



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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January 19, 2026

Via ECF

The Honorable Jerry W. Blackwell  
United States District Court  
316 N. Robert Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101

***Re: Tot-Choc v. Bondi, et al., No. 26-cv-167 (JWB-JFD)***

Dear Judge Blackwell:

I write in response to this Court's Order to Show Cause why the Respondents should not be held in contempt for failing to comply with the Court's January 15, 2026 Order (ECF 6) to release Petitioner in Minnesota immediately and provide confirmation to the Court within 48 hours.

Petitioner is scheduled for return to Minnesota on a flight from El Paso on Tuesday, January 20, 2026. He will be released upon his return.

The United States' failure to comply is due to an oversight by the undersigned counsel for the United States. The undersigned did not send the Court's Order (ECF 6) to the agency for implementation when it was issued. Counsel for petitioner reached out on January 18 at approximately 7:30 p.m. and again on January 19 at 5:00 a.m. The undersigned then sent the Order (ECF 6) to the agency on January 19 at 9:00 a.m.

As I explained to the Court on Thursday, January 15, 2026 in Court, we are updating our procedures to ensure that Orders are not missed. We have asked to create a new email address that will allow more people to access the ECF notices issued. That must be finalized through IT outside of the US Attorney's Office, and we are waiting. We are also trying to finalize the admission of our SAUSAs, so they can receive ECF notices. The undersigned has been searching ECF notices for Orders and Judgments issued in the past 4-5 days to quality check that they are communicated to the agency.

On Thursday, January 15, 2026, we began having staff work overtime so that they are on duty from approximately 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. every weekday and at least 4-8 hours of

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overtime on holidays and weeknights. We have brought in staff from the administrative division and the forfeiture unit to support the work of the civil division paralegals. Additional staff have been working without overtime pay because they are excellent professionals

Despite these updates, we are struggling to keep up with the immense volume in this practice area. The above errors were inadvertent, and the undersigned regrets them immensely. I have alerted the United States Attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

DANIEL N. ROSEN  
United States Attorney

s/ Ana H. Voss

By: Ana H. Voss  
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