and not immediate release. *See id.* at 18 n.5. Respondents continue to respectfully assert this position before this Court in the absence of precedential authority to the contrary from the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. *See Rivera Zumba v. U.S. Attorney Gen.*, No. 25-3328 (3d Cir. Dec. 2, 2025) (appeal filed).

Should Your Honor have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact this Office. Thank you very much for your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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U.S. Deputy Attorney General

JORDAN FOX  
Chief of Staff & Associate Deputy  
Attorney General  
Special Attorney

By: *s/ Kevin J. Maggio*  
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cc: All counsel of record (*via ECF*)