

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR
THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
LAREDO DIVISION**

KARINA RAMIREZ VERA,

Petitioner,

v.

No. 5:26-cv-331

**MIGUEL VERGARA, Field Office
Director of Enforcement and Removal
Operations, SAN ANTONIO FIELD
OFFICE, Immigration and Customs
Enforcement; KRISTI NOEM, Secretary,
U.S. Department of Homeland Security;
PAMELA BONDI, U.S. Attorney General;
Executive Office for Immigration Review;
WARDEN, Warden, Laredo Processing
Center,**

Respondents.

PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS

This is a petition for a writ of habeas corpus filed on behalf of Karina Ramirez Vera seeking relief to remedy her unlawful detention. Respondents are detaining Mrs. Ramirez Vera pending the execution of her final removal order. Mrs. Ramirez Vera has fully cooperated with Respondents in their efforts to remove her. To date, Respondents have been unable or unwilling to remove Mrs. Ramirez Vera and thus, she has been detained for almost three (3) months. Mrs. Ramirez Vera is not a flight risk or a danger to the community. Her prolonged detention is no longer justified under the Constitution or the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). Her unlawful detention is unconstitutional.

On or about December 15, 2025, Mrs. Ramirez Vera was arrested at an ICE checkpoint and placed her in the custody of the Laredo Processing Center. Mrs. Ramirez Vera's detention was unwarranted. Respondent reviewed the custody status of Mrs. Ramirez Vera and determined that she should be detained.

Mrs. Ramirez submits that her detention is in violation of her constitutional rights. Her prolonged detention is no longer justified under the Constitution or the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). Petitioner seeks an order from this Court declaring her continued and prolonged detention unlawful and ordering Respondents to release Mrs. Ramirez Vera from their custody.

CUSTODY

1. Mrs. Ramirez Vera is in the physical custody of Respondent Miguel Vergara, San Antonio Field Office Director for Detention and Removal, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (USICE), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and Respondent Warden, Warden of the Laredo Processing Center in Laredo, Texas. At the time of the filing of this petition, Petitioner is detained at the Laredo Processing Center in Laredo, Texas. The Laredo Processing Center contracts with the DHS to detain aliens such as Petitioner. Mrs. Ramirez Vera is under the direct control of Respondents and their agents.

JURISDICTION

2. This action arises under the Constitution of the United States, the Immigration and Nationality Act (“INA”), 8 U.S.C. § 1101 et. seq., as amended by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (“IIRIRA”), Pub. L. No. 104-208, 110 Stat. 1570. This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. 2241, art. I, § 9, cl. 2 of the United States Constitution (“Suspension Clause”) and 28 U.S.C. § 1331, as Petitioner is presently in custody under color of authority of the United States and such custody is in violation of the U.S. Constitution, laws, or treaties of the United States. This Court may grant relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241, and the All Writs Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1651.

VENUE

3. Venue lies in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, the judicial

district in which Respondents, Miguel Vergara and Warden of Laredo Processing Center reside and where Petitioner is detained. 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e).

PARTIES

4. Petitioner Karina Ramirez Vera is a national and citizen of Mexico who has a legal entry on March 19, 2004 and has been placed in deferred action for her U-Visa and is merely waiting for a visa to become available for her to become a Lawful Permanent Resident. In addition, she has a pending I-130 Petition through her USC daughter.

5. Respondent Miguel Vergara is the San Antonio Field Office Director for Detention and Removal, USICE, DHS. Respondent Vergara is a custodial official acting within the boundaries of the judicial district of the United States Court for the Southern District of Texas, Laredo Division. Pursuant to Respondent orders, Petitioner remains detained.

6. Respondent Warden is the warden of the Laredo Processing Center in Laredo, Texas. He is Petitioner's immediate custodian and resides in the judicial district of the United States Court for the Southern District of Texas, Laredo Division.

EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

7. Mrs. Ramirez has exhausted her administrative remedies to the extent required by law.

8. She has fully cooperated with Respondents and has not delayed or obstructed her detention.

9. Mrs. Ramirez Vera's only remedy is by way of this judicial action.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

10. Petitioner Karina Ramirez Vera is a national and citizen of Mexico who had a legal entry into the United States.

11. Mrs. Ramirez Vera applied for a U nonimmigrant visa, a special visa under the Immigration and Nationality Act for victims of certain crimes. On March 19, 2019 Mrs. Ramirez Vera was placed in deferred action as she waits for a visa to become available.

12. On or about December 15, 2025, Respondent and his agents arrested Mrs. Ramirez Vera
13. at an ICE checkpoint.

14. Respondents have thrice reviewed Mrs. Ramirez Vera's custody status and have determined that she should be detained because her removal is likely.

15. Mrs. Ramirez Vera has now been in detention for more almost (3) months pending her removal. Respondents continue to detain Mrs. Ramirez Vera unlawfully and against her constitutional rights.

16. Mrs. Ramirez Vera is not a danger to the community or a flight risk. She has no pending criminal cases although she completed her community supervision sentence relating to her misdemeanor DWI conviction. Her sole arrest and conviction. Mrs. Ramirez was released on a PR bond in the Harris County Court and was allowed to report to Court and complete her probation which she did successfully.

17. Mrs. Ramirez Vera has deep roots in this community. She has two daughters, one a U.S. citizen and the other a Lawful Permanent Resident. Mrs. Ramirez Vera has a pending I-130 Petition through her U.S. Citizen daughter. Her sister also is a lawful permanent resident.

18. Prior to her arrest, Mrs. Ramirez was working, paying her taxes, and providing for her family. Her continued detention deprives his family of his companionship and income.

19. Respondents' decision to detain Mrs. Ramirez Vera are no longer legally justifiable and is capricious and arbitrary. There is no better time for the Court to consider the merits of Mrs. Ramirez Vera's request for release.

CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

COUNT ONE CONSTITUTIONAL CLAIM

20. Petitioner alleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 19 above.

21. Petitioners' detention violates her right to substantive and procedural due

process guaranteed by the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

**COUNT TWO
STATUTORY CLAIM**

22. Petitioner alleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 21 above.
23. Petitioner's continued detention violates the Immigration and Nationality Act and the U.S. Constitution.

COUNT THREE

24. If she prevails, Petitioner requests attorney's fees and costs under the Equal Access to Justice Act ("EAJA"), as amended, 28 U.S.C. § 2412.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

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

1. Assume jurisdiction over this matter;
2. Issue order directing Respondents to show cause why the writ should not be granted;
3. Issue a writ of habeas corpus ordering Respondents to release Mrs. Ramirez Vera on her own recognizance or under parole, or reasonable conditions of supervision show;
4. Award Petitioner reasonable costs and attorney's fees; and,
5. Grant any other relief which this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

By: /s/ Nathaniel Green
Nathaniel Green
Texas State Bar No. 24107131

VERIFICATION OF COUNSEL

I, Nathaniel Green, 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/ Nathaniel Green

Nathaniel Green