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6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
7 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
8

9 LUCIANO DOMINGUEZ CABRERA,
10
11 Petitioner,

12 v.

13 Patrick, DIVVER, Field Office Director of
Enforcement and Removal Operations, San
14 Diego Field Office, Immigration and Customs
Enforcement; Todd M. LYONS, Acting
15 Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs
Enforcement; Kristi NOEM, Secretary, U.S.
16 Department of Homeland Security; U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND
17 SECURITY; Pamela BONDI, U.S. Attorney
General; EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR
18 IMMIGRATION REVIEW; Christopher J.
LAROSE, Warden of Otay Mesa Detention
Facility,

19 Respondents.
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Case No. **'26CV4 JLS AHG**

**PETITION FOR WRIT OF
HABEAS CORPUS**

1 INTRODUCTION

2 1. Petitioner, Luciano Dominguez Cabrera, brings this petition for a writ of habeas
3 corpus to seek enforcement of their rights as members of the Bond Denial Class certified in
4 *Maldonado Bautista v. Santacruz*, No. 5:25-CV-01873-SSS-BFM (C.D. Cal.) Petitioner is in the
5 physical custody of Respondents at the Otay Mesa Detention Facility. He now faces unlawful
6 detention because the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Executive Office for
7 Immigration Review (EOIR) have refused to abide by the declaratory judgment issued on behalf
8 of the certified class in *Maldonado Bautista v. Santacruz*.

9 2. On November 20, 2025, the district court granted partial summary judgment on
10 behalf of individual plaintiffs and on November 25, 2025, certified a nationwide class and
11 extended declaratory judgment to the certified class. *Maldonado Bautista v. Santacruz*, No. 5:25-
12 CV-01873-SSS-BFM, --- F. Supp. 3d ----, 2025 WL 3289861, at *11 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 20, 2025)
13 (order granting partial summary judgment to named Plaintiffs-Petitioners); *Maldonado Bautista*
14 *v. Santacruz*, No. 5:25-CV-01873-SSS-BFM, --- F. Supp. 3d ----, 2025 WL 3288403, at *9 (C.D.
15 Cal. Nov. 25, 2025) (order certifying Plaintiffs-Petitioners' proposed nationwide Bond Eligible
16 Class, incorporating and extending declaratory judgment from Order Granting Petitioners'
17 Motion for Partial Summary Judgment).

18 3. The declaratory judgment held that the Bond Denial Class members are detained
19 under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), and thus may not be denied consideration for release on bond under §
20 1225(b)(2)(A). *Maldonado Bautista*, 2025 WL 3289861, at *11.

21 4. On December 18, 2025, the Central District of California entered a final judgment
22 in *Maldonado Bautista*, certifying the nationwide class and declaring the policy of detaining
23 those individuals that entered the United States without inspection under § 1225(b)(2) unlawful.
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2 5. Nonetheless, the Executive Office for Immigration Review and its subagency the
3 Immigration Court and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) have blatantly refused to
4 abide by the declaratory relief and have unlawfully ordered that Petitioner be denied the
5 opportunity to be released on bond.

6 6. Petitioner, Luciano Dominguez Cabrera, is a member of the Bond Eligible Class,
7 as he:

- 8 a. does not have lawful status in the United States and is currently detained at the
9 Otay Mesa Detention Facility. He was apprehended by immigration authorities in
10 December 12, 2025 at an immigration check in appointment;
11 b. entered the United States without inspection in 2000, more than 25 years ago and
12 was not apprehended upon arrival, *cf. id.*; and
13 c. is not detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c), § 1225(b)(1), or § 1231.

14 7. After apprehending Petitioner on December 12, 2025, the DHS placed him in
15 removal proceedings pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1229a. DHS has charged Petitioner as being
16 inadmissible under 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(A)(i), as someone who entered the United States
17 without inspection.

18 8. The Court should expeditiously grant this petition.

19 9. Respondents are bound by the judgment in *Maldonado Bautista*, as it has the full
20 “force and effect of a final judgment.” 28 U.S.C. § 2201(a). Nevertheless, Respondents continue
21 to flagrantly defy the judgment in that case and continue to subject Petitioner to unlawful
22 detention despite his clear entitlement to consideration for release on bond as a Bond Eligible
23 Class member.

24 10. Immigration judges have informed class members in bond hearings that they have
been instructed by “leadership” that the declaratory judgment in *Maldonado Bautista* is not

1 controlling, even with respect to class members, and that instead IJs remain bound to follow the
2 agency's prior decision in *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I. & N. Dec. 216 (BIA 2025).

3 11. Because Respondents are detaining Petitioner in violation of the declaratory
4 judgment issued in *Maldonado Bautista*, the Court should accordingly order that within one day,
5 Respondent DHS must release Petitioner.

6 12. Alternatively, the Court should order Petitioner's release unless Respondents
7 provide a bond hearing under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) within seven days.

8 JURISDICTION

9 13. Petitioner is in the physical custody of Respondents. Petitioner is detained at the
10 Otay Mesa Detention Facility in San Diego, California.

11 14. This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 2241(c)(5) (habeas corpus), 28
12 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question), and Article I, section 9, clause 2 of the United States
13 Constitution (the Suspension Clause).

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

16 VENUE

17 16. Pursuant to *Braden v. 30th Judicial Circuit Court of Kentucky*, 410 U.S. 484, 493-
18 500 (1973), venue lies in the United States District Court for the Southern District of California,
19 the judicial district in which Petitioner currently is detained.

20 17. Venue is also properly in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e) because
21 Respondents are employees, officers, and agencies of the United States, and because a
22 substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in the Southern
23 District of California.

1 22. Respondent Kristi Noem is the Secretary of the Department of Homeland
2 Security. She is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the Immigration and
3 Nationality Act (INA), and oversees ICE, which is responsible for Petitioner’s detention. Ms.
4 Noem has ultimate custodial authority over Petitioner and is sued in her official capacity.

5 23. Respondent Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is the federal agency
6 responsible for implementing and enforcing the INA, including the detention and removal of
7 noncitizens.

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

12 25. Respondent Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) is the federal
13 agency responsible for implementing and enforcing the INA in removal proceedings, including
14 for custody redeterminations in bond hearings.

15 26. Respondent Christopher LaRose (“LaRose”) is the Senior Warden at the Otay
16 Mesa Detention Center as Warden of the, where Petitioner is detained. He has immediate
17 physical custody of Petitioner. He is sued in his official capacity.

18 **CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

19 **Violation of the INA:**

20 **Request for Relief Pursuant to *Maldonado Bautista***

21 27. Petitioner repeats, re-alleges, and incorporates by reference each and every
22 allegation in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

23 28. As a member of the Bond Eligible Class, Petitioner is entitled to consideration for
24 release on bond under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a).

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DATED this 1 of January, 2026

Respectfully Submitted:

/s/ Tina Malek
Tina Malek
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619-566-0600
CA Bar No. 265543
Counsel for Petitioner