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6 Attorneys for Respondents

7 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
8 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

9 ENYERT DELFIN-RICARDO,

10 Petitioner,

11 v.

12 PAMELA BONDI, Attorney General,

13 Respondent.
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Case No.: 26-cv-0136-RSH-BJW

RESPONSE TO PETITION

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1 On July 8, 2025, the Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) instituted a
2 notice titled “Interim Guidance Regarding Detention Authority for Applicants for
3 Admission” (the “Notice”) requiring, in general, that anyone arrested in the United
4 States and charged with being inadmissible to be considered an “applicant for
5 admission” under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A), subject to mandatory detention under 8
6 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A) and not subject to detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a).

7 In *Maldonado Bautista v. Santacruz*, No. 5:25-CV-01873-SSS-BFM, --- F. Supp.
8 3d ---, 2025 WL 3289861 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 20, 2025), the district court declared the
9 Notice unlawful under the Administrative Procedure Act but did not issue a final
10 judgment. On December 18, 2025, however, the *Bautista* court entered final judgement.
11 *Bautista*, ECF No. 94. Accordingly, Respondents acknowledge that Petitioner is
12 detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) and is entitled to an order from this Court directing
13 a bond hearing be held pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a).¹

14 Respondents reserve the right to supplement this response in the event of a stay
15 of enforcement of the *Bautista* final judgment, appellate relief, or a change in DHS
16 policy.

17 DATED: February 6, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

18 ADAM GORDON
19 United States Attorney

20 s/ Allie E. Malone
21 ALLIE E. MALONE
22 Assistant United States Attorney
23 Attorneys for Respondents
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27 ¹ To the extent the Court issues an order directing a bond hearing under 1226(a),
28 considering heavy caseloads and staffing levels, Respondents respectfully request that
such order provide the government 14 days from issuance to hold such bond hearing.