



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of New York*

*271 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, New York 11201*

April 14, 2026

BY ECF

Honorable Nina R. Morrison
United States District Judge
Eastern District of New York
225 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Re: *Leal v. Maldonado, et al.*, No. 26-cv-2139 (Morrison, J.)

Dear Judge Morrison:

This Office represents the Respondents in this habeas case, in which Petitioner Luis Buitrago Leal challenges his detention by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"). See ECF No. 1. Respondents write respectfully in response to the Court's April 14, 2026 Order directing Respondents to release Petitioner by 8:00 p.m. this evening and to file a letter by 11:00 p.m. confirming his release.

The undersigned apologizes for misreading the Court's Order. By the time this Office saw the timing in the Court's Order, it was evening and ICE was unable to effectuate release. This Office again apologizes, and respectfully requests that the Court's Order be amended to permit ICE to release Petitioner by 11 a.m. tomorrow morning. ICE will process Petitioner for release as soon as possible, owing to MDC Brooklyn's need to complete the morning headcount and to produce USMS/BOP detainees for court appearances.

This Office has apologized to Petitioner's counsel and will work with Petitioner's counsel to provide an update on the release tomorrow morning. This Office respectfully proposes filing a status update at 11:15 a.m. tomorrow to update the Court.

This Office also apologizes for filing this status report after 11 p.m. The undersigned had technical issues earlier evening related to the PIV card and was unable to access her laptop to get this letter on file earlier.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH NOCELLA, JR.
United States Attorney

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