

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA**

Cristian David Ortiz Montaguano,

Petitioner,

v.

Pamela Bondi, Attorney General, United
States Department of Justice,

Kristi Noem, Secretary, U.S. Department
of Homeland Security,

Todd M. Lyons, Acting Director of
Immigration and Customs Enforcement,

David Easterwood, Field Office Director,
St. Paul Field Office, U.S. Immigration
and Customs Enforcement,

Respondents.

Case No. 0:26-cv-00853

**VERIFIED PETITION
FOR WRIT OF
HABEAS CORPUS**

Expedited Handling Requested

INTRODUCTION

1. Petitioner, Cristian David Ortiz Montaguano, by and through counsel, hereby files this petition for a Writ of Habeas Corpus and a complaint for declaratory and injunctive relief to require U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) to release Petitioner from ICE detention or, in the alternative, return Petitioner to detention in Minnesota and to provide Petitioner with a bond hearing.

2. Petitioner is a citizen of Ecuador. Petitioner has lived in the United States since July 2023. Immigration Court and appeared at all hearings. He has complied with

all scheduled ICE appointments

3. For over two years, Petitioner has been living peacefully in Minnesota with his wife and three children for whom he cares for, and he has complied with all lawful orders with respect to his immigration status.

4. Despite Petitioner's pending appeal, Respondents arrested Petitioner on Tuesday, January 9, 2026.

5. According to ICE's online detainee locator, Petitioner is being detained by ICE at the Torrance County Detention Center, an immigration detention facility, in Estancia, New Mexico.

6. Petitioner's detention has been very difficult for both him and his family. He has been separated from his wife and children and transferred to a detention center more than a thousand miles away from his home and loved ones. This experience and his separation from his family have caused Petitioner tremendous fear, worry, and anxiety.

7. Petitioner's detention is unlawful for at least five reasons.

8. **First**, due process requires that the government show, in a pre-deprivation hearing, materially changed circumstances before detaining Petitioner. The government has not provided Petitioner with any evidence that his arrest and detention is warranted, nor have they demonstrated that he was a flight risk or a danger to the community. On the contrary, Petitioner has built deep ties to the United States and intends to file a petition for asylum to remain in Minnesota. As courts in this District have held in similar cases, Petitioner's detention without any pre-deprivation process violates his procedural due process rights and this alone **warrants his immediate release**. *See Roble v. Bondi*,

No. 25-cv-3196, 2025 WL 2443453, at *4 (D. Minn. Aug. 25, 2025) (granting habeas petition and ordering release of a detained immigrant on supervised release where Government failed to give adequate pre-detention notice and “utterly fail[ed] to demonstrate to the Court why changed circumstances render [immigrant’s] removal significantly likely in the reasonably foreseeable future”); *Sarail A. v. Bondi*, No. 25-cv-2144, 2025 WL 2533673, at *4–5 (D. Minn. Sept. 3, 2025) (granting *habeas* petition and ordering release of detained immigrant who was previously released into supervision where government failed to give adequate notice of re-detention, and merely cited “‘changed circumstances’ without any explanation”); *Yee S. v. Bondi*, No. 25-cv-02782, 2025 WL 2879479, at *4 (D. Minn. Oct. 9, 2025) (granting *habeas* petition of immigrant released into supervision where government failed to demonstrate a change in circumstances).

9. **Second**, the government has no legitimate interest in detaining Petitioner when he is neither a flight risk nor a danger—the only two constitutionally permissible reasons for immigration detention. Accordingly, his detention also violates his substantive due process rights, **warranting his immediate release**.

10. **Third**, Petitioner was arrested without a warrant and without probable cause that he was a flight risk, under unlawful enforcement procedures that multiple courts across the country have declared illegal. Since then, there has been no determination that any probable cause exists to justify his detention. This violates his Fourth Amendment rights, as well as statutes and regulations, similarly **mandating his release**.

11. **Fourth**, Petitioner is a member of the Bond Eligible Class certified in

Maldonado Bautista v. Santacruz, No. 5:25-CV-01873-SSS-BFM, (C.D. Cal.). On November 20, 2025, the District Court of the Central District of California granted partial summary judgment on behalf of individual plaintiffs and, on November 25, 2025, certified a nationwide class and extended declaratory judgment to the certified class. *Maldonado Bautista v. Santacruz*, No. 5:25-CV-01873-SSS-BFM, --- F. Supp. 3d ----, 2025 WL 3289861, at *11 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 20, 2025) (order granting partial summary judgment to named Plaintiffs-Petitioners); *Maldonado Bautista v. Santacruz*, No. 5:25-CV-01873-SSS-BFM, --- F. Supp. 3d ----, 2025 WL 3288403, at *9 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 25, 2025) (order certifying Plaintiffs-Petitioners' proposed nationwide Bond Eligible Class, incorporating and extending declaratory judgment from Order Granting Petitioners' Motion for Partial Summary Judgment). After being presented with evidence that the Government was counseling noncompliance with the court's orders, the District Judge in *Maldonado-Bautista* issued a clarifying order on December 18, 2025, to make clear that all class members are entitled to benefit from the declaratory judgment and therefore entitled to a bond hearing. No. 5:25-cv-01873-SSS-BFM 2025 WL 3713982 at * 7 (C.D. Cal. Dec. 18, 2025). The declaratory judgment held that the Bond Denial Class members are detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) and thus may not be denied consideration for release on bond under § 1225(b)(2)(A). *Maldonado Bautista*, 2025 WL 3289861, at *11.

12. Petitioner is a member of the Bond Eligible Class, as he:
 - a. does not have lawful status in the United States and is currently detained by ICE;
 - b. entered the United States without inspection over two 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.

13. However, Petitioner now faces unlawful detention because the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) have refused to abide by the declaratory judgment issued on behalf of the certified class in *Maldonado Bautista v. Santacruz*. Petitioner is a member of the Bond Eligible Class and is therefore entitled to release.

14. **Fifth**, Petitioner's detention is not governed by 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A), as he entered the United States without inspection, was previously detained and released from detention, and has since lived in the United States for over two years. Courts throughout the United States have overwhelmingly rejected Respondents' expansive interpretation of 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A). *See, e.g., Barco Mercado v. Francis*, No. 25-cv-6582, 2025 WL 3295903, at *4 (S.D.N.Y. Nov. 26, 2025) (tallying more than 350 cases declining to entertain "the administration's new position that all noncitizens who came in the United States illegally, but since have been living in the United States, must be detained until their removal proceedings are completed" and finding that "the law still means what it always has meant."); *Guerrero Orellana v. Moniz*, No. 25-cv-12664, 2025 WL 3687757 (D. Mass. Dec. 19, 2025) (granting summary judgment and extending declaratory relief to Massachusetts-based class of noncitizens wrongly subject to mandatory detention under the government's recent interpretation of § 1225(b)(2)(A)); *Maldonado v. Olson*, No. 25-cv-3142, 2025 WL 2374411, at *12 (D. Minn. Aug. 15, 2025). This renders Petitioner's current detention unlawful from its inception, in violation

of the Immigration and Nationality Act (“INA”) and his due process rights.

15. Petitioner was apprehended in Minneapolis, Minnesota on January 9, 2026. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to *Sue H. v. Donald Trump*, No. 26-cv-00416 (D. Minn. Jan. 20, 2026), and *Victor P. v. Kristi Noem, et al.*, No. 26-cv-430 (MJD/SGE) (D. Minn. Jan. 19, 2026); *see also Jose A. v. Kristi Noem*, No. 26-cv-480 (JMB/ECW) (finding that jurisdiction was proper in Minnesota despite petitioner being transferred to El Paso, Texas because the decision to detain and arrest petitioner was made in Minnesota, witnesses of petitioner’s arrest are in Minnesota, and petitioner was for some time actually detained in Minnesota); *Rumsfeld*, 542 U.S. at 454.

16. For these reasons, Petitioner respectfully asks this Court to hold his arrest and detention unlawful; order restoration of the status quo prior to his detention, *i.e.* release without restraints on his liberty; order Respondents to transfer Petitioner back to Minnesota; and enjoin Respondents from re-detaining him without meaningful pre-detention process. If the Court does not grant immediate restoration of the status quo prior to detention, then Petitioner alternatively requests that this Court order Respondents to transfer Petitioner back to detention in Minnesota so that this petition may be considered while he is physically located in this jurisdiction or, alternative, a bond hearing may be had in this jurisdiction, and that this Court enjoin Respondents from any future transfer outside of this District for the duration of such proceeding.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

17. This Court has jurisdiction to entertain this habeas petition under 28 U.S.C. 1331; 28 U.S.C. 2241; the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment, U.S. Const.

amend. V; and the Suspension Clause, U.S. Const. art. I, § 2.

18. Federal question jurisdiction exists because Petitioner seeks to challenge Petitioner’s custody as a violation of the Constitution and the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101 *et seq.*

19. Federal district courts have jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 to hear habeas petitions by noncitizens challenging the lawfulness or constitutionality of their detention by the Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”). *Denmore v. Kim*, 538 U.S. 510 516-17 (2003); *Jennings v. Rodriguez*, 138 S. Ct. 830, 839-41 (2018); *Nielsen v. Preap*, 139 S. Ct. 954, 961-63 (2019).

20. This Court may grant relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241, the Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2201 *et seq.*, and the All Writs Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1651.

21. Petitioner was apprehended within the State of Minnesota, conferring jurisdiction upon this Court. Slip Op. 2, *Sue H.*, No. 26-cv-416 (D. Minn. Jan. 20, 2026). Any subsequent decision by respondents to remove Petitioner from Minnesota to frustrate his efforts to exercise his due process rights and obtain habeas relief does not divest this Court of jurisdiction. *Id.* This is particularly apt in this situation where Petitioner was first moved to Texas and then moved to New Mexico.

22. Venue is also properly in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e) because Respondents are employees, officers, and agencies of the United States, and because a substantial part of the events giving rise to these claims occurred in this District.

23. Venue is also proper under 28 U.S.C. § 2241(d) because Petitioner is or

was detained at a facility within this District. As held in *Sue H.*, “habeas jurisdiction attaches at the time of the Petitioner’s apprehension,” further stating that “jurisdiction is not defeated by any subsequent decision by Respondents to transfer Petitioner to another state.” Slip Op. 2, No. 26-cv-0416. That decision included an order requiring that a habeas petitioner transferred out of state be returned to Minnesota. *See also Victor P. v. Kristi Noem, et al.*, No. 26-cv-430 (MJD/SGE) (D. Minn. Jan. 19, 2026) (“[H]abeas jurisdiction attached at the time of Petitioner’s apprehension in this District. That jurisdiction is not defeated by any subsequent decision by Respondents transfer Petitioner to another state. Habeas jurisdiction turns on custody and control, not on the Government’s unilateral post-seizure movement of the detainee. The position that jurisdiction lies exclusively in the district to which Respondents transfer a petitioner would permit the Government to determine the forum for judicial review through its own logistics. Federal courts may not be divested of jurisdiction in that manner.”); *see also Jose A. v. Kristi Noem* (holding that to find jurisdiction proper in El Paso, Texas would encourage respondents to forum shop). This is particularly apt in this situation where Petitioner was first moved to Texas and then moved to New Mexico.

REQUIREMENTS OF 28 U.S.C. § 2243

24. The Court should grant the petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus “forthwith,” as the legal issues have already been resolved for class members in *Maldonado Bautista*, No. 5:25-CV-01873-SSS-BFM, ---F. Supp. 3d ---, 2025 WL 3288403, at *9 (D.C. Cal. Nov. 25, 2025) (the detention of noncitizens who are within the Bond Eligible Class is not governed by 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A) but instead is

governed by 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a)).

25. Habeas corpus is “perhaps the most important writ known to the constitutional law..... affording as it does a swift and imperative remedy in all cases of illegal restraint or confinement.” *Fay v. Noia*, 372 U.S. 391, 400 (1963) (emphasis added). “The application for the writ usurps the attention and displaces the calendar of the judge or justice who entertains it and receives prompt action from him within the four corners of the application.” *Yong v. I.N.S.*, 208 F.3d 1116, 1120 (9th Cir. 2000) (citation omitted).

PARTIES

26. Petitioner Cristian David Ortiz Montaguano, has been in ICE custody since January 9, 2026, when he was arrested in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

27. Respondent Todd M. Lyons is the Acting Director of ICE. He is a legal custodian of Petitioner and is named in his official capacity.

28. Respondent Kristi Noem is the Secretary of the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS). She is a legal custodian of Petitioner and is named in her official capacity.

29. Respondent Pamela Jo Bondi is the Attorney General of the United States Department of Justice. She is a legal custodian of Petitioner and is named in her official capacity.

30. Respondent David Easterwood is the Acting Field Office Director for the Fort Snelling Field Office for ICE within DHS at which Petitioner was initially detained. In that capacity, Field Director Easterwood has supervisory authority over the ICE agents

responsible for detaining Petitioner. The address for the St. Paul Field Office at Fort Snelling is 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111.

RELEVANT FACTS & PROCEDURAL HISTORY

31. Petitioner is a resident of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and a citizen of Ecuador. Petitioner has lived in the United States since July of 2023. He is [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Following this attack, Petitioner, his wife, and their three children fled Ecuador in hopes of a safer life.

32. Subsequent to his entry into the United States in July 2023, Petitioner was apprehended and released on his own recognizance with a future status hearing before the New York Immigration Court in April 2027. Petitioner is afraid of returning to Ecuador and hopes to present an application for humanitarian relief from deportation at his April 2027 status hearing.

33. Petitioner lives with his wife and three minor children in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and is the main provider for his family. Petitioner works in Minnesota, pays taxes to the United States and Minnesotan governments, and has a spotless criminal record.

34. Petitioner was arrested at gunpoint by a group of individuals in front of his home as he prepared to leave for work. Petitioner attempted to console his wife and four-year-old daughter, who heard from inside their home, as Petitioner was handcuffed and pushed against his car. Petitioner was searched and detained with excessive force at gunpoint despite his voluntarily surrender. The men who detained and searched

Petitioner at gunpoint are believed to be agents of Respondent ICE. Petitioner was not presented with a warrant during his detention. Petitioner hopes to speak with his children, particularly his daughter who was heard crying during Petitioner's detention, to reassure to them that he is safe.

35. This arrest is part of an operation in Hennepin County and Ramsey County called "Operation Metro Surge." This operation has involved hundreds of masked, unidentified individuals in unmarked vehicles (many with illegally covered or mismatched license plates) holding themselves out as ICE agents but largely refusing to identify themselves by name or to present warrants, physically assaulting pedestrians, pepper spraying and arresting citizen observers, hitting passersby with vehicles, and generally attempting to take as many immigrants as possible into custody, regardless of the constitutionality of their actions. *See, e.g., Compl., Tincher et. al. v. Noem*, No. 0:25-cv-04669 (D. Minn. Dec. 17, 2025).

36. After being taken into custody in Minnesota, Petitioner was transferred to a detention facility in El Paso, Texas. Petitioner was then transferred to another detention facility in Estancia, New Mexico.

37. The undersigned used ICE's online detainee locator system to attempt to track whether Petitioner had been transferred. At the time of this filing, ICE's online system lists Petitioner as in ICE custody at the Tarrant County Detention Facility in Estancia, New Mexico.

38. Petitioner poses no risk to society and has strong connections to his community in Hennepin County, including his minor children.

39. Petitioner respectfully seeks the opportunity to return to his home in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and to continue following the legal processes set up by Congress and DHS for immigrants to seek status in this country.

CAUSES OF ACTION

FIRST CLAIM

Violation of the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the US. Constitution Procedural Due Process

40. Petitioner repeats and re-alleges the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this Petition as if fully set forth herein.

41. Even “[w]hen government action depriving a person of life, liberty, or property survives substantive due process scrutiny, it must still be implemented in a fair manner.” *Salerno*, 481 U.S. at 746.

42. Federal courts use the three-part test in *Mathews v. Eldridge* to determine whether civil detention violates a detainee’s due process rights. 424 U.S. 319 (1976). The elements of this test are: (1) the private interest that the official action affects; (2) the risk that the procedures used will result in an erroneous deprivation of the private interest, and the probable value, if any, of additional or substitute procedural safeguards; and (3) the Government’s interest in following the existing procedures, both in achieving their objectives and in the potential burdens of an alternate procedure. *Id.* at 335.

43. Here, all three factors favor Petitioner.

44. **First**, Petitioner has a significant private interest at stake. A person’s interest in freedom from physical detention is “the most elemental of liberty interests.” *Hamdi v.*

Rumsfeld, 542 U.S. 507, 529, 124 S.Ct. 2633, 159 L.Ed.2d 578 (2004); see also *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 690, 121 S.Ct. 2491 (“Freedom from imprisonment—from government custody, detention, or other forms of physical restraint—lies at the heart of the liberty that [the Due Process] Clause protects.”). Petitioner currently experiences the gambit of deprivations that come with physical detention.

45. **Second**, Petitioner will continue to be deprived of this interest if the current procedure (detaining Petitioner without a hearing) is followed. Petitioner has a strong likelihood of meeting the criteria for being released on bond. 8 CFR §§236.1(c)(8), 1236.1(c)(8) (2020); *In re Adeniji*, 22 I. & N. Dec. 1102, 1113 (BIA 1999). Even if Petitioner is not subsequently released, Petitioner still has a legal and constitutional interest in the hearing itself, in being heard.

46. **Third**, the Government has no legitimate interest in refusing to follow its own rules. Petitioner poses no safety threats to the community. Releasing Petitioner, or holding a hearing to release Petitioner on bond, would in fact *save* the government the resources and expense of continuing to imprison Petitioner.

SECOND CLAIM

Violation of the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

Substantive Due Process

47. Petitioner repeats and re-alleges the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this Petition as if fully set forth herein.

48. The Supreme Court has long recognized that noncitizens physically present in the United States are entitled to due process protections, regardless of their

immigration status. *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 693 (2001); *Mathews v. Diaz*, 426 U.S. 67, 77 (1976). And “[f]reedom from imprisonment—from government custody, detention, or other forms of physical restraint—lies at the heart of the liberty that [the Due Process] Clause protects.” *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 690.

49. Because “liberty is the norm, and detention prior to trial or without trial is the carefully limited exception,” the government may imprison people as a preventive measure only within strict limits. *Foucha v. Louisiana*, 504 U.S. 71, 83 (1992) (quoting *United States v. Salerno*, 481 U.S. 739, 755 (1987)).

50. Immigration detention is civil detention and must “bear a reasonable relation to the purpose for which the individual was committed” so that it remains “nonpunitive in purpose and effect.” *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 690 (citation modified); see also *Schall v. Martin*, 467 U.S. 253, 264-69 (1984) (finding detention must be a proportional—not excessive—response to a legitimate state objective).

51. Courts have identified only two legitimate purposes for immigration detention: mitigating flight risk pending removal and preventing danger to the community. See *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 690-91.

52. To satisfy substantive due process under the Fifth Amendment, a noncitizen’s detention must be tied to flight risk or a danger to the community. *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 690.

53. Neither purpose is served by Petitioner’s detention. Respondents have not made any claim that Petitioner presents a flight risk or a danger to the community, nor could they.

54. Since his entry to the United States, Petitioner’s ties to this country have only

grown stronger. He has a job and a family here and is integrated in his community. *See Osorio*, 893 F. 3d at 173-75.

55. Because the government is not detaining Petitioner to serve legitimate interests in protecting against danger or flight risk, his detention violates substantive due process under the Fifth Amendment, and this Court should order his immediate release.

THIRD CLAIM

Violation of the Immigration and Nationality Act and Procedural Due Process

56. Petitioner repeats and re-alleges the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this Petition as if fully set forth herein.

57. The mandatory detention provision at 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2) does not apply to all noncitizens residing in the United States who are subject to the grounds of inadmissibility. As is relevant here, it does not apply to those who previously entered the country and have been residing in the United States prior to being apprehended and placed in removal proceedings by Respondents. Such noncitizens are detained under § 1226(a), unless they are subject to § 1225(b)(1), § 1226(c), or § 1231.

58. Petitioner is not subject to 8 U.S.C. §§ 1225(b)(1), 1226(c), or § 1231.

59. Respondents' application of § 1225(b)(2) to Petitioner unlawfully mandates his continued detention and violates the INA.

60. On January 20, 2026, the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota issued an order stating that "habeas jurisdiction attaches at the time of the Petitioner's apprehension," further stating that "jurisdiction is not defeated by any subsequent decision by Respondents to transfer Petitioner to another state." *Sue H. v. Trump*, Case No. 26-CV-0416

(MJD/ECW) at 2; *see also Victor P. v. Kristi Noem, et al.*, No. 26-cv-430 (MJD/SGE) (D. Minn. Jan. 19, 2026) (emphasis added) (“[H]abeas jurisdiction attached at the time of Petitioner’s apprehension in this District. That jurisdiction is not defeated by any subsequent decision by Respondents transfer Petitioner to another state. Habeas jurisdiction turns on custody and control, **not** on the Government’s unilateral post-seizure movement of the detainee. The position that jurisdiction lies exclusively in the district to which Respondents transfer a petitioner would permit the Government to determine the forum for judicial review through its own logistics. Federal courts may not be divested of jurisdiction in that manner.”). Therefore, Petitioner is filing this habeas petition here, where he was originally detained, and requests that this Court order that Petitioner be returned to Minnesota.

FOURTH CLAIM

Violation of the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, 8 U.S.C. § 1357(a)(2), and 8 C.F.R. § 287.3(d) Unlawful Arrest

61. Petitioner repeats and re-alleges the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this Petition as if fully set forth herein.

62. The Fourth Amendment protects “[t]he right of the people to be secure in their persons . . . against unreasonable searches and seizures.” U.S. Const. Amend. IV. Immigration arrests and detentions are seizures within the meaning of the Fourth Amendment. *INS v. Lopez-Mendoza*, 468 U.S. 1032, 1044 (1984) (acknowledging that deportation proceedings are civil, but the Fourth Amendment still applies to the “seizure” of the person).

63. As a general matter, the Fourth Amendment requires that all arrests entail a

neutral, judicial determination of probable cause. *See Gerstein v. Pugh*, 420 U.S. 103, 114 (1975). “Probable cause requires a ‘substantial probability; based on facts related to the individual.’” *Ramirez Ovando v. Noem*, No. 25-cv-03183, 2025 WL 3293467, at *15 (D. Colo. Nov. 25, 2025) (quoting *Storey v. Taylor*, 696 F.3d 987, 992 (10th Cir. 2012) (finding probable cause for immigration arrests lacking); *U.S. v. Williams*, No. 19-cr-325, 2020 WL 4228095 (D. Minn. May 13, 2020), report and recommendation adopted, 2020 WL 4226865 (July 23, 2020). That determination can occur either before the arrest, in the form of a warrant, or promptly afterward, in the form of a prompt judicial probable cause determination. *See Gerstein*, 420 U.S. at 125. It must, however, occur within 48 hours of detention, which includes weekends, unless there is a bona fide emergency or other extraordinary circumstance. *See Cnty. of Riverside v. McLaughlin*, 500 U.S. 44, 57 (1991).

64. There is a strong preference that immigration arrests be based on warrants. *See Arizona v. U.S.*, 567 U.S. 387, 407–08 (2012). The INA thus provides immigration agents with only limited authority to conduct warrantless arrests. 8 U.S.C. § 1357(a)(2). Specifically, an officer must have probable cause to believe the person is violating the immigration laws *and* that the person “is likely to escape before a warrant can be obtained,” *i.e.*, is a flight risk. *Id.*; *see also Ramirez Ovando*, 2025 WL 3293467, at *2. Federal regulations track the strict limitations on warrantless arrests. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 287.8(c)(2)(ii).

65. Petitioner’s warrantless detention occurred without probable cause that he was a flight risk. “Courts have...made the self-evident finding that the likelihood of

escape is lower when the individual has resided in the country for a lengthy period of time and has strong community ties.” *Escobar Molina v. U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Sec.*, No. 25-cv-3417, 2025 WL 3465518, at *13 (D.D.C. Dec. 2, 2025) (collecting cases). At the moment of his seizure, Petitioner (a) was living at a stable home address with his husband and two children in Minnesota, and (b) had been in the United States for over five years and built strong ties to his community. Therefore, no officer could have probable cause that he was likely to escape before a warrant could be obtained.

66. Without a statutory basis to arrest, Respondents were required under the Fourth Amendment to secure a prompt judicial probable cause determination to continue holding Petitioner. *Gerstein*, 420 U.S. at 114; *McLaughlin*, 500 U.S. at 56–57; see Slip Op. 8–9 *Garrison v. Bondi*, No. 26-cv-00172, (D. Minn. Jan. 15, 2026), ECF No. 6. He has thus far received no such judicial determination, and Respondents’ recent practice has been to extend such detentions well beyond 48 hours, rendering it presumptively unconstitutional.

67. Regulations also provide that noncitizens arrested without a warrant must receive a custody determination within 48 hours of the arrest, unless there is “an emergency or other extraordinary circumstance” that requires “an additional reasonable period of time” to make the custody determination. 8 C.F.R. § 287.3(d). During that custody determination, the immigration officer must make findings as to whether “release would not pose a danger to property or persons, and that the alien is likely to appear for any future proceeding.” 8 C.F.R. §§ 236.1(c)(8), 1236.1(c)(8). Similarly, upon information and belief, Petitioner has received no such custody determination, despite

being in custody for nearly three weeks.

68. 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) provides that “[o]n a warrant issued by the Attorney General, an alien may be arrested and detained.” “Issuance of a warrant is a necessary condition to justify discretionary detention under section 1226(a).” *Chogllo Chafla v. Scott*, --- F. Supp. 3d ---, No. 2:25-cv-00437, 2025 WL 2688541, at *11 (D. Me. Sep. 21, 2025), *appeal filed* (Nov. 7, 2025). “[I]t follows that absent a warrant a noncitizen may *not* be arrested and detained under section 1226(a).” *Id.*; *Fla. v. United States*, 660 F. Supp. 3d 1239 (N.D. Fla. 2023) (8 U.S.C. § 1226 “is not even triggered unless an arrest warrant is issued.”) *J.A.C.P. v. Wofford*, No. 1:25-CV-01354-KES-SKO (HC), 2025 WL 3013328 (E.D. Cal. Oct. 27, 2025); *Chiliqinga Yumbillo v. Stamper*, No. 2:25-CV-00479-SDN, 2025 WL 2783642, at *5 (D. Me. Sept. 30, 2025).

69. Courts in this district have overwhelmingly agreed and found that individuals like Petitioner who have been arrested and detained under 1226(a) without a warrant must be released. *Ahmed M. v. Bondi et al.*, No. 25-CV-4711 (ECT/SGE), 2026 WL 25627 (D. Minn. Jan. 5, 2026) (Tostrud, J.); *Alberto C.M. v. Noem*, No. CV 26-380 (DWF/SGE), 2026 WL 184530 (D. Minn. Jan. 23, 2026) (Frank, J.) *Brian P. N. v. Bondi*, No. 26-cv-39 (KMM/DLM), ECF No. 14 at 2 (D. Minn. Jan. 21, 2026) (Menendez, J.); *Diego L. v. Bondi*, No. 26-cv-382 (JMB/DJF), 2026 WL 145206, at *3 (D. Minn. Jan. 20, 2026) (Bryan, J.); *Alex G. C. v. Bondi*, No. 26-cv-271 (NEB/EMB), ECF No. 7 at 5 (D. Minn. Jan. 17, 2026) (Brasel, J.); *Juan R. v. Bondi*, No. 26-cv-252 (SRN/DTS), 2026 WL 125255, at *2–3 (D. Minn. Jan. 16, 2026) (Nelson, J.); *Lauro M. v. Bondi*, No. 26-CV-134 (SRN/DJF), 2026 WL 115022 (D. Minn. Jan. 15, 2026) (Nelson, J.) *Juan S. R. v.*

Bondi, No. 25-cv-5 (PJS/LIB), ECF No. 8 at 3–4 (D. Minn. Jan. 12, 2026) (Schiltz, C. J.); *Joaquin Q. L., v. Bondi, et al.*, No. 26-CV-233 (LMP/DTS), 2026 WL 161333, at *2 (D. Minn. Jan. 21, 2026) (Provinzino, J.); *Maria F. v. Bondi et al.*, No. 26-CV-486 (ECT/DTS), 2026 WL 172537 (D. Minn. Jan. 22, 2026) (Tostrud, J.); *Fulgencio B. v. Lyons et al.*, No. 26-CV-395 (ECT/DTS), 2026 WL 172677 (D. Minn. Jan. 22, 2026) (Tostrud, J.); *Daniel S. v. Bondi, et al.*, No. 26-CV-338 (ECT/ECW), 2026 WL 146509 (D. Minn. Jan. 20, 2026) (Tostrud, J.); *William M. v. Bondi, et al.*, No. 26-CV-346 (ECT/DJF), 2026 WL 131690 (D. Minn. Jan. 19, 2026) (Tostrud, J.); *Cristian Z. v. Bondi, et al.*, No. 26-CV-157 (ECT/ECW), 2026 WL 123116 (D. Minn. Jan. 16, 2026) (Tostrud, J.); *Omar E.F.G. v. Bondi, et al.*, No. 26-451 (DWF/DLM), 2026 WL 184571 (D. Minn. Jan. 23, 2026)

70. Respondents’ warrantless arrest of Petitioner, and their refusal to provide a prompt (or any) probable cause determination, violated the Fourth Amendment, the INA, and implementing regulations. Thus, this Court should order his release.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

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

- a. Order Respondents to return Petitioner to this District within 48 hours and for the duration of these proceedings;
- b. Declare that Petitioner is a Bond Class Member under *Maldonado Bautista*;
- c. Declare that Petitioner’s arrest and detention violates the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment; the Fourth Amendment; and the INA and implementing regulations;

- d. Issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus ordering Respondents to immediately release Petitioner from custody without restraints on his liberty beyond any that existed prior to his unlawful detention;
- e. Alternatively, issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus requiring Respondents to release Petitioner immediately unless they provide a bond hearing under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) within three days, at which hearing Respondents will bear the burden of justifying Petitioner's continued detention by clear and convincing evidence of dangerousness or flight risk;
- f. Issue an Order prohibiting Respondents from seeking a stay of any order granting bond by the Immigration Judge, including by filing a form EOIR-43 (Notice of Service Intent to Appeal Custody Redetermination) or a motion for emergency stay;
- g. Issue an Order to Show Cause ordering Respondents to explain why this Petition should not be granted within three days, and set a hearing on this Petition within five days of the return, as required by 28 USC § 2243;
- h. Order that Respondents cannot re-detain Petitioner without notice and a pre-deprivation hearing before this Court where the government bears the burden of justifying re-detention by clear and convincing evidence;
- i. Grant bail pending the conclusion of the habeas review; *see, e.g., Mapp v. Reno*, 241 F.3d 221 (2d Cir. 2001);
- j. Order that Petitioner may move to recover attorneys' fees and costs under the Equal Access to Justice Act;

k. Grant such further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Dated: January 30, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

/s Shashi K. Gowda

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Attorney for Petitioner

Verification by Someone Acting on Petitioner's Behalf Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2242

I am submitting this verification on behalf of Petitioner because his current detention makes him unable to submit one on his own behalf. I hereby verify that the statements made in the attached Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Dated: January 30, 2026

/s Shashi K. Gowda
Shashi K. Gowda