UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

AMAN POYA, Petitioner, vs. PAMELA BONDI, Attorney General of the United States; KRISTI NOEM, Secretary, United States Department of Homeland Security; LAURA HERMOSILLO, Acting Seattle Field Office Director, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services; BRUCE SCOTT, Warden of Immigration Detention Facility; and the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Respondents.	No. **PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS UNDER 28 U.S.C. § 2241 AND REQUEST FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Petitioner Aman Poya asks this Court to order Respondents not to remove him from this district while this case is pending, both "[b]ecause transfer of Petitioner to another district could interfere with his access to counsel and ability to participate in the proceedings," *Tran v. Bondi, et al.*, No. CV25-1897-JLR-BAT, dkt. 6 at 3 (W.D. Wash. Oct. 7, 2025) (*sua sponte* issuing such an order in a § 2241 case involving an ICE detainee), and "under the Court's inherent power to preserve its ability to hear the case." *Alves v. U.S. Dep't of Just.*, No. EP-25-CV-306-KC, 2025 WL 2629763, at *5 (W.D. Tex. Sept. 12, 2025) (same). *See also M.M. v. Wamsley*, No. CV25-2074-TMC, 2025 WL 3053023, at *1 (W.D. Wash. Oct. 31, 2025) (same).[1]

[1] For just a few examples of other courts issuing such an order in § 2241 cases involving ICE detainees within the past few months (or reflecting the court had previously issued such an order), *see, e.g.*, *Bustos v. Raycraft*, No. 25-13202, 2025 WL

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RECITATIONS TO SUBSTANTIALLY CONFORM TO AO 242

Personal Information

1. (a) Full name: Aman Poya

(b) Other names used: none

2. Place of confinement:

(a) Northwest Immigration Processing Center (NWIPC)

(b) 1623 East J Street, Tacoma, Washington 98241-1615, pursuant to a contractual arrangement with my custodian, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Field Office Director at Seattle, Washington.

(c) Case number or numbers [ICE file number, if known]: The A# will be provided to the government along with the filing of this petition.

3. Petitioner is currently being held on orders by federal authorities: United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

4. Petitioner is currently being held on an immigration charge.

Decision or Action You Are Challenging

5. What are you challenging in this petition: immigration detention.

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

(a) Name and location of the agency or court: United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement

(b) Docket number, case number, or opinion number: Petitioner's A# has been provided to the government along with the filing of this petition.

3022294, at *2 (E.D. Mich. Oct. 29, 2025); *Ferro v. Hyde*, No. CV25-513-SDN, 2025 WL 3003708, at *1 (D. Me. Oct. 27, 2025) (order issued same day petition was filed); *Lopez Pop v. Noem*, No. CV25-2589-SSS-SSC, 2025 WL 3050095, at *7 (C.D. Cal. Oct. 3, 2025); *Singh v. Delaney Hall*, No. CV25-16018-GC, 2025 WL 2772644, at *1 (D.N.J. Sept. 29, 2025); and *Hom v. Ceja*, No. CV25-2221-WJM-TPO, 2025 WL 2801449, at *2 (D. Colo. Sept. 17, 2025).

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(c) Decision or action you are challenging: Petitioner was taken into custody by ICE on December 30, 2024, and ICE issued an expedited order of removal the same day. An immigration judge affirmed ICE's credible fear decision on March 6, 2025. Petitioner has been detained in ICE custody for 12 months following ICE's expedited removal order.

Your Earlier Challenges of the Decision or Action

7–9. First, second, and third appeals: None

10. Motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255: N/A

11. Appeals of immigration proceedings:

Does this case concern immigration proceedings? Yes

(a) Date you were taken into immigration custody: December 30, 2024

(b) Date of the removal or reinstatement order: December 30, 2024 (credible fear determination affirmed on March 6, 2025)

(c) Did you file an appeal with the Board of Immigration Appeals? No

(d) Did you appeal the decision to the United States Court of Appeals? No

12. Other than the appeals listed above, have you filed any other petition, application, or motion about the issues raised in this petition? No.

Grounds for Your Challenge in This Petition

I. Introduction

Petitioner Aman Poya is presently detained at the Northwest ICE Processing Center (NWIPC). Petitioner has been held in immigration custody for 12 months. Removal to the former country of residence is not reasonably foreseeable. Petitioner's continued detention is therefore in violation of *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 689 (2001). Petitioner seeks (a) release; (b) an order preventing re-detention unless the government establishes by clear and convincing evidence at a hearing before a neutral decisionmaker that Petitioner is a flight risk or a danger to the community, based on

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changed circumstances after their most recent release by ICE; (c) an order preventing removal to a third country without notice and meaningful opportunity to respond in compliance with the statute and due process in reopened removal proceedings; and (d) an order barring removal to any third country pursuant to Respondents' punitive removal policy.

II. Jurisdiction and Venue

This case arises under the Constitution of the United States and the Immigration and Nationality Act ("INA"), 8 U.S.C. § 1101, *et seq.*

This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 2241, *et seq.* (habeas corpus), 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question), 28 U.S.C. § 1346 (United States as Respondent), and 28 U.S.C. § 1651 (All Writs Act). Respondents have waived sovereign immunity for purposes of this suit. 5 U.S.C. §§ 702, 706.

The Court may grant relief under the habeas corpus statutes, 28 U.S.C. § 2241, *et seq.*; the Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2201, *et seq.*; the All Writs Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1651; the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment; and the Court's inherent equitable powers.

Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e)(1) because Respondents are agencies or officers of agencies of the United States; Respondents Hermosillo and Scott reside in this district; and Petitioner is detained in this district. Venue is further proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to Petitioner's claims occurred in this district.

Because Petitioner is seeking relief related only to his custody status, which is not inconsistent with an order of removal, exhaustion of administrative remedies, if any, is not required.

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III. Requirements of 28 U.S.C. §§ 2241, 2243

Petitioner is "in custody" for the purpose of § 2241 because he has been detained by Respondent ICE since December 2024, and transferred to and detained in Tacoma, Washington, since at least October 2025.

IV. Parties

Aman Poya is a citizen of Afghanistan. He has a final order of removal to Afghanistan as the country designated for removal. Petitioner is detained in the control and custody of Respondents at NWIPC. As such, Petitioner is a resident of Tacoma, Washington.

Respondent Pamela Bondi is the Attorney General of the United States. In this capacity, Respondent Bondi is the legal custodian of Petitioner. Respondent Bondi is sued in her official capacity.

Respondent Kristi Noem is the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS"). In this capacity, Respondent Noem is the legal custodian of Petitioner. Respondent Noem is sued in her official capacity.

Respondent Laura Hermosillo is the Field Office Director for ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations ("ERO") in Seattle, Washington. As the ERO Seattle Field Office Director, she is Petitioner's immediate custodian, is responsible for his detention at NWIPC, and is the person with the authority to authorize detention or release. Respondent Hermosillo is sued in her official capacity.

Respondent Bruce Scott is the Warden of the NWIPC, oversees the day-to-day functioning of the NWIPC, and has immediate physical custody of Petitioner pursuant to a contract with ICE to detain noncitizens. Respondent Scott is sued in his official capacity as the Warden of a federal detention facility. *See Juarez v. Asher*, No. CV20-700-JLR, 2021 WL 1946222, at *3–5 (W.D. Wash. May 14, 2021).

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Respondent United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (hereinafter ICE) is the federal executive agency responsible for the enforcement of immigration laws, including the arrest, detention, and removal of noncitizens. Respondent ICE is a legal custodian of Petitioner.

V. Background

Mr. Poya was born in Afghanistan in [redacted] 1993. He has completed post-secondary education and obtained a degree in geology in 2016. Ex. 1. He left Afghanistan a few months after the government collapsed in 2021. He tried to become a refugee or otherwise live in a few countries but could not do so. His last attempt was in Mexico, and he then entered the United States in December 2024. He had never entered the United States before that.

[redacted]

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[redacted]

USCIS found Mr. Poya to be credible in describing this ordeal. Unfortunately, they, and an immigration judge, still found there was no reasonable probability of persecution. This was in part because USCIS misunderstood Mr. Poya's statements and believed, incorrectly, that he had not been [redacted] and had not been threatened with death due to [redacted]

VI. Particularized Facts Pertaining to Petitioner's Continued Detention

Petitioner cannot presently be returned to Afghanistan, which is in the middle of a civil war. *Cf. Samir v. Wolf*, No. 1:25-CV-01397, 2025 WL 2845646, at *1 (W.D. La. Oct. 6, 2025). Removal to Afghanistan is thus not reasonably foreseeable. ICE has not obtained a travel document from Afghanistan for Petitioner, nor has Afghanistan agreed to accept Petitioner. *See also Hamidi v. Bondi*, No. CIV-25-1205-G, 2025 WL 3452454, at *4 (W.D. Okla. Dec. 1, 2025) (finding insufficient government's representation as to removal to Afghanistan that "several avenues being pursued, and because the current administration is making efforts to remove aliens to third countries").

VII. The Legal Framework Regarding Indefinite Detention Pending Removal

Under 8 U.S.C. § 1231, detention of noncitizens who have been ordered removed is mandatory during the so-called 90-day "removal period." 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)(l)(A). This period begins on the "date the order of removal becomes administratively final." 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)(l)(B)(i). But the *Zadvydas* Court believed that a "serious constitutional threat" under the Fifth Amendment's Due Process Clause was posed by the indefinite detention of noncitizens. 533 U.S. at 699. The Court therefore interpreted 8 U.S.C. 1231(a)(6) to permit only detention related to the statute's "basic purpose [of] effectuating [a noncitizen]'s removal[.]" *Id.* at 696–99.

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The Court further held that the presumptive period during which the detention is reasonably necessary to effectuate a noncitizen's removal is six months. After that, the noncitizen is eligible for conditional release if there is "no significant likelihood of removal in the reasonably foreseeable future[.]" *Id.* at 701. After the "presumptively reasonable" period of six months, when the noncitizen can "provide[] good reason to believe that there is no significant likelihood of removal in the reasonably foreseeable future," then "the Government must respond with evidence sufficient to rebut that showing." *Id.*

The issue is not whether Respondents have been able to remove some individuals to a given country. Rather, the court must make an individualized analysis as to a particular detainee. *See Nguyen v. Scott*, -- F.Supp.3d --, 2025 WL 2419288, *17 (W.D. Wash. Aug. 21, 2025) (stating increase in total number of removals to Vietnam, including those who entered pre-1995, fails to rebut the evidence presented by Petitioner that "his individual circumstances make removal unlikely."). Facts that are part of the analysis include whether Respondent provides evidence that the request was submitted to Afghanistan, whether Afghanistan has acknowledged receipt of the request or otherwise responded to Petitioner's request, and the anticipated wait time for a response from Afghanistan.

VIII. The Legal Framework for Third-Country Removals

The immigration laws delineate the proper procedures by which a country may be designated for removal. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1231(b). These procedures move in incremental steps.

First, an individual with a removal order may designate the country to which they want to be removed, and the government *shall* remove the individual to that country. 8 U.S.C. § 1231(b)(2)(A). The government may disregard that designation if (1) the individual fails to designate a country promptly; (2) the government of that

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country does not inform the U.S. government finally, within 30 days after the date the U.S. government first inquires, whether the government will accept the individual into that country; (3) the government of the country is not willing to accept the individual into the country; or (4) the government decides that removing the individual to that country is prejudicial to the United States. 8 U.S.C. § 1231(b)(2)(C).

Second, if the individual is not removed to the country they designated under § 1231(b)(2)(A), the government shall remove the individual to the country of which the individual is a "subject, national, or citizen" unless the government of that country does not inform the U.S. government or the individual within 30 days after first inquiry or within another reasonable period of time whether the government will accept the individual into the country or the country is not willing to accept the individual into the country. 8 U.S.C. § 1231(b)(2)(D).

Third, if the individual is not removed to either the country of their designation or the country of which they are a subject, national, or citizen, then the government shall remove them to any of the following options: (1) the country from which the individual was admitted to the United States; (2) the country in which is located the foreign port from which the individual left for the United States or for a foreign territory contiguous to the United States; (3) the country in which the individual resided before the individual entered the United States and from which the individual entered the United States; (4) the country in which the individual was born; or (5) the country in which the individual's birthplace is located when the individual was ordered removed. 8 U.S.C. § 1231(b)(2)(E). *Only* "[i]f impracticable, inadvisable, or impossible" to remove the individual to any of these countries may the government remove the individual to "another country whose government will accept [them] into that country." 8 U.S.C. § 1231(b)(2)(E)(vii).

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Notwithstanding any of these procedures, the statute prohibits removal to a third country where a person may be persecuted or tortured, a form of protection known as withholding of removal. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1231(b)(3)(A). The government "may not remove [a noncitizen] to a country if the Attorney General decides that the [noncitizen's] life or freedom would be threatened in that country because of the [noncitizen's] race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion." *Id.*; *see also* 8 C.F.R. §§ 208.16, 1208.16. Withholding of removal is a mandatory protection.

Similarly, Congress codified protections enshrined in the Convention Against Torture (CAT) prohibiting the government from removing a person to a country where they would be tortured. *See* Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (''FARRA''), Public Law 105–277, div. G, sec. 2242, 112 Stat. 2681, 2631–822 (8 U.S.C. § 1231 note) ("It shall be the policy of the United States not to expel, extradite, or otherwise effect the involuntary return of any person to a country in which there are substantial grounds for believing the person would be in danger of being subjected to torture, regardless of whether the person is physically present in the United States."); 28 C.F.R. §§ 200.1, 208.16–208.18, 1208.16–1208.18. CAT protection is also mandatory.

To comport with the requirements of due process, the government must provide notice of the third-country removal and an opportunity to respond. Due process requires "written notice of the country being designated" and "the statutory basis for the designation, i.e., the applicable subsection of § 1231(b)(2)." *Aden v. Nielsen*, 409 F.Supp.3d 998, 1019 (W.D. Wash. 2019); *see also D.V.D. v. U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec.*, No. CV25-10676-BEM, 2025 WL 1453640, at *1 (D. Mass. May 21, 2025) ("All removals to third countries, *i.e.*, removal to a country other than the country or countries designated during immigration proceedings as the country of removal on the

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non-citizen's order of removal, must be preceded by written notice to both the non-citizen and the non-citizen's counsel in a language the non-citizen can understand." (citation omitted)); *Andriasian v. INS*, 180 F.3d 1033, 1041 (9th Cir. 1999) (due process requires notice to the noncitizen of the right to apply for asylum and withholding to the country where they will be removed). The government must be able to show evidence that the third country will accept the individual into that country. *See Himri v. Ashcroft*, 378 F.3d 932, 939 (9th Cir. 2004), *amended sub nom. El Himri v. Ashcroft*, No. 03-71152, 2004 WL 1879255 (9th Cir. Aug. 24, 2004) ("at the time the government proposes a country of removal pursuant to § 1231(b)(2)(E)(vii), the government must be able to show that the proposed country *will* accept the [individual]").

Due process also demands that the government "ask the noncitizen whether he or she fears persecution or harm upon removal to the designated country and memorialize in writing the noncitizen's response. This requirement ensures DHS will obtain the necessary information from the noncitizen to comply with § (b)(3) and avoids [a dispute about what the officer and noncitizen said]." *Aden*, 409 F.Supp.3d at 1019; *cf. D.V.D.*, 2025 WL 1453640, at *1 ("Following notice, the individual must be given a meaningful opportunity, and a minimum of ten days, to raise a fear-based claim for CAT protection prior to removal.") (emphasis omitted).

If the noncitizen claims fear, measures must be taken to ensure that the noncitizen can seek asylum, withholding, and relief under CAT before an immigration judge in reopened removal proceedings. *Cf. D.V.D.*, 2025 WL 1453640, at *1 (requiring the government to move to reopen the noncitizen's immigration proceedings if the individual demonstrates "reasonable fear" and to provide "a meaningful opportunity, and a minimum of fifteen days, for the non-citizen to seek reopening of their immigration proceedings" if the noncitizen is found to not have demonstrated

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"reasonable fear"); *Aden*, 409 F.Supp.3d at 1019 (requiring notice and time for a respondent to file a motion to reopen and seek relief).

Finally, notice of the country to which the noncitizen will be removed must not be "last minute" because that would deprive an individual of a meaningful opportunity to apply for fear-based protection from removal. *Andriasian*, 180 F.3d at 1041. They must have time to prepare and present relevant arguments and evidence and to seek reopening of their removal case.

IX. Facts Pertaining to Punitive Banishment to Third Countries

Since January 2025, Respondents have developed and implemented a policy and practice of removing individuals to third countries, without first following the procedures in the INA for designation and removal to a third country and without providing fair notice and an opportunity to contest the removal in immigration court.

Respondents reportedly have negotiated with at least 58 countries to accept deportees from other nations. On June 25, 2025, the *New York Times* reported that seven countries—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Kosovo, Mexico, Panama, and Rwanda—had agreed to accept deportees who are not their own citizens.[2] Since then, ICE has carried out highly publicized third-country deportations to South Sudan and Eswatini. It also attempted—and completed—an "end-run" around the protections of the Convention Against Torture by deporting a group of migrants to Ghana, which sent them on to their countries of citizenship despite fears of persecution.

Punishment and deterrence appear to be the point of the Administration's third-country removal scheme. The Administration has reportedly negotiated with countries to have deportees imprisoned in prisons, camps, or other facilities. The government paid El Salvador about $5 million to arbitrarily and indefinitely imprison more than 200

[2] Edward Wong, et al., *Inside the Global Deal-Making Behind Trump's Mass Deportations*, N.Y. Times (June 25, 2025), https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/25/us/politics/trump-immigrants-deportations.html [https://perma.cc/64G9-XYGB].

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deported Venezuelans in a maximum-security prison notorious for gross human rights abuses, known as CECOT. In February, Panama and Costa Rica took in hundreds of deportees from countries in Africa and Central Asia and imprisoned them in hotels, a jungle camp, and a detention center. On July 4, 2025, ICE deported eight men, including one pre-1995 Vietnamese refugee, to South Sudan. The men have been detained incommunicado ever since. On July 15, 2025, ICE deported five men to the tiny African nation of Eswatini, including one man from Vietnam, where they are reportedly being held in solitary confinement.

The Administration has hand-selected countries known for human rights abuses and instability for these third-country deportation agreements to frighten people in the United States into self-deporting or to accept removal to their home countries. Indeed, conditions in South Sudan are so extreme that the U.S. State Department website warns Americans not to travel there, and, if they do, to prepare their will, make funeral arrangements, and appoint a hostage-taker negotiator first.

On July 9, 2025, ICE issued a new memo stating that, when seeking to remove an individual to a country not designated on the removal order, ICE may deport that person without any procedures for notice or an opportunity to be heard if the State Department confirms it has received diplomatic assurances that individuals will not be persecuted or tortured. If no diplomatic assurances are received, the ICE memo instructs officers to serve on the individual a Notice of Removal that includes the intended country of removal. It instructs officers <u>not</u> to ask whether the individual is afraid of removal to that country. It states that officers should "generally wait at least 24 hours following service of the Notice of Removal before effectuating removal" but that "[i]n exigent circumstances, [ICE] may execute a removal order six (6) or more hours after service of the Notice of Removal as long as the [noncitizen] is provided reasonable means and opportunity to speak with an attorney prior to removal."

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The memo further instructs that if the noncitizen "does not affirmatively state a fear of persecution or torture if removed to the country of removal listed on the Notice of Removal within 24 hours, [ICE] may proceed with removal to the country identified on the notice." If the noncitizen "does affirmatively state a fear if removed to the country of removal," then ICE will refer the case to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ("USCIS") for a screening for eligibility for withholding of removal and protection under the Convention Against Torture. "USCIS will generally screen within 24 hours." If USCIS determines that the noncitizen does not meet the standard, the individual will be removed. If USCIS determines that the noncitizen has met the standard, then the policy directs ICE to either move to reopen removal proceedings "for the sole purpose of determining eligibility for [withholding of removal protection] and CAT" or designate another country for removal.

The eight men who were ultimately deported to South Sudan all claimed fear of removal to South Sudan. None of those men were provided a fear screening by a USCIS officer or otherwise, despite the fact that they were held by ICE for six weeks on a U.S. military base in Djibouti before their final removal to South Sudan.

X. The Law Governing Punitive Removal Practices

It is bedrock law that the U.S. government may not impose or inflict an infamous punishment for violations of civil immigration law. In 1896, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that while deportation itself was not a punishment, the government could not attach punitive conditions to deportation—in that case, imprisonment at hard labor—absent a criminal charge, trial in a court of law, and the protections of the Fifth, Sixth, and Eighth Amendments. *Wong Wing v. United States*, 163 U.S. 228, 237 (1896).

Importantly, the Court distinguished deportation, which the Court reasoned is "not a 'banishment,' in the sense in which that word is often applied to the expulsion of a citizen from his country by way of punishment," from government actions aimed at

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punishment, such as imprisonment at hard labor in addition to deportation. *Id.* at 236. The Court explained that deportation "is but a method of enforcing the return to his own country of [a noncitizen] who has not complied with the conditions upon the performance of which the government of the nation, acting within its constitutional authority and through the proper departments, has determined that his continuing to reside here shall depend." *Id.* (quoting *Fong Yue Ting v. United States*, 149 U.S. 730 (1893)). But the Court admonished that the government may not "declare unlawful residence within the country to be an infamous crime, punishable by deprivation of liberty and property . . . unless provision were made that the fact of guilt should first be established by a judicial trial." *Id.* at 237.

Deportation of individuals to third countries to be imprisoned or harmed is unquestionably punishment.

Grounds for Relief

Ground One: Petitioner's Continued Detention in Immigration Custody Violates the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution Because There Is No Significant Likelihood that Petitioner Will Be Removed in the Reasonably Foreseeable Future.

The allegations in the above paragraphs are realleged and incorporated herein.

Because Petitioner's expedited removal order was issued on December 30, 2024, and the credible fear determination was affirmed on March 6, 2025, the removal period has long since expired, and detention is no longer required under 8 U.S.C. § 1231. In addition, the presumptively reasonable period of six months has passed.

There is "good reason to believe that there is no significant likelihood of removal in the reasonably foreseeable future[.]" *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 701. Petitioner cannot presently be returned to Afghanistan, which is in the middle of a civil war.

Therefore, the burden shifts to the government to rebut that showing. The government cannot meet that burden under the facts of this case. *See Nguyen v. Scott*,

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No. CV25-1398, 2025 WL 2419288, at *28–29 (W.D. Wash. Aug. 21, 2025) (granting preliminary injunction requiring release under *Zadvydas*); *Tang v. Bondi*, No. CV25-1473-RAJ-TLF, 2025 WL 2637750, at *6 (W.D. Wash. Sept. 11, 2025) (same).

Ground Two: Procedural Due Process

The allegations in the above paragraphs are realleged and incorporated herein.

Petitioner has a liberty interest in not being detained. Applying the three-factor test of *Mathews*, that interest is high.

Finally, the cost to the government of providing a hearing is low, and significantly outweighed by the other factors. His re-detention violated his due process rights and was therefore unlawful.

Ground Three: Failure to Comply with Regulations

The allegations in the above paragraphs are realleged and incorporated herein.

Respondents have not complied with their obligations under 8 C.F.R. § 241.13, and therefore Petitioner is entitled to release. On information and belief,

(a) Respondents did not make a determination either that, on account of changed circumstances, there was a significant likelihood that Petitioner would be removed in the reasonably foreseeable future or that Petitioner violated the conditions of release;

(b) to the extent that Respondents made such a determination, they lacked an adequate basis to do so and did not properly consider the factors specified in the regulations;

(c) Respondents did not timely notify Petitioner in writing of the reasons for revocation in a manner that he could reasonably respond to;

(d) Respondents did not conduct the required initial informal interview;

(e) Respondents did not afford Petitioner an opportunity to respond; and

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(f) Respondents did not advise Petitioner of the right to request a review of the detention and did not comply with the requirements for such review. His re-detention was therefore contrary to Respondents' regulations and unlawful.

Ground Four: Violation of the Fifth Amendment, 8 U.S.C. § 1231, Convention Against Torture, Implementing Regulations, and the Administrative Procedure Act

The allegations in the above paragraphs are realleged and incorporated herein.

The Fifth Amendment, the INA, the CAT, and implementing regulations mandate meaningful notice and opportunity to respond to any attempt to remove Petitioner to a third country in reopened removal proceedings. They also require an opportunity for Petitioner to make a fear-based claim against removal to a third country in reopened removal proceedings. Respondents' policy for third-country removals violates all of these laws because it directs ICE agents to remove individuals to third countries without any notice or process *at all* where diplomatic assurances are received and, where no diplomatic assurances are received, to provide flagrantly insufficient notice (6–24 hours) and opportunity to respond, in violation of the statute, regulations, and Fifth Amendment.

Prior to any third-country removal, Petitioner must be provided with constitutionally and statutorily compliant notice and an opportunity to respond and contest that removal if he has a fear of persecution or torture in that country in reopened removal proceedings. *See Nguyen*, 2025 WL 2419288, at *29 (granting preliminary injunction against "removing Petitioner to a country other than [home country] without notice and a meaningful opportunity to be heard in reopened removal proceedings with a hearing before an immigration judge").

Ground Five: Punitive Third-Country Banishment; Violation of Fifth and Eighth Amendments

The allegations in the above paragraphs are realleged and incorporated herein.

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Under the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, no person shall "be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury;" "be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb;" or "be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law."

The Eighth Amendment provides that no "cruel and unusual punishments" may be inflicted.

The U.S. Supreme Court long ago held that the government may not inflict upon individuals an "infamous punishment" in addition to deportation as a penalty for an immigration violation, absent criminal charges, a judicial trial, and attendant constitutional protections. *Wong Wing*, 163 U.S. at 236–38.

The government has arranged for third countries to receive deportees and imprison them on arrival, possibly indefinitely, and often in abhorrent conditions. It has selected countries notorious for human rights abuses and instability for third-country removal arrangements. It has targeted individuals with criminal convictions for third-country removals, where they will be imprisoned and harmed, and has publicly broadcast those removals to demonize and dehumanize the individuals subjected to these practices and strike fear in the immigrant community to send a message of retribution and deterrence.

Respondents' third-country removal program is more than a publicity stunt. The hundreds of individuals who have already been subjected to it have been banished in foreign prisons upon arrival without charge and often without communication with the outside world, including their families and lawyers. Respondents may not subject Petitioner to their third-country removal program which is designed to impose a severe punishment on their subjects. Such conduct "shocks the conscience" under Fifth

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Amendment substantive due process, is cruel and unusual punishment, and may not be imposed without charge and a judicial trial.

Respondents may not seek to remove Petitioner to a third country under their punitive banishment policy and practices. *See Nguyen*, 2025 WL 2419288, at *29 (granting preliminary injunction against "removing Petitioner to any country where he is likely to face imprisonment upon arrival").

Prayer for Relief

Petitioner respectfully requests that this Court:

(a) Assume jurisdiction over this action;

(b) Issue an Order directing Respondents promptly to show cause why this Petition should not be granted;

(c) Order Respondents to immediately release Petitioner from custody;

(d) Order that Respondents may not re-detain Petitioner without first holding a hearing before a neutral decisionmaker at which the government bears the burden of establishing flight risk or danger to the community by clear and convincing evidence based on changed circumstances since Petitioner was previously released;

(e) Order that Respondents may not remove or seek to remove Petitioner to a third country without notice and meaningful opportunity to respond in compliance with the statute and due process in reopened removal proceedings;

(f) Order that Respondents may not remove Petitioner to any third country because Respondents' third-country removal program seeks to impose unconstitutional punishment on its subjects, including imprisonment and other forms of harm; and

(g) Order all other relief that the Court deems just and proper.

Verification Pursuant to LCR 100(e)

Counsel verifies that this petition is authorized by Petitioner Aman Poya. It does not personally bear Petitioner's signature because of the significant difficulty for

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counsel in meeting with Petitioner in person and because mailing the petition to Petitioner and having it mailed back would cause delay that would only extend the period of his unlawful detention. Counsel knows the facts asserted above or alleges them on information and belief, based on information obtained from the government and/or Petitioner.

DATED this 16th day of December 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ *Mukund Rathi*
Assistant Federal Public Defender
Attorney for Aman Poya

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