



U.S. Department of Justice

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February 19, 2026

Via ECF

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

Re: Hassan v. Bondi et al, et al., No. 0:26-cv-00770-JWB-DJF

Dear Judge Blackwell:

I write in response to this Court's Order of 17 February as to why the Respondents should not be held in contempt for failing to comply with the Court's Order to provide a status update to the Court.

According to agency records, Mr. Hassan Hassan (or Hassan Ahmed Hassan, A#: [REDACTED]), the Petitioner in this case, was released from ICE custody on 2 February 2026. The Court had previously ordered the release of Petitioner from custody, in Minnesota. Respondents released Petitioner on that date, per attached Agency Records, at 1154.

We are taking ongoing steps to ensure that we are better able to handle the volume of cases our office has faced. We have brought in staff from the administrative division and the forfeiture unit and agency to support the work of the civil division paralegals. Additional staff have been working without overtime pay because they are excellent professionals. Furthermore, we plan on additional support staff and attorneys coming in from the Department of War/Department of Defense, and have added an in-person liaison from OPLA.

Despite these updates, we are struggling to keep up with the immense volume of responses and status updates. The error in submitting a prompt and accurate status update was inadvertent, and we regret them immensely. Respondents' Counsel will promptly provide any added updates

Respectfully submitted,

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s/ *Matt Isihara*

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