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PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. Petitioner CARMEN VIRIDIANA PORRAS-GARDEA, a citizen of Mexico, is detained by Respondents at the El Paso Processing Center, 8915 Montana, El Paso, Texas 79925 because the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR) illegally concluded that she is subject to mandatory detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b). Petitioner seeks relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2241.

2. The Department of Homeland Security alleges that Petitioner entered the United States without inspection “at or near Presidio, Texas on or about December 25, 2025.” Exhibit A (Notice to Appear). Petitioner is married to a United States citizen. Exhibit B.

3. On October 7, 2025, immigration officials arrested Petitioner in Odessa, Texas and placed her in removal proceedings. Exhibit A.

4. Petitioner is eligible to become a lawful permanent resident through her husband, a United States citizen. Exhibit C.

5. Immigration officials transported Petitioner to the El Paso Processing Center, 8915 Montana, El Paso, Texas, where she is currently detained.

6. Petitioner filed a motion for bond hearing with the Immigration Judge. Exhibit D.

7. On December 18, 2025, the Immigration Judge denied a bond hearing to Petitioner, citing *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I&N Dec. 216, 220 (BIA 2025). Exhibit E.

8. The DHS alleges that Petitioner is inadmissible under 8 U.S.C. §§ 1182(a)(6)(A)(i), (a)(7)(A)(i)(I). Exhibit A.

9. The government had not elected to detain Petitioner prior to October 7, 2025.

10. On July 8, 2025, DHS introduced a “new policy” instructing all ICE employees to treat anyone alleged to be inadmissible under Section 1182(a)(6)(A)(i) as an “applicant for admission”

subject to the mandatory detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A). This announcement of the policy conceded that it was created “in coordination with the Department of Justice (DOJ).” See <https://www.aila.org/library/ice-memo-interim-guidance-regarding-detention-authority-for-applications-for-admissions>.

11. This incorrect and indefensible interpretation of the Immigration and Nationality Act (“INA”) was endorsed by the Board of Immigration Appeals, an arm of the Department of Justice, on September 5, 2025, *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I&N Dec. 216, 220 (BIA 2025). The IJ cited *Matter of Yajure Hurtado* to deny the bond hearing. Exhibit E.

12. Petitioner’s detention under *Matter of Yajure Hurtado* violates the plain language of the Immigration and Nationality Act and contradicts basic precepts of statutory construction and legal analysis.

13. A correct reading of the INA would conclude that Section 1225(b)(2)(A) applies to recent arrivals who are apprehended near the border. It does not apply to individuals, like Petitioner, who are accused of entering the country several months prior and are arrested in Odessa, Texas, more than 100 miles from the U.S.-Mexico border.

14. The correct reading of the statute is discerned from text, case law, and decades of agency practice. Petitioner should not be deemed detained under Section 1225(b)(2) but under Section 1226(a) and, thus, eligible for bond. Respondents’ interpretation to the contrary is a dangerous transgression of the INA, the Administrative Procedure Act, and Due Process.

15. Petitioner seeks a writ of habeas corpus for immediate release or an individualized bond hearing before an immigration judge.

CUSTODY

16. Petitioner is in the physical custody of Respondent MARY DE ANDA YBARRA,

El Paso Field Office Director for Detention and Removal, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

JURISDICTION

17. This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 (habeas corpus), 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question), and Article 1, section 9, clause 2 of the United States Constitution (the Suspension Clause).

18. This Court may grant relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241, the Declaratory Judgment act, 28 U.S.C. § 2201 et seq., and the All Writs Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1651.

VENUE

19. Pursuant to *Braden v. 30th Judicial Circuit Court of Kentucky*, 410 U.S. 484, 493- 500 (1973), venue lies in the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, El Paso Division because Petitioner is detained in El Paso County, Texas, within the environs of the El Paso Division.

20. Venue is also proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e) because (a) Respondents are employees, officers, and agencies of the United States, and (b) a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in the Western District of Texas.

REQUIREMENTS OF 28 U.S.C. § 2243

21. The Court must grant a petition for writ of habeas corpus or order a respondent to show cause forthwith, unless the petitioner is not entitled to relief. 28 U.S.C. § 2243. If an order to show cause is issued, a respondent must file a return “within three days unless for good cause additional time, not exceeding twenty days, is allowed.” *Id.*

22. Habeas corpus is “perhaps the most important writ known to the constitutional law... affording as it does a *swift* and imperative remedy in all cases of illegal restraint or confinement.” *Fay*

v. Noia, 372 U.S. 391, 400 (1963) (emphasis added). “The application for the writ usurps the attention and displaces the calendar of the judge or justice who entertains it and receives prompt action from him within the four corners of the application.” *Yong v. I.N.S.*, 208 F.3d 1116, 1120 (9th Cir. 2000) (citation omitted).

PARTIES

23. Petitioner Carmen Viridiana Porras-Gardea, is a citizen of Mexico. Exhibit 1.

24. Respondent Kristi Noem is the Secretary of the United States Department of Homeland Security. She is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the Immigration and Nationality Act, and oversees ICE, which is responsible for Petitioner’s detention. Secretary Noem has ultimate custodial authority over Petitioner and is sued in her official capacity.

25. Respondent Mary De Anda Ybarra is the Field Office Director of ICE’s Enforcement and Removal Operations division in El Paso, Texas. As such, Respondent is Petitioner’s immediate custodian and is responsible for Petitioner’s detention and removal. She is named in her official capacity.

26. Respondent Todd M. Lyons is the Acting Director of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and responsible for Petitioner’s detention. He is named in his official capacity.

27. Respondent Pamela Bondi is the Attorney General of the United States. She is responsible for the Department of Justice, of which the Executive Office for Immigration Review and the immigration court system is a component agency. She is sued in her official capacity.

EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

28. “The major purpose of the exhaustion doctrine is to prevent the courts from interfering with the administrative process until it has reached a conclusion.” *Von Hoffburg v. Alexander*, 615

F.2d 633, 637 (5th Cir. 1980). Under *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, an immigration judge has no jurisdiction to entertain a bond hearing for people such as Petitioner. Because *Yajure Hurtado* was issued as a precedential decision, it serves as “precedent[] in all proceedings involving the same issue or issues” upon BIA review. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.1(g)(2). Any appeal of the denial of the bond hearing to the BIA “would be a patently futile course of action.” *Fuller v. Rich*, 11 F.3d. 61, 62 (5th Cir. 1994) (per curiam). Therefore, an exception to exhaustion exists and Petitioner’s only remedy is by way of a writ of habeas corpus to this Court.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

8 USC §§ 1225, 1226 and *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*

29. The Immigration and Nationality Act (“INA”) prescribes three basic forms of detention for the vast majority of noncitizens in removal proceedings.

30. First, 8 U.S.C. § 1226 authorizes the detention of noncitizens in standard removal proceedings before an immigration judge. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1229a. Individuals detained under Section 1226(a) are generally entitled to a bond hearing at the outset of their detention. *See* 8 C.F.R. §§ 1003.19(a), 1236.1(d). However, noncitizens who have been arrested, charged with, or convicted of certain crimes are subject to mandatory detention under Section 1226(c). *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c).

31. Second, the INA provides for mandatory detention of two groups of noncitizens: The first group consists of those who are subject to expedited removal for being apprehended upon arrival near the border or for being unable to show that they have been physically present in the United States for more than two years until a determination has been made as to whether they have a credible fear of persecution. 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1). The second group subject to mandatory detention consists of anyone alleged to be an “applicant for admission” who is “seeking admission” and whom an “examining immigration officer determines . . . is not clearly and beyond a doubt entitled to be admit-

ted.” *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A).

32. Last, the INA provides for detention of noncitizens who have been ordered removed, including individuals in withholding-only proceedings. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)-(b).

33. Petitioner’s case concerns the detention provisions described in Section 1226(a) and Section 1225(b)(2).

34. The detention provisions in Section 1226(a) and Section 1225(b)(2) were enacted as part of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104–208, Div. C, §§ 302–03, 110 Stat. 3009–546, 3009–582 to 3009–583, 3009–585. Section 1226(a) was most recently amended earlier this year by the Laken Riley Act, Pub.L. No.119-1, 139 Stat. 3 (2025).

35. Following the enactment of the IIRIRA, EOIR drafted regulations explaining that, in general, people who entered the country without inspection were considered detained under Section 1226(a), not under Section 1225. *See* Inspection and Expedited Removal of Aliens; Detention and Removal of Aliens; Conduct of Removal Proceedings; Asylum Procedures, 62 Fed. Reg. 10312, 10323 (Mar. 6, 1997).

36. In the decades that followed the creation of this statutory and regulatory language, people who entered without inspection were placed in standard removal proceedings and received bond hearings, unless their criminal histories triggered the requirements for mandatory detention outlined in 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c) (concerning mandatory detention of “criminal aliens”). *See also* 8 C.F.R. 236.1(c)(8) (describing criteria for release). That practice was consistent with many decades of prior practice, in which noncitizens who were not deemed “arriving” were entitled to a custody hearing before an immigration judge or other hearing officer. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1252(a) (1994); *see also* H.R. Rep. No. 104-469, pt. 1, at 229 (1996) (noting that § 1226(a) simply “restates” the detention aut-

hority previously found at § 1252(a).

37. On July 8, 2025, ICE announced a new policy “in coordination with” the Department of Justice that rejected the well-established understanding of the statutory framework and reversed decades of practice.

39. The new policy, entitled “Interim Guidance Regarding Detention Authority for Applicants for Admission,” asserts that all persons who entered the United States without inspection shall now be deemed “applicants for admission” under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(a)(1), and therefore subject to mandatory detention provision under Section 1225(b)(2)(A). The policy applies regardless of when or where a person was apprehended, and it affects those who have resided in the United States for for months, years, and even decades.

40. On September 5, 2025, the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) issued an opinion adopting this interpretation of the detention statutes. *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I&N Dec. 216, 220 (BIA 2025). The decision holds that “aliens who are present in the United States without admission are applicants for admission as defined under section 235(b)(2)(A) of the INA, 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A), and must be detained for the duration of their removal proceedings.” *Id.*

41. Courts in the Western District of Texas and other United States District Courts throughout the United States have previously addressed the issues raised in the Petition. *See Chang v. Noem*, No. 5:25-CV-01259-FB (W.D. Tex. Dec. 17, 2025); *Aragones-Frias v. Noem*, No. 3:25-CV-00590-KC, at *1-5 (W.D. Tex. Dec. 5, 2025); *Martinez v. Noem*, No. 3:25-cv-430-KC, 2025 WL 2965859, at *1-5 (W.D. Tex. Oct. 21, 2025); *Lopez-Arevelo v. Ripa*, No. 25-cv-337-KC, 2025 WL 2691828 (W.D. Tex. Sept. 22, 2025); *Lala Barros v. Noem*, No. 3:25-cv-488-KC, 2025 WL 3154059, at *1-6 (W.D. Tex. Nov. 10, 2025); *Erazo Rojas v. Noem*, No. 3:25-cv-443-KC, 2025 WL 3038262, at *1-5 (W.D. Tex. Oct. 30, 2025); *Santiago v. Noem*, No. 3:25-cv-361-KC, 2025 WL 2792588, at *1-14 (W.D. Tex. Oct. 2, 2025).

42. The joint DHS-DOJ interpretation of Section 1225(b)(2) defies the INA's text, the INA's logic, and the well-established case law and practice interpreting this provision. There are at least four separate grounds on which the DHS-DOJ interpretation of law fails basic methods of statutory construction.

43. First, the DHS-DOJ reading of the statute is wrong because it is incompatible with the title of Section 1225, "Inspection by Immigration Officers; *Expedited Removal of Inadmissible Arriving Aliens*; Referral for Hearing." 8 U.S.C. § 1225 (emphasis added). As the Supreme Court has explained, "the title of a statute and the heading of a section are tools available for the resolution of a doubt" about the meaning of a statute. *Almendarez-Torres v. United States*, 523 U.S. 224, 234 (1998). Section 1225's title refers to "arriving" noncitizens who are put in "expedited removal proceedings." *Id.* These are the people to whom Section 1225(a)(1)'s definition of "applicant for admission" and Section 1225(b)(2)(A)'s mandatory detention provisions apply. The government gravely errs by applying the definition of "applicant for admission" to people who are not "arriving" and not in "expedited removal proceedings." In this case, Petitioner was not "arriving" or "seeking admission" when she was detained in Odessa, Texas, almost a year after allegedly entering the United States and more than 100 miles from the U.S.–Mexico border. Nor was she put in expedited removal proceedings. Exhibit A. Section 1225(b)(2)(A) cannot apply to her.

44. Second, the DHS-DOJ reading violates the INA because it ignores the subject-matter of Section 1225. Section 1225 describes the procedures for the inspection and expedited removal of people detained at the border who are "seeking admission" to the United States. 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A). The Supreme Court itself noted that the mandatory detention scheme in Section 1225(b)(2)(A) applies "at the Nation's borders and ports of entry, where the Government must determine whether a[] [noncitizen] seeking to enter the country is admissible." *Jennings v. Rodriguez*,

583 U.S. 281, 287 (2018). Throughout, Section 1225's text makes clear that it concerns apprehensions and "expedited" procedures conducted at the border—not actions taken far from the border like Chicago. That the DHS-DOJ reading of the statute ignores this context. "It is a fundamental canon of statutory construction," the Supreme Court explained, "that the words of a statute must be read in their context and with a view to their place in the overall statutory scheme." *Davis v. Michigan Dep't of Treasury*, 489 U.S. 803, 809 (1989). The context of Section 1225 demonstrates that subsections 1225(a)(1) and 1225(b)(2)(A) apply to those apprehended at or near the border upon arrival or shortly thereafter. They do not apply to those who are arrested in the interior of the United States months, years or a decade or more later. The DHS-DOJ reading of the statute is an act of cherry-picking a definitional phrase from one context and applying it to another context where it does not belong.

45. Third, the DHS-DOJ reading of Section 1225(b)(2)(A) is wrong because it requires courts to ignore numerous words in the text of that very subsection. As Justice Antonin Scalia and his co-author, Bryan A. Garner, explain: "If possible, every word and every provision is to be given effect." SCALIA AND GARNER, *READING LAW: THE INTERPRETATION OF LEGAL TEXTS* AT 174 (2012). A good interpretation of a statute will not result in "extra" words. Yet that is exactly what occurs if one tries to apply Section 1225(b)(2)(A) to Petitioner's case. Here is the full text of Section 1225(b)(2)(A), the mandatory-detention provision:

[I]n the case of an alien who is an applicant for admission, if the *examining immigration officer* determines that an alien [2] *seeking admission* is [3] *not clearly and beyond a doubt entitled to be admitted*, the alien shall be detained for a proceeding under section 240.

8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A) (emphasis and bracketed numbers added). Petitioner was never seen by an "examining immigration officer." There was never a "determin[ation] that . . ." she was "not clearly and beyond a doubt entitled to be admitted." The reason the DHS-DOJ application of the statute has

all of these “extra” words is that the statute applies only to those who are “arriving” at the border and are candidates for “expedited removal.” In *that* context, those “extra” words make sense, as there will be an “examining immigration officer” and there will be a determination of potential eligibility for immigration relief. These procedures are uniquely tethered to the border and they are described in exquisite detail in the subsections of Section 1225. But Section 1225’s procedures have no place in the entirely different context of someone, in Petitioner’s position, who is detained far from the border and almost a year after she allegedly entered the United States. Only by ignoring all of these “extra” words can DHS-DOJ claim to make its reading of the statute fit Petitioner.

46. Further, Respondents’ proposed interpretation of the statute ignores the plain meaning of the phrase “seeking admission.” See *Martinez v. Hyde*, No. CV 25-11613-BEM, 2025 Dist. LEXIS 141724, at *6-11 (D. Mass July 24, 2025). “Seeking” means “asking for” or “trying to acquire or gain.” Merriam-Webster Dictionary, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/seeking>. And the use of a present participle, “seeking,” “necessarily implies some sort of present-tense action.” *Martinez*, 2025 Dist. LEXIS 2084238, at *7. The term “admission” is defined as “the lawful entry of the alien into the United States after inspection and authorization by an immigration officer.” 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(13)(A). And “entry” has long been understood to mean “a crossing into the territorial limits of the United States.” *Hing Sum v. Holder*, 602 F.3d 1092, 1100-01 (9th Cir. 2010) (quoting *Matter of Pierre*, 14 I & N Dec. 467, 468 (1973)). To piece this together, the phrase “seeking admission” means that one must be actively “seeking” “lawful entry.” See *Lopez Benitez v. Francis*, No. 25-Civ-5937, 2025 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 153952 at *7 (S.D.N.Y. Aug. 8, 2025). This understanding is further buttressed by the fact that “lawful entry” may occur only after “inspection and authorization by an immigration officer,” see 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(13), a process that typically must occur at the border or other port of entry. See *Posos-Sanchez v. Garland*, 3 F.4th 1176, 1183 (9th Cir. 2021) (explaining that

"inspection and authorization" must "take place at a 'port of entry'" for one to be considered to have "awfully entered"). The regulations that set out "inspection procedures" make clear that inspection is a procedure that occurs at ports of entry. *See* 8 C.F.R § 235.1(a) ("Application to lawfully enter the United States shall be made in person to an immigration officer at a U.S. port-of-entry when the port is open for inspection.").

47. Petitioner was not "seeking admission" on October 7, 2025, when she was arrested by immigration officials in Odessa, Texas. She was already in the United States, having allegedly entered without inspection on Christmas day in 2024. If anything, Petitioner was seeking to *remain* in the United States. As *Lopez-Benitez* noted:

[S]omeone who enters a movie theater without purchasing a ticket and then proceeds to sit through the first few minutes of a film would not ordinarily then be described as "seeking admission" to the theater. Rather, that person would be described as already present there. Even if that person, after being detected, offered to pay for a ticket, one would not ordinarily describe them as "seeking admission" (or "seeking" "lawful entry") at that point—one would say that they had entered unlawfully but now seek a lawful [*12] means of remaining there. As § 1225(b)(2)(A) applies only to those noncitizens who are actively "seeking admission" to the United States, it cannot, according to its ordinary meaning, apply to [petitioner], because he has already been residing in the United States for more than two years.

Lopez Benitez, 2025 WL 2371588, at *7; *see also Lopez-Campos v. Raycraft*, No. 2:25-CV-12486, 2025 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 169423, 2025 WL 2496379, at *6 (E.D. Mich. Aug. 29, 2025) ("[S]eeking 'admission' implies action — something that is currently occurring, and in this instance, would most logically occur at the border upon inspection.").

48. Fourth, the DHS-DOJ reading of Section 1225(b)(2)(A) violates the INA because it renders a neighboring subsection superfluous. In Section 1226(c), the INA describes people who would otherwise be eligible for bond under Section 1226(a) but are rendered ineligible for bond be-

cause of their criminal histories. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c). Of particular interest, subsections 1226(c)(1)(E)(i)-(ii) address people who are alleged to be inadmissible under 8 § U.S.C. 1882(a)(6)(A) as aliens present without inspection. According to these subsections, such people are ineligible for bond *only* if they are also “charged with, . . . arrested for, . . . convicted of . . .” certain crimes. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c)(1)(E)(i)-(ii). In short, Section 1226(c) requires mandatory detention for people who have entered without inspection *and* have criminal histories. But if the DHS-DOJ reading were correct, then all people who entered without inspection would be mandatorily detained, regardless of whether they had criminal histories or not. Subsections 1226(c)(1)(E)(i) and (ii) would be superfluous, if the DHS-DOJ position were correct, because Section 1225(b)(2)(A) would govern all cases where someone was alleged to have entered without inspection. But we know that cannot be right, as these subsections of 1226(c)(1) were the most recent subsections added by Congress to the INA just this year in the Laken Riley Act, Pub. L. No. 119-1, 139 Stat. ___ (2025) (adding (E)(i) and (E)(ii) to Section 1226(c)(1)). Congress would not have added the subsections only to see these additions rendered completely superfluous.

49. For the four distinct reasons outlined above, the mandatory detention provision of Section 1225(b)(2)(A) does not apply to people like Petitioner.

Due Process Violation

50. Respondents’ detention of Petitioner without a bond hearing denies due process under the Fifth Amendment.

51. “To determine whether a civil detention violates a detainee’s due process rights, courts apply the three-part test set forth in *Mathews v. Eldridge*, 424 U.S. 319 (1976).” *Martinez v. Noem*, No. 5:25-cv-1007-JKP, 2025 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 174415, at *3 (W.D. Tex. Sept. 8, 2025). Those factors are: (1) “the private interest that will be affected by the official action”; (2) “the risk of an erroneous

deprivation of such interest through the procedures used, and the probable value, if any, of additional or substitute procedural safeguards”; and (3) “the Government’s interest, including the function involved and the fiscal and administrative burdens that the additional or substitute procedural requirement would entail.” *Mathews*, 424 U.S. at 335. “The essence of procedural due process is that a person risking a serious loss be given notice and an opportunity to be heard in a meaningful manner and at a meaningful time.” *Id.* at 348.

a. Private Interest

52. As to the first element, “[t]he interest in being free from physical detention’ is ‘the most elemental of liberty interests.” *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld*, 542 U.S. 507, 529 (2004). Respondents have detained Petitioner since October 7, 2025. A person’s physical freedom is a paramount liberty interest, secured not just by statute but by the Constitution. *Id.* This liberty interest applies to noncitizens, although to varying degrees *Martinez v. Hyde*, --- F. Supp. 3d ---, 2025 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 141724 at *8 (D. Mass. July 24, 2025) (citation omitted). “[O]ur immigration laws have long made a distinction between those aliens who have come to our shores seeking admission . . . and those who are within the United States after an entry, irrespective of its legality.” *Id.* (quoting *Leng May Ma v. Barber*, 357 U.S. 185, 187 (1958)). “In the latter instance the Court has recognized additional rights and privileges not extended to those in the former category who are merely “on the threshold of initial entry.”” *Id.* (quoting *Leng May Ma*, 357 U.S. at 187).

53. Petitioner has lived in the United States since December 25, 2024, so “it cannot be denied that [she] was ‘already in the country.’” *See id.* (quotations omitted). She is married to a United States citizen has established a family and a community here. In custody, she is suffering all the deprivations of incarceration, including loss of contact with friends and family and, most fundamentally, the lack of freedom of movement.

54. Recently, District Courts throughout the United States, including those in the Western District of Texas, have considered due process claims in habeas petitions by noncitizens without lawful immigration status who entered the United States surreptitiously, like Petitioner. *See Chang v. Noem*, No. 5:25-CV-01259-FB (W.D. Tex. Dec. 17, 2025); *Aragones-Frias v. Noem*, No. 3:25-CV-00590-KC, at *1-5 (W.D. Tex. Dec. 5, 2025); *Martinez v. Noem*, No. 3:25-cv-430-KC, 2025 WL 2965859, at *1–5 (W.D. Tex. Oct. 21, 2025); *Lopez-Arevelo v. Ripa*, No. 25-cv-337-KC, 2025 WL 2691828 (W.D. Tex. Sept. 22, 2025); *Lala Barros v. Noem*, No. 3:25-cv-488-KC, 2025 WL 3154059, at *1–6 (W.D. Tex. Nov. 10, 2025); *Erazo Rojas v. Noem*, No. 3:25-cv-443-KC, 2025 WL 3038262, at *1–5 (W.D. Tex. Oct. 30, 2025); *Santiago v. Noem*, No. 3:25-cv-361-KC, 2025 WL 2792588, at *1–14 (W.D. Tex. Oct. 2, 2025); *Sanchez Alvarez v. Noem*, No. 25-CV-1090, 2025 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 2048996 at *1 (W.D. Mich. Oct. 17, 2025); *Chogllo Chafila v. Scott*, Nos. 25-CV-437, 438, 439, 2025 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 184909 at *1, 10 (D. Me. Sept. 22, 2025); *Martinez v. Noem*, No. EP:25-CV-430-KC, U.S. Dist. LEXIS 403462 (W.D. Tex. Oct. 21, 2025). Those courts have found that because the petitioners established a life here—albeit without authorization—they possessed a strong liberty interest in their freedom from detention. *See, e.g.*, These decisions are persuasive and consistent with the longstanding principle that due process applies to those who are present in the interior of the United States, regardless of their citizenship status. *See Leng May Ma*, 357 U.S. at 187.

b. Risk of Erroneous Deprivation

55. Under the second *Mathews* factor, the Court must consider “whether the challenged procedure creates a risk of erroneous deprivation of individuals’ private rights and the degree to which alternative procedures could ameliorate these risks.” *Martinez v. Noem*, 2025 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 403462 at *8 (quoting *Gunaydin v. Trump*, 784 F. Supp. 3d 1175, 1187 (D. Minn. May 21, 2025)).

56. Detaining Petitioner without holding a bond hearing creates a certain result that she is

deprived of her liberty. Therefore, the second *Mathews* factor weighs in favor of Petitioner.

c. Government's Interest

57. Respondents' only possible interest to detain Petitioner without a bond hearing serves the misguided policy to detain every non-citizen who entered the United States without inspection. Petitioner's constitutional interest in her liberty exists above and apart from the INA. *See A.A.R.P. v. Trump*, 605 U.S. 91, 94 (2025) (“[T]he Fifth Amendment entitles aliens to due process of law in the context of removal proceedings.”) (citation omitted). Certainly, the Government has an interest in ensuring that noncitizens appear for their removal hearings and do not pose a danger to the community. A bond hearing satisfies that interest. Thus, the third *Mathews* factor also weighs in favor of Petitioner.

58. Since all *Mathews* factors support Petitioner's position, the denial of an individualized bond hearing deprives her of her constitutional right to procedural due process under the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution. Petitioner requests this Court to enter order for her immediate release, or in the alternative, Federal Respondents provide her with an individualized bond hearing.

Administrative Procedure Act

59. Under the Administrative Procedure Act, a court must “hold unlawful and set aside agency action” that is “arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with the law,” that is “contrary to constitutional right [or] power,” or that is “in excess of statutory jurisdiction, authority, or limitations, or short of statutory right.” 5 U.S.C. § 706(2)(A)-(C).

60. Respondents' detention of Petitioner pursuant to Section 1225(b)(2) is arbitrary and capricious. Respondents' detention of Petitioner violates the INA and the Fifth Amendment; Respondents do not have statutory authority under Section 1225(b)(2) to detain Petitioner.

RELEVANT FACTS

61. Petitioner is a citizen of Mexico who is alleged by the Department of Homeland Security to have entered the United States without inspection on Christmas Day 2024. Exhibit A.

62. Petitioner is married to a United States citizen. Exhibit B.

63. Petitioner may have relief from removal through lawful permanent residency through her marriage to a United States citizen. Exhibit C.

64. Petitioner was arrested in Odessa, Texas by immigration officials and placed in removal proceedings on October 7, 2025. Exhibit A.

65. Petitioner is detained by immigration officials at the El Paso Processing Center where she requested a bond hearing from an Immigration Judge. Exhibit D.

66. The Immigration Judge denied the bond hearing, citing *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*. Exhibit E.

CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

COUNT I: VIOLATIONS OF THE INA

67. Petitioner incorporates by reference the factual allegations and legal arguments set forth in the preceding paragraphs.

69. For the reasons described above, the mandatory detention provision of 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2) cannot not apply to all noncitizens in the United States who are subject to the specified grounds of inadmissibility, entry without inspection. As relevant here, this mandatory detention statute cannot be read to apply to those who are accused of residing in the United States for decades prior to apprehension and removal proceedings. proceedings. A person with long-term residence in the United States who is alleged to be removable should be deemed detained under Section 1226(a), unless they

are subject to Section 1226(c) or Section 1231. Indeed, for the reasons described in all the paragraphs above, the mandatory detention statute cannot be read to apply to someone in Petitioner's circumstances.

70. The application of § 1225(b)(2)(A) to Petitioner unlawfully mandates his continued detention and violates the INA.

COUNT II: VIOLATION OF DUE PROCESS

71. Petitioner incorporates by reference the factual allegations and legal arguments set forth in the preceding paragraphs.

72. The government may not deprive a person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law. U.S. Const. amend. V. "Freedom from imprisonment—from government custody, detention, or other forms of physical restraint—lies at the heart of the liberty that the Clause protects." *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 690 (2001).

73. Petitioner has a fundamental interest in liberty and being free from official restraint.

74. Petitioner's due process rights are violated by the denial of a bond hearing by Respondents.

COUNT III: VIOLATION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT

75. Petitioner incorporates by reference the factual allegations and legal arguments set forth in the preceding paragraphs.

76. Under the Administrative Procedure Act, a court must "hold unlawful and set aside agency action" that is "arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with the law," that is "contrary to constitutional right [or] power," or that is "in excess of statutory jurisdiction, authority, or limitations, or short of statutory right." 5 U.S.C. § 706(2)(A)-(C).

77. Respondents' detention of Petitioner pursuant to Section 1225(b)(2) is arbitrary and

capricious. Respondents' detention of Petitioner violates the INA and the Fifth Amendment. Respondents do not have statutory authority under Section 1225(b)(2) to detain Petitioner.

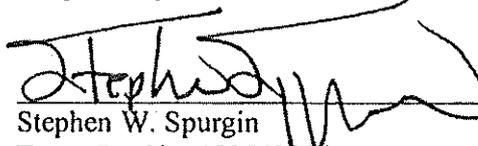
PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Petitioner prays that this Court grant the following relief:

- a. Assume jurisdiction over this matter;
- b. Issue a writ of habeas corpus requiring Respondents to release Petitioner or provide an individualized bond hearing within 10 days.
- c. Grant such other relief that the Court deems proper.

Date: Dec. 18, 2025

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen W. Spurgin
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310 North Mesa, Suite 300
Cortez on the Plaza
El Paso, Texas 79901
Tel: 915.779.2800
Email: stephen@spurginLaw.com
Attorney for Petitioner
Carmen Viridiana Porras-Gardea

VERIFICATION PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. § 2242

I, Stephen W. Spurgin, am submitting this verification on behalf of Petitioner because I am her attorney and Petitioner is in ICE custody. I have discussed with Petitioner the events described in this Petition and have reviewed the documents corroborating those events. I hereby verify under penalty of perjury that the factual statements made in this Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

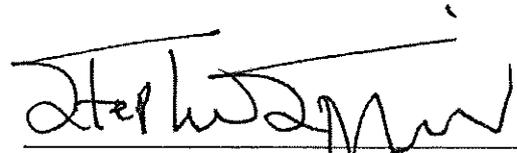

Stephen W. Spurgin
December 18, 2025

EXHIBIT A

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
NOTICE TO APPEAR

In removal proceedings under section 240 of the Immigration and Nationality Act:

Subject: [REDACTED]

FINS [REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED]

File No: [REDACTED]

Event No: [REDACTED]

In the Matter of:

Respondent:

CARMEN VIRIDIANA PORRAS-GARDEA

currently residing at

EL PASO SERVICE PROCESSING CENTER 8915 MONTANA AVENUE EL PASO, TEXAS, 79925

+1 (915) 225-1901

(Number, street, city, state and ZIP code)

(Area code and phone number)

- You are an arriving alien.
- You are an alien present in the United States who has not been admitted or paroled.
- You have been admitted to the United States, but are removable for the reasons stated below.

The Department of Homeland Security alleges that you:

1. You are not a citizen or national of the United States;
2. You are a native of MEXICO and a citizen of MEXICO ;
3. You arrived in the United States at or near PRESIDIO, TX , on or about December 25, 2024 ;
4. You were not then admitted or paroled after inspection by an Immigration Officer.
5. You are an immigrant not in possession of a valid unexpired immigrant visa, reentry permit, border crossing card, or other valid entry document required by the Immigration and Nationality Act;

On the basis of the foregoing, it is charged that you are subject to removal from the United States pursuant to the following provision(s) of law:

See Continuation Page Made a Part Hereof

- This notice is being issued after an asylum officer has found that the respondent has demonstrated a credible fear of persecution or torture.
- Section 235(b)(1) order was vacated pursuant to: 8CFR 208.30 8CFR 235.3(b)(5)(iv)

YOU ARE ORDERED to appear before an immigration judge of the United States Department of Justice at:

8915 MONTANA AVE EL PASO TX US 79925

(Complete Address of Immigration Court, including Room Number, if any)

on December 02, 2025 at 08:30 AM to show why you should not be removed from the United States based on the
(Date) (Time)

charge(s) set forth above.

JORGE ESPINOSA

Acting/Patrol Agent in Charge

(Signature and Title of Issuing Officer)

Date: October 07, 2025

500 Laurel Street, Van Horn, Texas 79651

(City and State)

Notice to Respondent

Warning: Any statement you make may be used against you in removal proceedings.

Allen Registration: This copy of the Notice to Appear served upon you is evidence of your alien registration while you are in removal proceedings. You are required to carry it with you at all times.

Representation: If you so choose, you may be represented in this proceeding, at no expense to the Government, by an attorney or other individual authorized and qualified to represent persons before the Executive Office for Immigration Review, pursuant to 8 CFR 1003.16. Unless you so request, no hearing will be scheduled earlier than ten days from the date of this notice, to allow you sufficient time to secure counsel. A list of qualified attorneys and organizations who may be available to represent you at no cost will be provided with this notice.

Conduct of the hearing: At the time of your hearing, you should bring with you any affidavits or other documents that you desire to have considered in connection with your case. If you wish to have the testimony of any witnesses considered, you should arrange to have such witnesses present at the hearing. At your hearing you will be given the opportunity to admit or deny any or all of the allegations in the Notice to Appear, including that you are inadmissible or removable. You will have an opportunity to present evidence on your own behalf, to examine any evidence presented by the Government, to object, on proper legal grounds, to the receipt of evidence and to cross examine any witnesses presented by the Government. At the conclusion of your hearing, you have a right to appeal an adverse decision by the immigration judge. You will be advised by the immigration judge before whom you appear of any relief from removal for which you may appear eligible including the privilege of voluntary departure. You will be given a reasonable opportunity to make any such application to the immigration judge.

One-Year Asylum Application Deadline: If you believe you may be eligible for asylum, you must file a Form I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal. The Form I-589, Instructions, and information on where to file the Form can be found at www.uscis.gov/i-589. Failure to file the Form I-589 within one year of arrival may bar you from eligibility to apply for asylum pursuant to section 208(a)(2)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Failure to appear: You are required to provide the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in writing, with your full mailing address and telephone number. You must notify the Immigration Court and the DHS immediately by using Form EOIR-33 whenever you change your address or telephone number during the course of this proceeding. You will be provided with a copy of this form. Notices of hearing will be mailed to this address. If you do not submit Form EOIR-33 and do not otherwise provide an address at which you may be reached during proceedings, then the Government shall not be required to provide you with written notice of your hearing. If you fail to attend the hearing at the time and place designated on this notice, or any date and time later directed by the Immigration Court, a removal order may be made by the immigration judge in your absence, and you may be arrested and detained by the DHS.

Mandatory Duty to Surrender for Removal: If you become subject to a final order of removal, you must surrender for removal to your local DHS office, listed on the internet at http://www.ice.gov/contact/ero, as directed by the DHS and required by statute and regulation. Immigration regulations at 8 CFR 1241.1 define when the removal order becomes administratively final. If you are granted voluntary departure and fail to depart the United States as required, fail to post a bond in connection with voluntary departure, or fail to comply with any other condition or term in connection with voluntary departure, you must surrender for removal on the next business day thereafter. If you do not surrender for removal as required, you will be ineligible for all forms of discretionary relief for as long as you remain in the United States and for ten years after your departure or removal. This means you will be ineligible for asylum, cancellation of removal, voluntary departure, adjustment of status, change of nonimmigrant status, registry, and related waivers for this period. If you do not surrender for removal as required, you may also be criminally prosecuted under section 243 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

U.S. Citizenship Claims: If you believe you are a United States citizen, please advise the DHS by calling the ICE Law Enforcement Support Center toll free at (855) 448-8903.

Sensitive locations: To the extent that an enforcement action leading to a removal proceeding was taken against Respondent at a location described in 8 U.S.C. § 1229(e)(1), such action complied with 8 U.S.C. § 1367.

Upon information and belief, the language that the alien understands is SPANISH

Request for Prompt Hearing

To expedite a determination in my case, I request this Notice to Appear be filed with the Executive Office for Immigration Review as soon as possible. I waive my right to a 10-day period prior to appearing before an immigration judge and request my hearing be scheduled.

Before:

ALFREDO GODINEZ JR.
Date: 2025.10.07 13:36:07-05:00
0189851109 CBP

Border Patrol Agent

(Signature and Title of Immigration Officer)

Alfredo Godinez Jr.

(Signature of Respondent)

Date: 10/07/2025

Certificate of Service

This Notice To Appear was served on the respondent by me on October 7, 2025, in the following manner and in compliance with section 239(a)(1) of the Act.

- in person by certified mail, returned receipt # _____ requested by regular mail
- Attached is a credible fear worksheet.
- Attached is a list of organization and attorneys which provide free legal services.

The alien was provided oral notice in the SPANISH language of the time and place of his or her hearing and of the consequences of failure to appear as provided in section 240(b)(7) of the Act.

Alfredo Godinez Jr.

(Signature of Respondent if Personally Served)

ALFREDO GODINEZ JR.
Date: 2025.10.07 13:35:50-05:00
0189851109 CBP

Border Patrol Agent

(Signature and Title of officer)

Authority:

The Department of Homeland Security through U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) are authorized to collect the information requested on this form pursuant to Sections 103, 237, 239, 240, and 290 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), as amended (8 U.S.C. 1103, 1229, 1229a, and 1360), and the regulations issued pursuant thereto.

Purpose:

You are being asked to sign and date this Notice to Appear (NTA) as an acknowledgement of personal receipt of this notice. This notice, when filed with the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), initiates removal proceedings. The NTA contains information regarding the nature of the proceedings against you, the legal authority under which proceedings are conducted, the acts or conduct alleged against you to be in violation of law, the charges against you, and the statutory provisions alleged to have been violated. The NTA also includes information about the conduct of the removal hearing, your right to representation at no expense to the government, the requirement to inform EOIR of any change in address, the consequences for failing to appear, and that generally, if you wish to apply for asylum, you must do so within one year of your arrival in the United States. If you choose to sign and date the NTA, that information will be used to confirm that you received it, and for recordkeeping.

Routine Uses:

For United States Citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents, or individuals whose records are covered by the Judicial Redress Act of 2015 (5 U.S.C. § 552a note), your information may be disclosed in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. § 552a(b), including pursuant to the routine uses published in the following DHS systems of records notices (SORN): DHS/USCIS/ICE/CBP-001 Alien File, Index, and National File Tracking System of Records, DHS/USCIS-007 Benefit Information System, DHS/ICE-011 Criminal Arrest Records and Immigration Enforcement Records (CARIER), and DHS/ICE-003 General Counsel Electronic Management System (GEMS), and DHS/CBP-023 Border Patrol Enforcement Records (BPER). These SORNs can be viewed at <https://www.dhs.gov/system-records-notices-sorn>. When disclosed to the DOJ's EOIR for immigration proceedings, this information that is maintained and used by DOJ is covered by the following DOJ SORN: EOIR-001, Records and Management Information System, or any updated or successor SORN, which can be viewed at <https://www.justice.gov/opcl/doj-systems-records>. Further, your information may be disclosed pursuant to routine uses described in the abovementioned DHS SORNs or DOJ EOIR SORN to federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and foreign law enforcement agencies for enforcement, investigatory, litigation, or other similar purposes.

For all others, as appropriate under United States law and DHS policy, the information you provide may be shared internally within DHS, as well as with federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and foreign law enforcement; other government agencies; and other parties for enforcement, investigatory, litigation, or other similar purposes.

Disclosure:

Providing your signature and the date of your signature is voluntary. There are no effects on you for not providing your signature and date; however, removal proceedings may continue notwithstanding the failure or refusal to provide this information.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Continuation Page for Form

I862

Alien's Name CARMEN VIRIDIANA PORRAS-GARDEA	File Number [REDACTED]	Date October 07, 2025
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ON THE BASIS OF THE FOREGOING, IT IS CHARGED THAT YOU ARE SUBJECT TO REMOVAL FROM THE UNITED STATES PURSUANT TO THE FOLLOWING PROVISION(S) OF LAW:

=====

212(a)(6)(A)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, in that you are an alien present in the United States without being admitted or paroled, or who arrived in the United States at any time or place other than as designated by the Attorney General.

212(a)(7)(A)(i)(I) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (Act), as amended, as an immigrant who, at the time of application for admission, is not in possession of a valid unexpired immigrant visa, reentry permit, border crossing card, or other valid entry document required by the Act, and a valid unexpired passport, or other suitable travel document, or document of identity and nationality as required under the regulations issued by the Attorney General under section 211(a) of the Act.

Signature 	Title Acting/Patrol Agent in Charge
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