

United States District Court
Western District of Texas
El Paso Division

RAIDEL BLANCO,
Petitioner,

v.

PAMELA JO BONDI, *et al.*,
Respondents.

No. 3:26-CV-00229-KC

Federal¹ Respondents' Response to Order

Now comes Federal Respondents and file this Response to the Court's order requesting an update on removal efforts. Attached to this Response is Exhibit A, which details the removal efforts in more detail.

On August 30, 2025, ERO Chicago submitted a request to the Cuba International Operations Division (IOD) to request approval for repatriation to Cuba. Ex. A, Decl. ¶ 9. On November 15, 2025, ERO IOD Cuba advised ERO Chicago that the Government of Cuba denied repatriation to Cuba. *Id.* ¶ 10.

On November 19, 2025, ERO Chicago served Blanco a notice of third country removal which he refused to sign and claimed fear of Mexico. *Id.* ¶ 11.

On November 21, 2025, ERO Chicago referred Blanco's fear claim to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Asylum Officer. *Id.* ¶ 12. On December 22, 2025, USCIS issued a negative fear finding to Blanco. *Id.* ¶ 13. On December 26, 2025, ERO Chicago transferred Blanco to ERO El Paso to be removed to Mexico. *Id.* ¶ 14. On January 27, 2026, ERO El Paso attempted to remove Blanco to Mexico, which he refused. *Id.* ¶ 15. On February 1, 2026, IERO attempted to

¹ The named warden in this action is not a federal employee. The Department of Justice does not represent him in this action. The Federal Respondents, however, have detention authority over aliens detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a).

speaking with Blanco about removal to Mexico and once again stated he was claiming fear. *Id.* ¶ 16. On February 14, 2026, ERO El Paso transferred and returned Blanco to ERO Chicago as Blanco was not complying with removal to Mexico. *Id.* ¶ 17. On March 01, 2026, ERO Florence advised ERO Miami that Mexico would not accept Blanco as failure to comply removal. *Id.* ¶ 18. On the same date, ERO Florence transferred Blanco to ERO Miami as they were the originating office. *Id.* ¶ 19.

On March 05, 2026, ERO contacted ERO Florence to attempt a failure to comply removal but were advised that Mexico would not accept Blanco as failure to comply removal. *Id.* ¶ 20. On March 10, 2026, according to ICE database ERO Chicago will be serving Blanco a Failure to Comply letter and a Warning for Failure to Depart, Form I-229(a). *Id.* ¶ 21. ERO Chicago will continue to work with ICE Removal and International Operations to seek another third country removal. *Id.* ¶ 22.

Respectfully submitted,

JUSTIN R. SIMMONS
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

By: /s/ Adrian Acosta
ADRIAN ACOSTA
Assistant United States Attorney
Texas Bar No. 24097275
700 E. San Antonio, Ste. 200
El Paso, Texas 79901
Office: (915) 534-6884
Facsimile: (915) 534-3490
Email: Adrian.Acosta@usdoj.gov
Attorneys for Federal Respondents

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

On or about March 19, 2026, I directed a copy of this filing to be mailed via US Certified Mail to the Pro Se Petitioner at the below address:

Raidel Blanco
A# 
Winn Correctional Center
PO Box 1435
Winnfield, LA 71483

/s: Adrian Acosta

ADRIAN ACOSTA
Assistant United States Attorney