

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
VALDOSTA DIVISION

DAVID VERA PUYAL,
A#. 

Petitioner,

v.

Warden of Irwin County Detention Center;
KRISTEN SULLIVAN, Field Office Director of
Enforcement and Removal Operations, Atlanta
Field Office, Immigration and Customs
Enforcement; TODD M. LYONS, Acting Director,
U.S. Immigrations & Customs Enforcement;
MARKWAYNE MULLIN, Secretary, U.S.
Department of Homeland Security; U.S.
Department of Homeland Security; PAMELA
BONDI, U.S. Attorney General; and DAREN K.
MARGOLIN, Director, Executive Office for
Immigration Review,

Respondents.

Case No.:

VERIFIED PETITION
FOR WRIT OF
HABEAS CORPUS
UNDER 28 U.S.C. § 2241

1 INTRODUCTION

2 1. Petitioner, David Vera Puyal, brings this petition for a writ of habeas corpus to
3 seek enforcement of Petitioner’s rights as a member of the Bond Eligible Class certified in
4 *Maldonado Bautista v Santacruz*, No. 5:25-CV-01873-SSS-BFM (C.D. Cal.) Petitioner is in the
5 physical custody of Respondents at the Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, Georgia.
6 Petitioner now faces unlawful detention because the Department of Homeland Security (DIIS)
7 and the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) have refused to abide by the
8 declaratory judgment issued on behalf of the certified class in *Maldonado Bautista v. Santacruz*.

9 2. On November 20, 2025, the district court granted partial summary judgment on
10 behalf of individual plaintiffs and on November 25, 2025, certified a nationwide class and
11 extended declaratory judgment to the certified class. *Maldonado Bautista v. Santacruz*, No. 5:25-
12 CV-01873-SSS-BFM, --- F. Supp. 3d ----, 2025 WL 3289861, at *11 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 20, 2025)
13 (order granting partial summary judgment to named Plaintiffs-Petitioners); *Maldonado Bautista*
14 *v. Santacruz*, No. 5:25-CV-01873-SSS-BFM, --- F. Supp. 3d ----, 2025 WL 3288403, at *9 (C.D.
15 Cal. Nov. 25, 2025) (order certifying Plaintiffs-Petitioners’ proposed nationwide Bond Eligible
16 Class, incorporating and extending declaratory judgment from Order Granting Petitioners’
17 Motion for Partial Summary Judgment).

18 3. The declaratory judgment held that the Bond Eligible Class members are detained
19 under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), and thus may not be denied consideration for release on bond under §
20 1225(b)(2)(A). *Maldonado Bautista*, 2025 WL 3289861, at *11.

1 4. Nonetheless, the Executive Office for Immigration Review and its subagency the
2 Immigration Court and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) have blatantly refused to
3 abide by the declaratory relief and have unlawfully ordered that Petitioner be denied the
4 opportunity to be released on bond.

5 5. Petitioner is a member of the Bond Eligible Class, as Petitioner:

6 a. does not have lawful status in the United States and is currently detained
7 at the Irwin County Detention Center in Ocilla, Georgia;

8 b. was apprehended by immigration authorities on or about April 14, 2026;

9 c. entered the United States without being inspected and admitted or paroled,
10 approximately 2 years ago, *cf. id.*; and

11 d. is not detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c), § 1225(b)(1), or § 1231.

12 6. After apprehending Petitioner on or about April 14, 2026, the DHS placed
13 Petitioner in removal proceedings pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1229a. DHS has charged Petitioner as
14 being inadmissible under 8 U.S.C. §§ 1182(a)(6)(A)(i) and 1182(a)(7)(A)(i)(I), as someone who
15 entered the United States without inspection.
16

17 7. The Court should expeditiously grant this petition.

18 8. Respondents are bound by the judgment in *Maldonado Bautista*, as it has the full
19 “force and effect of a final judgment.” 28 U.S.C. § 2201(a). Nevertheless, Respondents continue
20 to flagrantly defy the judgment in that case and continue to subject Petitioner to unlawful
21 detention despite Petitioner’s clear entitlement to consideration for release on bond as a Bond
22 Eligible Class member.
23
24

1 **VENUE**

2 15. Pursuant to *Braden v. 30th Judicial Circuit Court of Kentucky*, 410 U.S. 484, 493-
3 500 (1973), venue lies in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Georgia, the
4 judicial district in which Petitioner currently is detained.

5 16 Venue is also properly in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e) because
6 Respondents are employees, officers, and agencies of the United States, and because a
7 substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in the Middle
8 District of Georgia.

9
10 **REQUIREMENTS OF 28 U.S.C. § 2243**

11 17. The Court should grant the petition for writ of habeas corpus “forthwith,” as the
12 legal issues have already been resolved for class members in *Maldonado Bautista*.

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

19
20 **PARTIES**

21 19. Petitioner is a citizen and native of Bolivia who has been in immigration
22 detention since on or about April 14, 2026. After Petitioner was detained by ICE, ICE did not set
23
24

1 bond. Petitioner has resided in the United States since 2024. Petitioner's partner is expecting his
2 baby and have 8 months of pregnancy. Petitioner does not have any criminal record.

3 20. Respondent Warden of the Irwin County Detention Center, where Petitioner is
4 detained. Respondent has immediate physical custody of Petitioner and he is sued in his official
5 capacity.

6 21. Respondent Kristen Sullivan is the Acting Director of the Atlanta Field Office of
7 ICE's Enforcement and Removal Operations division. As such, she is a legal custodian of
8 Petitioner, is responsible for Petitioner's detention and removal, and has authority to release her.
9 She is named in her official capacity.

10 22. Respondent Todd M. Lyons is the Acting Director of ICE, which is the federal
11 agency responsible for implementing and enforcing the INA, including the detention and
12 removal of noncitizens. Respondent Lyons has control over the actions of Respondent Sullivan
13 and ICE in general. Respondent Lyons is a legal custodian of Petitioner and is sued in his official
14 capacity.

15 23. Respondent Markwayne Mullin is the Secretary of the Department of Homeland
16 Security. She is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the Immigration and
17 Nationality Act (INA), and oversees ICE, which is responsible for Petitioner's detention. Mr.
18 Mullin has ultimate custodial authority over Petitioner and is sued in her official capacity.

19 24. Respondent Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is the federal agency
20 responsible for implementing and enforcing the INA, including the detention and removal of
21 noncitizens.

22 25. Respondent Pamela Bondi is the Attorney General of the United States. She is
23 responsible for the Department of Justice, of which the Executive Office for Immigration Review
24

1 and the immigration court system it operates is a component agency. She is sued in her official
2 capacity.

3 26. Respondent Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) is the federal
4 agency responsible for implementing and enforcing the INA in removal proceedings, including
5 for custody redeterminations in bond hearings.

6 27. Respondent Daren K. Margolin is the Director of EOIR, which is the federal
7 agency responsible for implementing and enforcing the INA in removal proceedings, including
8 for custody redeterminations in bond hearings. Respondent Margolin is sued in his official
9 capacity.

10
11 **CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

12 **Violation of the INA:**

13 **Request for Relief Pursuant to *Maldonado Bautista***

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

16 29. As a member of the Bond Eligible Class, Petitioner is entitled to consideration for
17 release on bond under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a).

18 30. The order granting partial summary judgment in *Maldonado Bautista* holds that
19 Respondents violate the INA in applying the mandatory detention statute at § 1225(b)(2) to class
20 members.

21 31. The order granting class certification in *Maldonado Bautista* further orders that
22 “[w]hen considering this determination with the MSJ Order, the Court extends the same
23 declaratory relief granted to Petitioners to the Bond Eligible Class as a whole.”
24

- 1 e. Alternatively, issue a writ of habeas corpus requiring Respondents to release
2 Petitioner unless they provide a bond hearing under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) within
3 seven days;
- 4 f. Award Petitioner attorney’s fees and costs under the Equal Access to Justice Act
5 (EAJA), as amended, 28 U.S.C. § 2412, and on any other basis justified under
6 law;
- 7 g. Declare that Petitioner’s detention is unlawful; and
- 8 h. Grant any other and further relief that this Court deems just and proper.
- 9
10

11 DATED this 30th of April, 2026.

12 *//s// Elizabeth Hildebrand Matherne*

13 _____
14 Elizabeth Hildebrand Matherne
15 Georgia Bar No. 547425
16 Wannamaker Crimmigration
17 3740 Davinci Court, Suite 150
18 Peachtree Corners, GA 30092
19 Tel.: 470-749-9996
20 Fax: 404-990-4936
21 Elizabeth.matherne@wannamakerglobal.com

22 *Attorney for Petitioner*

23
24

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

VERIFICATION PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. § 2242

I represent Petitioner, David Vera Puyal, and submit this verification on Petitioner's behalf. I verify that the factual statements made in the foregoing Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Dated this 30th of April, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

//s// Elizabeth Hildebrand Matherne

Elizabeth Hildebrand Matherne
Georgia Bar No. 547425
Wannamaker Crimmigration
3740 Davinci Court, Suite 150
Peachtree Corners, GA 30092
Tel.: 470-749-9996
Fax: 404-990-4936
Elizabeth.matherne@wannamakerglobal.com