

FILED - USDC - ND TX
FEB 3 2026
Sht

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
ABILENE DIVISION

AMENDED
PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS
UNDER 28 U.S.C. § 2241

Rafael Jose Romero Lopez
PETITIONER
(Full name of Petitioner)

Diamondback Correctional Facility
CURRENT PLACE OF CONFINEMENT

vs.

A 
PRISONER ID NUMBER

Diamondback Correctional Facility
RESPONDENT
(Name of TDCJ Director, Warden, Jailer, or
authorized person having custody of Petitioner)

1:25-cv-00283
CASE NUMBER
(Supplied by the District Court Clerk)

INSTRUCTIONS - READ CAREFULLY

1. The petition must be legibly handwritten or typewritten, and signed and dated by the Petitioner, under penalty of perjury. Any false statement of an important fact may lead to prosecution for perjury. Answer all questions in the proper space on the form.
2. Additional pages are not allowed except that ONE separate additional page is permitted in answering question 10.
3. Receipt of the \$5.00 filing fee or a grant of permission to proceed *in forma pauperis* must occur before the court will consider your petition.
4. If you do not have the necessary filing fee, you may ask permission to proceed *in forma pauperis*. To proceed *in forma pauperis*, (1) you must sign the declaration provided with this petition to show

that you cannot prepay the fees and costs, and (2) if you are confined in TDCJ-CID, you must send in a certified *In Forma Pauperis* Data Sheet form from the institution in which you are confined. If you are in an institution other than TDCJ-CID, you must send in a certificate completed by an authorized officer at your institution certifying the amount of money you have on deposit at that institution. If you have access or have had access to enough funds to pay the filing fee, then you must pay the filing fee.

5. Only one sentence, conviction, disciplinary proceeding, or parole matter may be challenged in a single petition. If you challenge more than one, you must do so by separate petition(s).
6. Mail the completed petition and one copy to the U. S. District Clerk. The "Venue List" in your unit law library lists all of the federal courts in Texas, their divisions, and the addresses for the clerk's offices.
7. It is your responsibility to immediately notify the court in writing of any change of address. Failure to notify the court of your change of address could result in the dismissal of your case.

PETITION

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING: (check the appropriate number)

This petition concerns:

1. pretrial detention;
2. a conviction;
3. a sentence;
4. jail or prison conditions;
5. a prison disciplinary proceeding;
6. parole or mandatory supervision;
7. time credits;
8. other (specify): immigration detention (ICE)

Have you pursued to completion all relevant state and/or prison administrative remedies relevant to your complaint(s) before filing this petition. Yes **No** If yes, what was the date of the result and the result of any such proceeding. If no, explain why you have not pursued all such remedies.

My immigration case is still pending.
there is no final administrative decision.

1. Place of detention: Diamondback Correctional Facility,
Watonga, Oklahoma.
2. State the offense with which you have been charged and whether you have been convicted of the charged offense(s) or whether you are still awaiting trial: I have not been
charged with a criminal offense and I have not been convicted.
3. Name and location of court in which your case is pending or in which you were convicted:
"Immigration Court, United States"
4. The criminal docket or case number and the offense(s) for which you have been charged or convicted:
Not applicable.
5. If you have been convicted of the charged offense(s), the date upon which sentence was imposed and the length of the sentence:
Not applicable.
6. Check whether a finding of guilty was made:
 - a. after a plea of guilty
 - b. after a plea of not guilty
 - c. after a plea of nolo contendere
7. If you were found guilty, check whether that finding was made by:
 - a. a jury
 - b. a judge without a jury
8. Did you appeal from the judgment of conviction or the imposition of sentence?
Yes No

9. If you did appeal, give the following information for each appeal:

a. (1) Name of court and docket or case number:

(2) Result and date of result:

(3) Grounds raised (list each):

(a)

(b)

(c)

(d)

b. (1) Name of court and docket or case number:

(2) Result and date of result:

(3) Grounds raised (list each):

(a)

(b)

(c)

(d) _____

10. State concisely every ground on which you claim that you are held unlawfully. Summarize briefly the facts supporting each ground. If necessary, attach a single page only behind page 6.

CAUTION: If you fail to set forth all grounds in this petition, you may be barred from presenting additional grounds at a later date. You must state facts, not conclusions, in support of your grounds. Do not argue or cite law. Just state the specific facts that support your claim. Legal arguments and citation to cases or law should be presented in a separate memorandum.

a. **GROUND ONE:**

I am being held in immigration
without a Final order of removal.

Supporting facts: I have been detained by ICE since
4 November, 2025. There is no Final order of removal
in my case.

My immigration appeal is pending before the
Board of immigration appeal.

b. **GROUND TWO:**

I am being detained without a final
bond decision.

Supporting facts: I requested bond.

No final bond decision has been made
I remain in detention.

c. GROUND THREE: Unnecessary detention causing hardship to minor children and family

Supporting facts: I am the father of a 16-year-old minor child. My child depends on me emotionally and financially. My continued detention has caused significant hardship to my child. This hardship further supports that my continued detention is unnecessary.

d. GROUND FOUR: Detention without individualized justification despite no flight risk or danger.

Supporting facts: I have no criminal history, complied with ICE supervision, appeared as required, and am not a flight risk or danger.

11. Relief sought in this petition: I respectfully request release
from immigration detention. in the alternative,
I request a prompt bond hearing

12. Have you filed a previous application or petition for habeas corpus or any other application, petition or motion with respect to the grounds raised in this petition?

Yes No

13. If your answer to Question No. 12 is yes, give the following information as to each previous application, petition, or motion:

a. (1) Name of court and docket or case number: _____

(2) Result and date of result: _____

(3) Grounds raised (list each):

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

(d) _____

b. (1) Name of court and docket or case number: _____

(2) Result and date of result: _____

(3) Grounds raised (list each):

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

(d) _____

14. If applicable, state whether you have filed a motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255, and if you filed such a motion and it was denied, state why your remedy by way of such motion is inadequate or ineffective to test the legality of your detention.

NOT applicable.

15. Are you presently represented by counsel? Yes No
If so, name, address and telephone number of attorney: _____

16. If you are seeking leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*, have you completed an application setting forth required information? Yes No

Wherefore, Petitioner prays that the Court grant him the relief to which he may be entitled.

Signature of Attorney (if any)

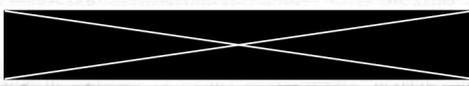
I declare (or certify, verify, or state) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct and that this Petition for a Writ of Habeas Corpus was placed in the prison mailing system on 01-17-2026 (month, day, year).

Executed (signed) on January 17-2026 (date).



Signature of Petitioner (required)

Petitioner's current address:

Rafael Jose Romero Lopez
A# 
Diamondback Correctional
Facility Watonga, Oklahoma