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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

FATIH YILMAZ,

Petitioner,

v.

MICHAEL ROSE, Field Office Director of Enforcement and Removal Operations, Philadelphia Field Office, Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Kristi NOEM, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY; Pamela BONDI, U.S. Attorney General; EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW; Warden of MOSHANNON VALLEY CORRECTIONAL CENTER.

Respondents.

Case No. 3:26-CV-00321

**PETITION FOR WRIT OF
HABEAS CORPUS**

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1 **INTRODUCTION**

2 1. Petitioner, Fatih Yilmaz, is in the physical custody of Respondents at the
3 MOSHANNON VALLEY CORRECTIONAL CENTER. He now faces unlawful detention
4 because the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Executive Office of Immigration
5 Review (EOIR) have concluded Petitioner is subject to mandatory detention.

6 2. Petitioner is charged with, inter alia, having entered the United States without
7 admission or inspection. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(A)(i).

8 3. Based on this allegation in Petitioner’s removal proceedings, DHS denied
9 Petitioner release from immigration custody, consistent with a new DHS policy issued on July 8,
10 2025, instructing all Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) employees to consider anyone
11 inadmissible under § 1182(a)(6)(A)(i)—i.e., those who entered the United States without
12 admission or inspection—to be subject to detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A) and
13 therefore ineligible to be released on bond.

14 4. Similarly, on September 5, 2025, the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA or
15 Board) issued a precedent decision, binding on all immigration judges, holding that an
16 immigration judge has no authority to consider bond requests for any person who entered the
17 United States without admission. *See Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I. & N. Dec. 216 (BIA 2025).
18 The Board determined that such individuals are subject to detention under 8 U.S.C. §
19 1225(b)(2)(A) and therefore ineligible to be released on bond.

20 5. Petitioner’s detention on this basis violates the plain language of the Immigration
21 and Nationality Act. Section 1225(b)(2)(A) does not apply to individuals like Petitioner who
22 previously entered and are now residing in the United States. Instead, such individuals are
23 subject to a different statute, § 1226(a), that allows for release on conditional parole or bond.

1 That statute expressly applies to people who, like Petitioner, are charged as inadmissible for
2 having entered the United States without inspection.

3 6. Respondents' new legal interpretation is plainly contrary to the statutory
4 framework and contrary to decades of agency practice applying § 1226(a) to people like
5 Petitioner.

6 7. Accordingly, Petitioner seeks a writ of habeas corpus requiring that he be released
7 unless Respondents provide a bond hearing under § 1226(a) within seven days.

8 JURISDICTION

9 8. Petitioner is in the physical custody of Respondents. Petitioner is detained at the
10 Moshannon Valley Correctional Facility in Phillipsburg, Pennsylvania.

11 9. 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 10. 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 11. 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 Middle District of
19 Pennsylvania, the judicial district in which Petitioner currently is detained.

20 12. 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 Middle
23 District of Pennsylvania.

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2 **REQUIREMENTS OF 28 U.S.C. § 2243**

3 13. The Court must grant the petition for writ of habeas corpus or order Respondents
4 to show cause “forthwith,” unless the petitioner is not entitled to relief. 28 U.S.C. § 2243. If an
5 order to show cause is issued, Respondents must file a return “within three days unless for good
6 cause additional time, not exceeding twenty days, is allowed.” *Id.*

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

13 **PARTIES**

14 15. Petitioner, Fatih Yilmaz, is a citizen of Turkey who has been in immigration
15 detention since January 22, 2026. After arresting Petitioner in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, ICE
16 did not set bond and Petitioner is unable to obtain review of his custody by an IJ, pursuant to the
17 Board’s decision in *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I. & N. Dec. 216 (BIA 2025).

18 16. Respondent MICHAEL ROSE is the Director of the Philadelphia Field Office of
19 ICE’s Enforcement and Removal Operations division. As such, MICHAEL ROSE is Petitioner’s
20 immediate custodian and is responsible for Petitioner’s detention and removal. He is named in
21 his official capacity.

22 17. Respondent Kristi Noem is the Secretary of the Department of Homeland
23 Security. She is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the Immigration and
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1 Nationality Act (INA), and oversees ICE, which is responsible for Petitioner's detention. Ms.
2 Noem has ultimate custodial authority over Petitioner and is sued in her official capacity.

3 18. Respondent Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is the federal agency
4 responsible for implementing and enforcing the INA, including the detention and removal of
5 noncitizens.

6 19. Respondent Pamela Bondi is the Attorney General of the United States. She is
7 responsible for the Department of Justice, of which the Executive Office for Immigration Review
8 and the immigration court system it operates is a component agency. She is sued in her official
9 capacity.

10 20. Respondent Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) is the federal
11 agency responsible for implementing and enforcing the INA in removal proceedings, including
12 for custody redeterminations in bond hearings.

13 21. Respondent Warden is employed by MOSHANNON VALLEY
14 CORRECTIONAL CENTER as Warden of the facility where Petitioner is detained. They have
15 immediate physical custody of Petitioner. They are sued in their official capacity.

16 **LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

17 22. The INA prescribes three basic forms of detention for the vast majority of
18 noncitizens in removal proceedings.

19 23. First, 8 U.S.C. § 1226 authorizes the detention of noncitizens in standard removal
20 proceedings before an IJ. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1229a. Individuals in § 1226(a) detention are generally
21 entitled to a bond hearing at the outset of their detention, *see* 8 C.F.R. §§ 1003.19(a), 1236.1(d),
22 while noncitizens who have been arrested, charged with, or convicted of certain crimes are
23 subject to mandatory detention, *see* 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c).

1 24. Second, the INA provides for mandatory detention of noncitizens subject to
2 expedited removal under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1) and for other recent arrivals seeking admission
3 referred to under § 1225(b)(2).

4 25. Last, the INA also provides for detention of noncitizens who have been ordered
5 removed, including individuals in withholding-only proceedings, *see* 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)–(b).

6 26. This case concerns the detention provisions at §§ 1226(a) and 1225(b)(2).

7 27. The detention provisions at § 1226(a) and § 1225(b)(2) were enacted as part of the
8 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) of 1996, Pub. L. No.
9 104–208, Div. C, §§ 302–03, 110 Stat. 3009-546, 3009–582 to 3009–583, 3009–585. Section
10 1226(a) was most recently amended earlier this year by the Laken Riley Act, Pub. L. No. 119-1,
11 139 Stat. 3 (2025).

12 28. Following the enactment of the IIRIRA, EOIR drafted new regulations explaining
13 that, in general, people who entered the country without inspection were not considered detained
14 under § 1225 and that they were instead detained under § 1226(a). *See* Inspection and Expedited
15 Removal of Aliens; Detention and Removal of Aliens; Conduct of Removal Proceedings;
16 Asylum Procedures, 62 Fed. Reg. 10312, 10323 (Mar. 6, 1997).

17 29. Thus, in the decades that followed, most people who entered without inspection
18 and were placed in standard removal proceedings received bond hearings, unless their criminal
19 history rendered them ineligible pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c). That practice was consistent
20 with many more decades of prior practice, in which noncitizens who were not deemed “arriving”
21 were entitled to a custody hearing before an IJ or other hearing officer. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1252(a)
22 (1994); *see also* H.R. Rep. No. 104-469, pt. 1, at 229 (1996) (noting that § 1226(a) simply
23 “restates” the detention authority previously found at § 1252(a)).
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1 30. On July 8, 2025, ICE, “in coordination with” DOJ, announced a new policy that
2 rejected well-established understanding of the statutory framework and reversed decades of
3 practice.

4 31. The new policy, entitled “Interim Guidance Regarding Detention Authority for
5 Applicants for Admission,”¹ claims that all persons who entered the United States without
6 inspection shall now be subject to mandatory detention provision under § 1225(b)(2)(A). The
7 policy applies regardless of when a person is apprehended, and affects those who have resided in
8 the United States for months, years, and even decades.

9 32. On September 5, 2025, the BIA adopted this same position in a published
10 decision, *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*. There, the Board held that all noncitizens who entered the
11 United States without admission or parole are subject to detention under § 1225(b)(2)(A) and are
12 ineligible for IJ bond hearings.

13 33. Since Respondents adopted their new policies, dozens of federal courts have
14 rejected their new interpretation of the INA’s detention authorities. Courts have likewise rejected
15 *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, which adopts the same reading of the statute as ICE.

16 34. Even before ICE or the BIA introduced these nationwide policies, IJs in the
17 Tacoma, Washington, immigration court stopped providing bond hearings for persons who
18 entered the United States without inspection and who have since resided here. There, the U.S.
19 District Court in the Western District of Washington found that such a reading of the INA is
20 likely unlawful and that § 1226(a), not § 1225(b), applies to noncitizens who are not
21 apprehended upon arrival to the United States. *Rodriguez Vazquez v. Bostock*, 779 F. Supp. 3d
22 1239 (W.D. Wash. 2025).

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

1 35. Subsequently, court after court has adopted the same reading of the INA’s
2 detention authorities and rejected ICE and EOIR’s new interpretation. *See, e.g., Gomes v. Hyde*,
3 No. 1:25-CV-11571-JEK, 2025 WL 1869299 (D. Mass. July 7, 2025); *Diaz Martinez v. Hyde*,
4 No. CV 25-11613-BEM, --- F. Supp. 3d ----, 2025 WL 2084238 (D. Mass. July 24, 2025);
5 *Rosado v. Figueroa*, No. CV 25-02157 PHX DLR (CDB), 2025 WL 2337099 (D. Ariz. Aug. 11,
6 2025), *report and recommendation adopted*, No. CV-25-02157-PHX-DLR (CDB), 2025 WL
7 2349133 (D. Ariz. Aug. 13, 2025); *Lopez Benitez v. Francis*, No. 25 CIV. 5937 (DEH), 2025
8 WL 2371588 (S.D.N.Y. Aug. 13, 2025); *Maldonado v. Olson*, No. 0:25-cv-03142-SRN-SGE,
9 2025 WL 2374411 (D. Minn. Aug. 15, 2025); *Arrazola-Gonzalez v. Noem*, No. 5:25-cv-01789-
10 ODW (DFMx), 2025 WL 2379285 (C.D. Cal. Aug. 15, 2025); *Romero v. Hyde*, No. 25-11631-
11 BEM, 2025 WL 2403827 (D. Mass. Aug. 19, 2025); *Samb v. Joyce*, No. 25 CIV. 6373 (DEH),
12 2025 WL 2398831 (S.D.N.Y. Aug. 19, 2025); *Ramirez Clavijo v. Kaiser*, No. 25-CV-06248-
13 BLF, 2025 WL 2419263 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 21, 2025); *Leal-Hernandez v. Noem*, No. 1:25-cv-
14 02428-JRR, 2025 WL 2430025 (D. Md. Aug. 24, 2025); *Kostak v. Trump*, No. 3:25-cv-01093-
15 JE-KDM, 2025 WL 2472136 (W.D. La. Aug. 27, 2025); *Jose J.O.E. v. Bondi*, No. 25-CV-3051
16 (ECT/DJF), --- F. Supp. 3d ----, 2025 WL 2466670 (D. Minn. Aug. 27, 2025) *Lopez-Campos v.*
17 *Raycraft*, No. 2:25-cv-12486-BRM-EAS, 2025 WL 2496379 (E.D. Mich. Aug. 29, 2025);
18 *Vasquez Garcia v. Noem*, No. 25-cv-02180-DMS-MM, 2025 WL 2549431 (S.D. Cal. Sept. 3,
19 2025); *Zaragoza Mosqueda v. Noem*, No. 5:25-CV-02304 CAS (BFM), 2025 WL 2591530 (C.D.
20 Cal. Sept. 8, 2025); *Pizarro Reyes v. Raycraft*, No. 25-CV-12546, 2025 WL 2609425 (E.D.
21 Mich. Sept. 9, 2025); *Sampiao v. Hyde*, No. 1:25-CV-11981-JEK, 2025 WL 2607924 (D. Mass.
22 Sept. 9, 2025); *see also, e.g., Palma Perez v. Berg*, No. 8:25CV494, 2025 WL 2531566, at *2
23 (D. Neb. Sept. 3, 2025) (noting that “[t]he Court tends to agree” that § 1226(a) and not §
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1 1225(b)(2) authorizes detention); *Jacinto v. Trump*, No. 4:25-cv-03161-JFB-RCC, 2025 WL
2 2402271 at *3 (D. Neb. Aug. 19, 2025) (same); *Anicasio v. Kramer*, No. 4:25-cv-03158-JFB-
3 RCC, 2025 WL 2374224 at *2 (D. Neb. Aug. 14, 2025) (same).

4 36. Courts have uniformly rejected DHS's and EOIR's new interpretation because it
5 defies the INA. As the *Rodriguez Vazquez* court and others have explained, the plain text of the
6 statutory provisions demonstrates that § 1226(a), not § 1225(b), applies to people like Petitioner.

7 37. Section 1226(a) applies by default to all persons "pending a decision on whether
8 the [noncitizen] is to be removed from the United States." These removal hearings are held under
9 § 1229a, to "decid[e] the inadmissibility or deportability of a[] [noncitizen]."

10 38. The text of § 1226 also explicitly applies to people charged as being inadmissible,
11 including those who entered without inspection. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c)(1)(E). Subparagraph
12 (E)'s reference to such people makes clear that, by default, such people are afforded a bond
13 hearing under subsection (a). As the *Rodriguez Vazquez* court explained, "[w]hen Congress
14 creates 'specific exceptions' to a statute's applicability, it 'proves' that absent those exceptions,
15 the statute generally applies." *Rodriguez Vazquez*, 779 F. Supp. 3d at 1257 (citing *Shady Grove*
16 *Orthopedic Assocs., P.A. v. Allstate Ins. Co.*, 559 U.S. 393, 400 (2010)); *see also* *Gomes*, 2025
17 WL 1869299, at *7.

18 39. Section 1226 therefore leaves no doubt that it applies to people who face charges
19 of being inadmissible to the United States, including those who are present without admission or
20 parole.

21 40. By contrast, § 1225(b) applies to people arriving at U.S. ports of entry or who
22 recently entered the United States. The statute's entire framework is premised on inspections at
23 the border of people who are "seeking admission" to the United States. 8 U.S.C.

1 § 1225(b)(2)(A). Indeed, the Supreme Court has explained that this mandatory detention scheme
2 applies “at the Nation’s borders and ports of entry, where the Government must determine
3 whether a[] [noncitizen] seeking to enter the country is admissible.” *Jennings v. Rodriguez*, 583
4 U.S. 281, 287 (2018).

5 41. Accordingly, the mandatory detention provision of § 1225(b)(2)(A) does not
6 apply to people like Petitioner, who have already entered and were residing in the United States
7 at the time they were apprehended.

8 **FACTS**

9 42. Petitioner has resided in the United States since 2022 and lives in Allegheny
10 County, Pennsylvania.

11 43. On January 22, 2026, Petitioner was arrested by ICE agents after a preliminary
12 hearing was held pursuant to a Simple Assault case charged under 18 Pa.C.S. § 2701(a)(1)
13 subsequent to a physical altercation between Petitioner and his brother-in-law, acting as
14 complaining witness. The case was subsequently dismissed at the preliminary hearing. A cross-
15 filing has occurred against the complaining witness as a result of the significant physical injuries
16 that Petitioner sustained during the altercation. Petitioner is now detained at the Moshannon
17 Valley Correctional Center.

18 44. DHS placed Petitioner in removal proceedings before the Philadelphia
19 Immigration Court pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1229a. ICE has charged Petitioner with, *inter alia*,
20 being inadmissible under 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(A)(i) as someone who entered the United States
21 without inspection.

22 45. Petitioner immigrated to the United States as a victim of political persecution and
23 currently has a pending asylum request. Petitioner has established a flourishing life in
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1 Pennsylvania. He married his wife, Jasmine Yilmaz, in October of 2024. Jasmine Yilmaz is a
2 United States citizen. They are currently expecting their first child together. He is the sole
3 provider for the household as Jasmine has health complications related to her pregnancy.

4 Petitioner is currently employed by [REDACTED] Pittsburgh, PA 15206)

5 as a manager. Petitioner has several family members locally who also immigrated from Turkey
6 and are United States citizens. The extent of Petitioner's criminal history is limited to the above-
7 referenced Simple Assault case, which resulted in dismissal, and two summary traffic violations.

8 The summary traffic violations arose from one incident on September 16, 2025, which resulted
9 in Petitioner entering a guilty plea as to Charge 2, Obedience to Traffic Control Device [75 §
10 3111 §§ A] and a dismissal of Charge 1, Failure to Stop at a Red Signal [75 § 3112 §§ A3I].

11 This is the extent of Petitioner's criminal history. Petitioner is a contributing member of society
12 and is the sole provider for his family. Petitioner is neither a flight risk nor a danger to the
13 community.

14 46. Following Petitioner's arrest and transfer to Moshannon Valley Correctional
15 Center, ICE issued a custody determination to continue Petitioner's detention without an
16 opportunity to post bond or be released on other conditions.

17 47. Pursuant to *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, the immigration judge is unable to consider
18 Petitioner's bond request.

19 48. As a result, Petitioner remains in detention. Without relief from this court, he
20 faces the prospect of months, or even years, in immigration custody, separated from his friends,
21 community, and wife, who is currently pregnant with their first child and is due to give birth in
22 March of 2026.

1 **CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

2 **COUNT I**
3 **Violation of the INA**

4 49. Petitioner incorporates by reference the allegations of fact set forth in the
5 preceding paragraphs.

6 50. The mandatory detention provision at 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2) does not apply to all
7 noncitizens residing in the United States who are subject to the grounds of inadmissibility. As
8 relevant here, it does not apply to those who previously entered the country and have been
9 residing in the United States prior to being apprehended and placed in removal proceedings by
10 Respondents. Such noncitizens are detained under § 1226(a), unless they are subject to
11 § 1225(b)(1), § 1226(c), or § 1231.

12 51. The application of § 1225(b)(2) to Petitioner unlawfully mandates his continued
13 detention and violates the INA.

14 **COUNT II**
15 **Violation of the Bond Regulations**

16 52. Petitioner incorporates by reference the allegations of fact set forth in preceding
17 paragraphs.

18 53. In 1997, after Congress amended the INA through IIRIRA, EOIR and the then-
19 Immigration and Naturalization Service issued an interim rule to interpret and apply IIRIRA.
20 Specifically, under the heading of “Apprehension, Custody, and Detention of [Noncitizens],” the
21 agencies explained that “[d]espite being applicants for admission, [noncitizens] who are present
22 without having been admitted or paroled (formerly referred to as [noncitizens] who entered
23 without inspection) will be eligible for bond and bond redetermination.” 62 Fed. Reg. at 10323
24 (emphasis added). The agencies thus made clear that individuals who had entered without

1 inspection were eligible for consideration for bond and bond hearings before IJs under 8 U.S.C. §
2 1226 and its implementing regulations.

3 54. Nonetheless, pursuant to *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, EOIR has a policy and
4 practice of applying § 1225(b)(2) to individual like Petitioner.

5 55. The application of § 1225(b)(2) to Petitioner unlawfully mandates his continued
6 detention and violates 8 C.F.R. §§ 236.1, 1236.1, and 1003.19.

7 **COUNT III**
8 **Violation of Due Process**

9 56. Petitioner repeats, re-alleges, and incorporates by reference each and every allegation in
10 the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

11 57. The government may not deprive a person of life, liberty, or property without due process
12 of law. U.S. Const. amend. V. “Freedom from imprisonment—from government custody,
13 detention, or other forms of physical restraint—lies at the heart of the liberty that the
14 Clause protects.” *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 690 (2001).

15 58. Petitioner has a fundamental interest in liberty and being free from official restraint.

16 59. The government’s detention of Petitioner without a bond redetermination hearing to
17 determine whether he is a flight risk or danger to others violates his right to due process.

18 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

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

- 20 a. Assume jurisdiction over this matter;
- 21 b. Order that Petitioner shall not be transferred outside the Middle District of
22 Pennsylvania while this habeas petition is pending;
- 23 c. Issue an Order to Show Cause ordering Respondents to show cause why this
24 Petition should not be granted within three days;

- 1 d. Issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus requiring that Respondents release Petitioner or, in
- 2 the alternative, provide Petitioner with a bond hearing pursuant to 8 U.S.C. §
- 3 1226(a) within seven days;
- 4 e. Declare that Petitioner’s detention is unlawful;
- 5 f. Award Petitioner attorney’s fees and costs under the Equal Access to Justice Act
- 6 (“EAJA”), as amended, 28 U.S.C. § 2412, and on any other basis justified under
- 7 law; and
- 8 g. Grant any other and further relief that this Court deems just and proper.

9 DATED this 8th of February, 2026.

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Lynne Ainsley Jaworski, Esquire
Attorney for Petitioner