

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
WAYCROSS DIVISION

Mate SALDADZE,

Petitioner,

v.

WARDEN of Folkston ICE
Processing Center; GEORGE
STERLING, Director of the
Atlanta Field Office, U.S.
Immigration and Customs
Enforcement; TODD LYONS, in
his official capacity as Acting
Director of U.S. Immigration and
Customs Enforcement; KRISTI
NOEM, in her official capacity as
U.S. Secretary of Homeland
Security; PAMELA BONDI, in
her official capacity as U.S.
Attorney General;

Respondents.

Civil Action No.: cv-00126-LGW-BWC

PETITIONER'S MOTION FOR EXPEDITED REVIEW AND FOR AN EXPEDITED ORDER

TO SHOW CAUSE / RETURN DATE UNDER 28 U.S.C. § 2243

Petitioner MATE SALDADZE respectfully moves for expedited review of

the Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241 and requests that the Court promptly issue an Order to Show Cause (or set an expedited return date) under 28 U.S.C. § 2243. In support, Petitioner states as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. Petitioner is detained at the Folkston D. Ray ICE Processing Center located at 3262 Highway 252 East, Folkston, Georgia 31537.
2. The Petitioner presents a claim of unlawful mandatory detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2), entitlement to bond hearing under § 1226(a), and violation of due process under the U.S. Constitution, Amend. V.
3. Expedited consideration is warranted because Petitioner has experienced significant medical mistreatment while in DHS custody. During transport, he was shackled at both his arms and legs and was restrained together with other detainees even when using the restroom. Petitioner requested medication for a throat condition during transport, but DHS denied the request. Further delay risks irreparable harm due to medical mistreatment and neglect.

BACKGROUND

4. Petitioner entered at or near Tecate, California on or about March 26, 2024.

5. At entry, Petitioner was issued a Notice to Appear (“NTA”) dated March 26, 2024 commencing removal proceedings pursuant to INA § 240 (8 U.S.C. § 1229a). The NTA charged Petitioner as a noncitizen who was not admitted or paroled pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(A)(i) and ordered Petitioner to appear before the Immigration Court at 26 Federal Plaza, 12th Floor, Room 1237, New York, NY 10278 on May 22, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.

6. Petitioner was detained for several days. On April 1, 2024, DHS conducted a danger and flight risk assessment pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) and released Petitioner on his own recognizance, necessarily determining that he did not pose a danger to the community or a flight risk.

7. After release, Petitioner relocated to Brooklyn, NY and complied with DHS supervision. He reported as required and remained under ICE supervision.

8. On or around October 7, 2024, Petitioner filed an Application for Asylum, Withholding of Removal, and protection under the Convention Against Torture based on political opinion and sexual orientation, including his identity as a gay man and his participation in LGBTQ+ advocacy and protest activity in the country of Georgia.

9. On December 29, 2025, Petitioner was re-detained by DHS at an ICE check-in, despite having no criminal convictions and despite his substantial history of

compliance with DHS supervision.

10. Petitioner remains in ICE custody at the Folkston D. Ray ICE Processing Center located at 3262 Highway 252 East, Folkston, Georgia 31537.

11. DHS asserts detention authority under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A) per July 8, 2025 ICE memo "Interim Guidance Regarding Detention Authority for Applicants for Admission"¹ and *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I. & N. Dec. 216 (BIA 2025).

12. Petitioner contends mandatory detention is unlawful because § 1226(a), not § 1225(b), applies, and Section 1226(a) entitles Petitioner to a bond hearing.

13. Petitioner has pursued available administrative steps to the extent required and practicable.

LEGAL STANDARD

14. Under 28 U.S.C. § 2243, a court receiving a habeas petition may issue "the writ, or an order to show cause," and the statute contemplates a prompt return and a prompt hearing where appropriate.

¹ Available at <https://www.aila.org/library/ice-memo-interim-guidance-regarding-detention-authority-for-applications-for-admission>.

15. Federal courts possess inherent authority to manage their dockets and to expedite consideration where needed to prevent prejudice, irreparable harm, or mootness.

16. In immigration custody habeas cases, expedited return schedules are especially appropriate when continued detention itself is the challenged injury and time is of the essence.

ARGUMENT

I. Expedited review is necessary to prevent ongoing unlawful detention and prejudice.

17. Each additional day of detention is a continuing deprivation of liberty. The Petition challenges the legality of custody and seeks relief that becomes less meaningful as detention continues.

18. Petitioner's circumstances warrant expedited handling because Petitioner has experienced significant medical mistreatment while in DHS custody. Petitioner is currently detained at Folkston ICE Processing Center ("Folkston"). During transport, he was shackled at both his arms and legs, and he was restrained together with other detainees even when using the restroom. Petitioner requested medication for a throat condition during transport, but DHS denied the request.

19. According to a 2023 study by the National Institute of Health (NIH), detention facilities in the southern United States, including Georgia, “have amassed numerous reports of medical mismanagement.”²

“Despite ongoing reports of medical mismanagement in southern detention facilities, there is little transparency about the medical conditions of individuals in detention and the extent of medical mismanagement. While ICE has published National Detention Standards (NDS) to ensure the health and safety of those in detention, there is *no ongoing assessment to determine the extent of adherence to these standards*. Since 2019, the GA Human Rights Clinic (GHRC) has provided medical chart reviews to medically vulnerable individuals in southern detention facilities in partnership with legal partners in the south.”³

20. The NIH assessed medical care provided to detainees in ICE detention centers in six southern states in 2020-2021. Seventy-seven percent of the participants in the study were located in Georgia, including Folkston. The study found “the workup, management, and treatment of diagnosed chronic

² “Medical Mismanagement in Southern US Immigration and Customs Enforcement Detention Facilities: A Thematic Analysis of Secondary Medical Records,” *National Institute of Health* (January 30, 2023), available at: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9885057/>

³ *Id.* (emphasis added).

medical conditions were inadequate.” Specifically, the study found:

- a. “...failure to order additional labs and/or imaging for a condition or only pursuing a partial workup without completing a standard workup...”
- b. “...ordering incorrect labs and/or imaging for certain conditions...”
- c. “...multiple encounters in which a patient should have been referred to a specialist for a chronic medical condition but was not...”
- d. “...use of medications that were inappropriate for the condition, initiation of medications without required follow up labs, or simply not initiating medications when appropriate to do so...”
- e. “...missing required daily medications for multiple days, excessive use of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), and failure to adjust medications when there was not an adequate treatment response...”⁴

21. According to the NIH, ICE detention facilities in Georgia are a particular area of concern because “detention facilities that are dedicated Inter-governmental Service Agreement (IGSA) facilities, those that solely house ICE detainees, have been found to have higher death rates than all other

⁴ *Id.*

settings where individuals detained reside. All three detention facilities in GA, SDC, ICDC and Folkston ICE Processing Centre, are/were IGSA dedicated facilities.”⁵

22. The GEO Group is the owner and operator of Folkston ICE Processing Center where Petitioner is detained. There is widespread reporting of medical neglect and abuse at Folkston.

“An examination of federal contracts and inspection reports with The GEO Group and obtained by *The Current* show staff routinely ignored federal safety and prison standards and kept detainees... in unsanitary and dangerous conditions that threatened their health.”⁶

“Families, attorneys and members of Congress are calling for immediate federal action as concerns grow over conditions inside immigration detention centers. Georgia has one of the highest numbers of ICE detention beds in the country, and advocates say conditions inside facilities in Stewart County, Irwin County, Folkston and Atlanta are ‘dangerous’ and ‘inhumane.’”⁷

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ “ICE finds violations at Folkston detention center but continues to contract with The GEO Group,” *The Current* (July 15, 2025), available at <https://www.gpb.org/news/2025/07/15/ice-finds-violations-at-folkston-detention-center-continues-contract-the-geo-group>.

⁷ “Families, lawmakers raise alarm over conditions inside Georgia ICE facilities,” *WCTV / Atlanta News First* (December 5, 2025), available at: <https://www.wctv.tv/2025/12/04/families-lawmakers-raise-alarms-over->

23. In April 2024, Jaspal Singh died as a direct result of medical neglect at Folkston. According to a review of his death conducted by ICE, “[t]he facility’s medical care ‘deviated beyond safe limits and directly contributed to his death[.]’”⁸

24. In May 2025, the Government Accountability Office — the official financial watchdog of the U.S. Congress — released a report that “oversight concerns at Folkston remained.”⁹

25. Clearly, further delay poses serious risks to the Petitioner, including irreparable harm due to medical mistreatment and neglect.

II. The Court should order an expedited return date and briefing schedule under § 2243

26. Petitioner requests that the Court issue an Order to Show Cause directing Respondents to file a return/response within 3 days, and permit Petitioner to file a reply within 2 days thereafter (or as the Court deems appropriate).

conditions-inside-georgia-ice-facilities/.

⁸ “ICE finds violations at Folkston detention center but continues to contract with The GEO Group,” *The Current* (July 15, 2025), available at <https://www.gpb.org/news/2025/07/15/ice-finds-violations-at-folkston-detention-center-continues-contract-the-geo-group>.

⁹ *Id.*

27. Alternatively, Petitioner requests an accelerated scheduling order setting prompt dates for Respondents' return and Petitioner's reply, with a hearing if the Court determines one is necessary.

III. Alternatively, the Court should promptly set a status conference

28. If the Court prefers, Petitioner requests an expedited status conference to address the return date, any record production, and whether limited interim relief is necessary to preserve jurisdiction and prevent mootness

REQUESTED RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Petitioner prays that this Court grant the following relief.

- a. Grant this Motion for Expedited Review;
- b. Issue an Order to Show Cause (or set an expedited return date) under 28 U.S.C. § 2243, directing Respondents to respond within 3 days;
- c. Set an expedited schedule for Petitioner's reply within 2 days after the return;
- d. Schedule a prompt hearing or status conference if the Court deems it helpful; and
- e. Grant any other and further relief that this Court deems just and

proper.

DATED this 30th day of January, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Alexis Ruiz

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VERIFICATION OF COUNSEL

I, Veronica Cardenas, hereby certify that I am familiar with the case of the named Petitioner and that the facts as stated above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

s/Veronica Cardenas

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that on January 30, 2026, I electronically transmitted the attached document to the Clerk of Court using the ECF System for filing and transmittal of a notice of electronic filing to counsel of record. In addition, the document was emailed to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

s/Veronica Cardenas