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8
9 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
10
11 FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA
12

13 Orestes Llanes Llanes

14 Petitioner-Plaintiff,

15 v.

16 Kristi Noem, in her Official Capacity,
17 Secretary of the Department of Homeland
18 Security; et al.

19 Respondents-Defendants.
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Case No.



**MOTION FOR
TEMPORARY
RESTRAINING ORDER**

**POINTS AND
AUTHORITIES IN
SUPPORT OF EX PARTE
MOTION FOR
TEMPORARY
RESTRAINING ORDER
AND MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY
INJUNCTION**

Challenge to Unlawful Incarceration
Request for Declaratory and
Injunctive Relief

NOTICE OF MOTION

Petitioner Orestes Llanes Llanes applies to this honorable Court for a temporary restraining order enjoining Respondents Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and Pam Bondi, in her official capacity as the U.S. Attorney General, (1) from continuing to detain Petitioner based on an unlawful action by ICE, (2) ordering his immediate release from immigration detention; and (3) from removing Petitioner from the United States.

If the Court deems oral argument necessary, Petitioner requests to appear by video.

Dated: December 26, 2025 Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Siovhana Ayala
Siovhana Ayala
Attorney for Petitioner-Plaintiff Client
Name

1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 Respondents unlawfully detain Petitioner, Orestes Llanes Llanes, in violation
3 of the Immigration and Nationality Act and the Constitution. Mr. Llanes was
4 released from criminal custody in 2001 and has lived in the community for over
5 twenty years without any violations. On May 27, 2005, his criminal supervision was
6 terminated, confirming his full compliance. Since then, he has lived freely in the
7 community, incurred no new convictions, and demonstrated by two decades of
8 lawful behavior that he is neither a flight risk nor a danger to the community. He
9 complied fully with the terms of his release, incurred no new convictions, and
10 demonstrated by two decades of lawful behavior that he is neither a flight risk nor
11 a danger to the community

12 On November 26, 2025, without prior notice or explanation, ICE agents re-
13 arrested Mr. Llanes and placed him in custody. He has been transferred around the
14 country, and he currently is detained at the Florence Service Processing Center, in
15 Florence, Arizona. ICE did not demonstrate any change in circumstances that
16 would justify revoking his long-standing release, nor did it provide him with an
17 opportunity to be heard before depriving him of his liberty. The agency acted
18 unilaterally, contrary to statute, regulation, and due process.

19 *Matter of Sugay*, 17. I&N Dec. 637 (BIA 1981), and its progeny, as well as
20 decisions from the Ninth Circuit and this District, make clear that ICE cannot
21 revoke a noncitizen's release absent a material change in circumstances. Federal
22 courts have consistently held that due process requires notice and a hearing before
23 the government may revoke liberty and impose incarceration. ICE's sudden re-
24 arrest of Mr. Llanes, after more than twenty years of compliance, violates those
25 principles.

26 Mr. Llanes meets the TRO standard. He is likely to succeed on the merits of
27 his claims, he faces immediate and irreparable harm from unlawful detention, and
28 the balance of equities and public interest weigh heavily in his favor

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3 **II. STATEMENT OF FACTS AND CASE**

4 Petitioner Mr. Llanes is a native and citizen of Cuba. He entered the United
5 States in 1971 and has resided here since.
6

7 Mr. Llanes has had numerous criminal arrests and convictions from when he
8 was significantly younger. Based on a review of his criminal documents, he appears
9 to have a robbery conviction from 1980, and aggravated assault conviction from
10 1980, a disorderly conduct conviction from 1981, a grand theft and dealing in stolen
11 property conviction from 1981, a possession of cocaine and drug paraphernalia from
12 1987, trafficking in cocaine in 1992, and conspiracy to possess marijuana in 1994.
13 He spent six years in prison, and his supervision was terminated on May 27, 2005,
14 more than 20 years ago. These convictions represent the sole criminal basis for ICE's
15 enforcement action.
16

17 For more than twenty years following his release, Mr. Llanes remained in the
18 community without any violations of probation. On May 27, 2005, the state court
19 terminated his supervision, confirming his full compliance. Since then, he has lived
20 freely in the community, incurred no new convictions, and demonstrated by two
21 decades of lawful behavior that he is neither a flight risk nor a danger to the
22 community. He is a contributing member of society. He is a successful small
23 business owner, married to a U.S. Citizen, and has three U.S. Citizen children, aged
24 23, 20 and 14. One of his children is in the U.S. National Guard. ICE has no
25 authority to find him in breach of his conditions. He has incurred no new criminal
26 convictions during this period.
27
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1 Nevertheless, on November 26, 2025, ICE agents apprehended him during his
2 yearly check-in regarding his order of supervision. Without prior notice, they
3 arrested him, and eventually transported him to the Florence Service Processing
4 Center, where he is currently detained. No court order authorized this re-arrest. ICE
5 officers provided no explanation, other than saying that it is in their “discretion.”
6 Nor did they demonstrate that Mr. Llanes suddenly posed a flight risk, constituted a
7 danger to the community, or violated the conditions of any probationary release.

8
9 At no time did ICE provide him with notice or a hearing prior to re-
10 incarceration. He remains detained solely on ICE’s unilateral assertion of authority,
11 without a showing of changed circumstances or lawful justification.

12 LEGAL STANDARD

13
14 Mr. Llanes is entitled to a temporary restraining order if he establishes that
15 he is “likely to succeed on the merits, . . . likely to suffer irreparable harm in the
16 absence of preliminary relief, that the balance of equities tips in [his] favor, and that
17 an injunction is in the public interest.” *Winter v. Nat. Res. Def. Council, Inc.*, 555
18 U.S. 7, 20 (2008); *Stuhlbarg Int’l Sales Co. v. John D. Brush & Co.*, 240 F.3d 832,
19 839 n.7 (9th Cir. 2001) (noting that preliminary injunction and temporary
20 restraining order standards are “substantially identical”). Even if Mr. Llanes does
21 not show a likelihood of success on the merits, the Court may still grant a temporary
22 restraining order if he raises “serious questions” as to the merits of his claims, the
23 balance of hardships tips “sharply” in his favor, and the remaining equitable factors
24 are satisfied. *Alliance for the Wild Rockies v. Cottrell*, 632 F.3d 1127 (9th Cir.
25 2011). As set forth in more detail below, Mr. Llanes overwhelmingly satisfies the
26 standards for a temporary restraining order.
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28

1 **III. ARGUMENT**

2 **A. PETITIONER WARRANTS A TEMPORARY RESTRAINING**
3 **ORDER**

4 A temporary restraining order should be issued if “immediate and irreparable
5 injury, loss, or irreversible damage will result” to the applicant in the absence of an
6 order. Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(b). The purpose of a temporary restraining order is to
7 prevent irreparable harm before a preliminary injunction hearing is held.
8 *See Granny Goose Foods, Inc. v. Bhd. Of Teamsters & Auto Truck Drivers Local*
9 *No. 70 of Alameda City*, 415 U.S. 423, 439 (1974). Petitioner is likely to remain in
10 unlawful custody in violation of his due process rights without intervention by this
11 Court. Petitioner will continue to suffer irreparable injury if he continues to be
12 detained without due process.

13
14 **1. Petitioner is Likely to Succeed on the Merits of His Claim That**
15 **He be Released from Detention**

16 Petitioner is likely to succeed in his claim that, in his particular
17 circumstances, his current detention is unlawful because the Due Process Clause
18 and the statute.

19 The District of Arizona has recognized that when the government seeks to
20 revoke or stay a noncitizen’s release from custody, due process under the Fifth
21 Amendment requires a meaningful opportunity to be heard before the deprivation
22 occurs. *See Organista v. Sessions*, No. CV-18-00285-PHX-GMS (D. Ariz. Feb. 8,
23 2018). Applying the familiar three-factor test from *Mathews v. Eldridge*, 424 U.S.
24 319 (1976), the court weighed 1) the private liberty interest at stake; 2) the risk of
25 erroneous deprivation; and 3) the burden on the government – “the fundamental
26 requirement of due process – the opportunity to be heard at a meaningful time and
27 manner.” *Organista*, No. CV-18-00285-PHX-GMS, at 4.; *City of Los Angeles v.*
28 *David*, 538 U.S. 715, 717 (2003). In weighing the *Mathews* factors, the court

1 declared that “there is no meaningful dispute that Petitioner has a liberty interest in
2 being heard before the BIA can prolong his detention.” *Organista*, No. CV-18-
3 00285-PHX-GMS, at 4.

4 Likewise, federal district courts in California have repeatedly recognized
5 that the demands of due process and the limitations on DHS’s authority to revoke a
6 noncitizen’s bond or parole set out in DHS’s stated practice and *Matter of Sugay*
7 both require a pre-deprivation hearing for a noncitizen on bond, like Petitioner
8 before ICE re-detains him. *See, e.g., Ortega v. Bonnar*, 415 F. Supp. 3d 963 (N.D.
9 Cal. 2019); *Vargas v. Jennings*, No. 20-CV-5785-PJH, 2020 WL 5074312, at *3
10 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 23, 2020); *Jorge M. F. v. Wilkinson*, No. 21-CV-01434-JST, 2021
11 WL 783561, at *2 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 1, 2021);); *Romero v. Kaiser*, No. 22-cv-
12 02508-TSH, 2022 WL 1443250, at *3-4 (N.D. Cal. May 6, 2022) (Petitioner would
13 suffer irreparable harm if re-detained, and required notice and a hearing before any
14 re-detention); *Enamorado v. Kaiser*, No. 25-CV-04072-NW, 2025 WL 1382859, at
15 *3 (N.D. Cal. May 12, 2025) (temporary injunction warranted preventing re-arrest
16 at plaintiff’s ICE interview when he had been on bond for more than five years).
17 *See also Doe v. Becerra*, No. 2:25-cv-00647-DJC-DMC, 2025 WL 691664, *4
18 (E.D. Cal. Mar. 3, 2025) (holding the Constitution requires a hearing before any re-
19 arrest).
20

21 Courts analyze procedural due process claims such as this one in two steps:
22 the first asks whether there exists a protected liberty interest under the Due Process
23 Clause, and the second examines the procedures necessary to ensure any
24 deprivation of that protected liberty interest accords with the Constitution. *See*
25 *Kentucky Dep’t of Corrections v. Thompson*, 490 U.S. 454, 460 (1989).

26 **a. Petitioner Has a Protected Liberty Interest in His**
27 **Conditional Release**
28

1 Petitioner’s liberty from immigration custody is protected by the Due Process
2 Clause: “Freedom from imprisonment—from government custody, detention, or
3 other forms of physical restraint—lies at the heart of the liberty that [the Due
4 Process] Clause protects.” *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 690 (2001).

5 Since 2005, Mr. Llanes has lived continuously in the community with no
6 order of supervision from a criminal court. Additionally, he has been under an order
7 of supervision by ICE since 2003. For more than twenty years, he has complied
8 with all conditions of his release, incurred no new convictions, where he has
9 worked, supported his family, and built enduring community ties. Despite this
10 history of compliance, ICE re-arrested him on November 26, 2025, without notice,
11 without a showing of changed circumstances, and without affording him a hearing.
12 Accordingly, he retains a profound liberty interest under the Fifth Amendment in
13 avoiding arbitrary re-incarceration. See *Young v. Harper*, 520 U.S. 143, 146–47
14 (1997); *Gagnon v. Scarpelli*, 411 U.S. 778, 781–82 (1973); *Morrissey v. Brewer*,
15 408 U.S. 471, 482–83 (1972).
16

17 In *Morrissey*, the Supreme Court examined the “nature of the interest” that a
18 parolee has in “his continued liberty.” 408 U.S. at 481-82. The Court noted that,
19 “subject to the conditions of his parole, [a parolee] can be gainfully employed and
20 is free to be with family and friends and to form the other enduring attachments of
21 normal life.” *Id.* at 482. The Court further noted that “the parolee has relied on at
22 least an implicit promise that parole will be revoked only if he fails to live up to the
23 parole conditions.” *Id.* The Court explained that “the liberty of a parolee, although
24 indeterminate, includes many of the core values of unqualified liberty and its
25 termination inflicts a grievous loss on the parolee and often others.” *Id.* In turn,
26 “[b]y whatever name, the liberty is valuable and must be seen within the protection
27 of the [Fifth] Amendment.” *Morrissey*, 408 U.S. at 482.
28

1 This basic principle—that individuals have a liberty interest in their
2 conditional release—has been reinforced by both the Supreme Court and the circuit
3 courts on numerous occasions. *See, e.g., Young v. Harper*, 520 U.S. at 152 (holding
4 that individuals placed in a pre-parole program created to reduce prison
5 overcrowding have a protected liberty interest requiring pre-deprivation process);
6 *Gagnon v. Scarpelli*, 411 U.S. at 781-82 (holding that individuals released on felony
7 probation have a protected liberty interest requiring pre-deprivation process). As
8 the First Circuit has explained, when analyzing the issue of whether a specific
9 conditional release rises to the level of a protected liberty interest, “[c]ourts have
10 resolved the issue by comparing the specific conditional release in the case before
11 them with the liberty interest in parole as characterized by *Morrissey*.” *Gonzalez-*
12 *Fuentes v. Molina*, 607 F.3d 864, 887 (1st Cir. 2010) (internal quotation marks and
13 citation omitted). *See also, e.g., Hurd v. District of Columbia*, 864 F.3d 671, 683
14 (D.C. Cir. 2017) (“a person who is in fact free of physical confinement—even if
15 that freedom is lawfully revocable—has a liberty interest that entitles her to
16 constitutional due process before he is re-incarcerated”) (citing *Young*, 520 U.S. at
17 152, *Gagnon*, 411 U.S. at 782, and *Morrissey*, 408 U.S. at 482).

18
19 In fact, it is well-established that an individual maintains a protectable liberty
20 interest even where the individual obtains liberty through a mistake of law or fact.
21 *See id.*; *Gonzalez-Fuentes*, 607 F.3d at 887; *Johnson v. Williford*, 682 F.2d 868, 873
22 (9th Cir. 1982) (noting that due process considerations support the notion that an
23 inmate released on parole by mistake, because he was serving a sentence that did
24 not carry a possibility of parole, could not be re-incarcerated because the mistaken
25 release was not his fault, and he had appropriately adjusted to society, so it “would
26 be inconsistent with fundamental principles of liberty and justice” to return her to
27 prison) (internal quotation marks and citation omitted).
28

1 Here, when this Court ““compares the release in Petitioner’s case, with the
2 liberty interest in parole as characterized by *Morrissey*,”” the similarities are
3 unmistakable. For more than two decades, Mr. Llanes has lived at home, worked,
4 and complied with all conditions of release. His liberty has enabled him to “be with
5 family and friends and to form the other enduring attachments of normal life.”
6 *Morrissey*, 408 U.S. at 482. This liberty interest is protected by the Fifth
7 Amendment and cannot be extinguished absent constitutionally adequate process.

8
9 **b. Petitioner’s Liberty Interest Mandates His Release from
Unlawful Custody**

10 “Adequate, or due, process depends upon the nature of the interest affected.
11 The more important the interest and the greater the effect of its impairment, the
12 greater the procedural safeguards the [government] must provide to satisfy due
13 process.” *Haygood v. Younger*, 769 F.2d 1350, 1355-56 (9th Cir. 1985) (en banc)
14 (citing *Morrissey*, 408 U.S. at 481-82). This Court must “balance [Petitioner’s]
15 liberty interest against the [government’s] interest in the efficient administration of”
16 its immigration laws to determine what process he is owed to ensure that ICE does
17 not unconstitutionally deprive him of his liberty. *Id.* at 1357. Under the test set forth
18 in *Mathews v. Eldridge*, this Court must consider three factors in conducting its
19 balancing test: “first, the private interest that will be affected by the official action;
20 second, the risk of an erroneous deprivation of such interest through the procedures
21 used, and the probative value, if any, of additional or substitute procedural
22 safeguards; and finally the government’s interest, including the function involved
23 and the fiscal and administrative burdens that the additional or substitute procedural
24 requirements would entail.” *Haygood*, 769 F.2d at 1357 (citing *Mathews v.*
25 *Eldridge*, 424 U.S. 319, 335 (1976)).
26

27 The Supreme Court “usually has held that the Constitution requires some
28

1 kind of a hearing *before* the State deprives a person of liberty or property.”
2 *Zinermon v. Burch*, 494 U.S. 113, 127 (1990) (emphasis in original). Only in a
3 “special case” where post-deprivation remedies are “the only remedies the State
4 could be expected to provide” can post-deprivation process satisfy the requirements
5 of due process. *Zinermon*, 494 U.S. at 985. Moreover, only where “one of the
6 variables in the *Mathews* equation—the value of deprivation safeguards—is
7 negligible in preventing the kind of deprivation at issue” such that “the State cannot
8 be required constitutionally to do the impossible by providing deprivation process,”
9 can the government avoid providing pre-deprivation process. *Id.*

10 Because, in this case, the provision of a bond hearing is both possible and
11 essential to preventing an erroneous deprivation of liberty, ICE is required to
12 provide Petitioner the opportunity for an individualized bond determination before
13 a neutral decisionmaker. *See Morrissey*, 408 U.S. at 481-82; *Haygood*, 769 F.2d at
14 1355-56; *Jones*, 393 F.3d at 932; *Zinermon*, 494 U.S. at 985; *see also Youngberg v.*
15 *Romeo*, 457 U.S. 307, 321-24 (1982); *Lynch v. Baxley*, 744 F.2d 1452 (11th Cir.
16 1984) (holding that individuals awaiting involuntary civil commitment proceedings
17 may not constitutionally be held in jail pending the determination as to whether they
18 can ultimately be recommitted). Under *Mathews*, “the balance weighs heavily in
19 favor of [Petitioner’s] liberty” and requires a deprivation hearing before a neutral
20 adjudicator.
21

22 **i. Petitioner’s Private Interest in His Liberty is**
23 **Profound**

24 The private interest at stake, freedom from physical restraint, is “at the core
25 of the liberty protected by the Due Process Clause.” *Foucha v. Louisiana*, 504 U.S.
26 71, 80 (1992); *see also Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 690 (2001) (“Freedom
27 from imprisonment—from government custody, detention, or other forms of
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1 physical restraint—lies at the heart of the liberty that [the Due Process] Clause
2 protects.”).

3 Mr. Llanes completed his custodial sentence on May 27, 2005, and since that
4 time has lived continuously in the community. He has been on an order of
5 supervision since July 14, 2003. For more than twenty years, he has complied fully
6 with all conditions of release, incurred no new convictions, and maintained stable
7 ties through family, work, and community life. His record reflects complete
8 adjustment to lawful living outside of confinement.

9 As the Supreme Court recognized in *Morrissey v. Brewer*, 408 U.S. 471,
10 482–83 (1972), even conditional liberty carries profound constitutional
11 significance. A person who is free in the community “can be gainfully employed
12 and is free to be with family and friends and to form the other enduring attachments
13 of normal life.” *Id.* The Court further noted that terminating such liberty “inflicts a
14 grievous loss on the parolee and often others,” and emphasized that “[b]y whatever
15 name, the liberty is valuable and must be seen within the protection of the [Fifth]
16 Amendment.” *Id.*

17
18 So too here. Mr. Llanes’s decades of lawful life in the community, his family
19 responsibilities, and his deep community ties reflect a profound liberty interest that
20 cannot lawfully be extinguished through ICE’s unilateral action. By detaining him
21 without notice or an opportunity for a pre-deprivation hearing before a neutral
22 adjudicator, Respondents have arbitrarily deprived him of the very liberty the
23 Constitution protects.

24
25 **ii. The Government’s Interest in Continued**
26 **Incarceration of Petitioner is Low and the Burden**
27 **on the Government to Refrain from Releasing Him**
28 **is Minimal**

1 The government's interest in maintaining Mr. Llanes's detention without
2 affording him a hearing is low, and when weighed against his significant private
3 interest in liberty, the scale tips sharply in favor of enjoining Respondents from
4 keeping him in unlawful custody. The *Mathews* test plainly favors Mr. Llanes when
5 the Court considers that the process he seeks—notice and a hearing before a neutral
6 adjudicator to determine whether there is clear and convincing evidence that he is a
7 flight risk or a danger to the community—is the standard course of action the
8 government routinely provides in immigration proceedings. Providing Mr. Llanes
9 with such a hearing would impose only a *de minimis* burden on the government.

10 As immigration detention is civil, it can have no punitive purpose. The
11 government's only lawful interests in detention are to prevent danger to the
12 community or to ensure appearance at immigration proceedings. See *Zadvydas*, 533
13 U.S. at 690. In this case, the government cannot plausibly assert that it has a lawful
14 basis for detaining Mr. Llanes. For over two decades, he lived at liberty without any
15 conviction, or evidence of risk. ICE has made no showing that he is a danger or
16 flight risk.

17 Moreover, the “fiscal and administrative burdens” that his immediate release
18 is nonexistent in this case. See *Mathews*, 424 U.S. at 334-35. Mr. Llanes does not
19 seek a unique or expensive form of process, but rather release from unlawful
20 detention, where removal is not reasonably foreseeable.

21 As the Ninth Circuit noted in 2017, which remains true today, “[t]he costs to
22 the public of immigration detention are ‘staggering’: \$158 each day per detainee,
23 amounting to a total daily cost of \$6.5 million.” *Hernandez*, 872 F.3d at 996.

24 Releasing Mr. Llanes from unlawful custody and enjoining Mr. Llanes's
25 continued detention is far less costly and burdensome for the government than
26 keeping him detained. *Hernandez*, 872 F.3d at 996.
27
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1 Due process also requires consideration of alternatives to detention at any
2 custody redetermination hearing that may occur. The primary purpose of
3 immigration detention is to ensure a noncitizen's appearance during removal
4 proceedings. *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 697. Detention is not reasonably related to this
5 purpose if there are alternatives to detention that could mitigate risk of flight. *See*
6 *Bell v. Wolfish*, 441 U.S. 520, 538 (1979). Accordingly, alternatives to detention
7 must be considered in determining whether Petitioner's continued incarceration is
8 warranted.

9 As the above-cited authorities show, Petitioner is likely to succeed on his
10 claim that the current detention is unlawful. And, at the very minimum, he clearly
11 raises serious questions regarding this issue, thus also meriting a TRO. *See*
12 *Alliance for the Wild Rockies*, 632 F.3d at 1135.

13 14 **2. Petitioner Will Suffer Irreparable Harm Absent 15 Injunctive Relief**

16 Petitioner will suffer irreparable harm were he to remain detained after being
17 deprived of his liberty and subjected to unlawful incarceration by immigration
18 authorities without being provided the constitutionally adequate process that this
19 motion for a temporary restraining order seeks. Detainees in ICE custody are held
20 in "prison-like conditions." *Preap v. Johnson*, 831 F.3d 1193, 1195 (9th Cir. 2016).
21 As the Supreme Court has explained, "[t]he time spent in jail awaiting trial has a
22 detrimental impact on the individual. It often means loss of a job; it disrupts family
23 life; and it enforces idleness." *Barker v. Wingo*, 407 U.S. 514, 532-33 (1972);
24 *accord Nat'l Ctr. for Immigrants Rights, Inc. v. I.N.S.*, 743 F.2d 1365, 1369 (9th
25 Cir. 1984). Moreover, the Ninth Circuit has recognized in "concrete terms the
26 irreparable harms imposed on anyone subject to immigration detention" including
27 "subpar medical and psychiatric care in ICE detention facilities, the economic
28 burdens imposed on detainees and their families as a result of detention, and the

1 collateral harms to children of detainees whose parents are detained.” *Hernandez*,
2 872 F.3d at 995. The government itself has documented alarmingly poor conditions
3 in ICE detention centers. *See, e.g.*, DHS, Office of Inspector General (OIG),
4 Summary of Unannounced Inspections of ICE Facilities Conducted in Fiscal Years
5 2020-2023 (2024) (reporting violations of environmental health and safety
6 standards; staffing shortages affecting the level of care detainees received for
7 suicide watch, and detainees being held in administrative segregation in
8 unauthorized restraints, without being allowed time outside their cell, and with no
9 documentation that they were provided health care or three meals a day).¹

10 As detailed *supra*, Petitioner contends that his continued detention violates
11 his due process rights under the Constitution. It is clear that “the deprivation of
12 constitutional rights ‘unquestionably constitutes irreparable injury.’” *Melendres v.*
13 *Arpaio*, 695 F.3d 990, 1002 (9th Cir. 2012) (quoting *Elrod v. Burns*, 427 U.S. 347,
14 373 (1976)). Thus, a temporary restraining order is necessary to prevent Petitioner
15 from suffering irreparable harm by being subject to unlawful and unjust detention.
16

17 3. The Balance of Equities and the Public Interest Favor 18 Granting the Temporary Restraining Order

19 The balance of equities and the public interest undoubtedly favor granting
20 this temporary restraining order.

21 First, the balance of hardships strongly favors Petitioner. The government
22 cannot suffer harm from an injunction that prevents it from engaging in an unlawful
23 practice. *See Zepeda v. I.N.S.*, 753 F.2d 719, 727 (9th Cir. 1983) (“[T]he INS cannot
24 reasonably assert that it is harmed in any legally cognizable sense by being enjoined
25 from constitutional violations.”). Therefore, the government cannot allege harm
26 arising from a temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction ordering it to

27 ¹ Available at <https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/2024-09/OIG-24-59-Sep24.pdf>
28 (last accessed Feb. 6, 2024).

1 comply with the Constitution.

2 Further, any burden imposed by requiring the ICE to release Petitioner from
3 unlawful custody is both *de minimis* and clearly outweighed by the substantial harm
4 he will suffer as if he is detained. *See Lopez v. Heckler*, 713 F.2d 1432, 1437 (9th
5 Cir. 1983) (“Society’s interest lies on the side of affording fair procedures to all
6 persons, even though the expenditure of governmental funds is required.”).

7 A temporary restraining order is in the public interest. First and most
8 importantly, “it would not be equitable or in the public’s interest to allow [a party]
9 . . . to violate the requirements of federal law, especially when there are no adequate
10 remedies available.” *Ariz. Dream Act Coal. v. Brewer*, 757 F.3d 1053, 1069 (9th
11 Cir. 2014) (quoting *Valle del Sol Inc. v. Whiting*, 732 F.3d 1006, 1029 (9th Cir.
12 2013)). If a temporary restraining order is not entered, the government would
13 effectively be granted permission to detain Petitioner in violation of the
14 requirements of Due Process. “The public interest and the balance of the equities
15 favor ‘prevent[ing] the violation of a party’s constitutional rights.’” *Ariz. Dream*
16 *Act Coal.*, 757 F.3d at 1069 (quoting *Melendres*, 695 F.3d at 1002); *see also*
17 *Hernandez*, 872 F.3d at 996 (“The public interest benefits from an injunction that
18 ensures that individuals are not deprived of their liberty and held in immigration
19 detention because of bonds established by a likely unconstitutional process.”); *cf.*
20 *Preminger v. Principi*, 422 F.3d 815, 826 (9th Cir. 2005) (“Generally, public
21 interest concerns are implicated when a constitutional right has been violated,
22 because all citizens have a stake in upholding the Constitution.”).

24 Therefore, the public interest overwhelmingly favors entering a temporary
25 restraining order and preliminary injunction.

26 **IV. CONCLUSION**

27 For all the above reasons, this Court should find that Petitioner warrants a
28

1 temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction ordering that Respondents
2 (1) release him from his unlawful custody; and (2) ensure that Respondents
3 provide Petitioner with a lawful process to challenge his removal to a third
4 country.

5 Dated: December 26, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

6
7 /s/ Siovhan Ayala

8 Siovhan Ayala
9 Attorney for Petitioner-Plaintiff
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