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6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
7 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
8

9 HUGO BALTAZAR-GARCIA,

10 Petitioner,

11 v.

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

19 Respondents.  
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Case No. '26CV0587 LL JLB

**PETITION FOR WRIT OF  
HABEAS CORPUS**

1 **INTRODUCTION**

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

6. Petitioner, Hugo Baltazar Garcia, is a member of the Bond Eligible Class, as he:
- a. does not have lawful status in the United States and is currently detained at the Otay Mesa Detention Facility. He was apprehended by immigration authorities On January 22, 2026, outside his place of employment in El Cajon, California;
  - b. entered the United States without inspection on or about 2003, more than 20 years ago and was not apprehended upon arrival, *cf. id.*; and
  - c. is not detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c), § 1225(b)(1), or § 1231.

7. After apprehending Petitioner on January 22, 2026, the DHS placed him in removal proceedings pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1229a. DHS has charged Petitioner as being inadmissible under 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(A)(i), as someone who entered the United States without inspection.

8. The Court should expeditiously grant this petition.

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

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).



1 DATED this 29 of January, 2026

Respectfully Submitted:

2  
3 /s/ Tina Malek  
4 Tina Malek  
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8 *Counsel for Petitioner*  
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