

AO 242 (Rev. 09/17) Petition for a Writ of Habeas Corpus Under 28 U.S.C. § 2241

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the
Middle District of Florida

Gustavo Barrera Acosta

Petitioner

v.

WARDEN, FLORIDA SOFT SIDE DETENTION CENTER;
FIELD OFFICE DIRECTOR, MIAMI FIELD OFFICE, U.S.
IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT;
DIRECTOR, U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS
ENFORCEMENT;
SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY,

Respondent

(name of warden or authorized person having custody of petitioner)

Case No.

2:26-cv-1737-SPC-KRH
(Supplied by Clerk of Court)

MAY 22 2026 AM 10:45
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PETITION FOR A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS UNDER 28 U.S.C. § 2241

Personal Information

1. (a) Your full name: Gustavo Barrera Acosta
(b) Other names you have used: N/A
2. Place of confinement:
(a) Name of institution: Florida Soft Side South Detention Center
(b) Address: 54575 Tamiami Trail East, Ochopee, FL 34141
- (c) Your identification number: 
3. Are you currently being held on orders by:
☒ Federal authorities ☐ State authorities ☐ Other - explain: _____
4. Are you currently:
☐ A pretrial detainee (waiting for trial on criminal charges)
☐ Serving a sentence (incarceration, parole, probation, etc.) after having been convicted of a crime
If you are currently serving a sentence, provide:
(a) Name and location of court that sentenced you: _____
(b) Docket number of criminal case: _____
(c) Date of sentencing: _____
☒ Being held on an immigration charge
☐ Other (explain): _____

Decision or Action You Are Challenging

5. What are you challenging in this petition:
☐ How your sentence is being carried out, calculated, or credited by prison or parole authorities (for example, revocation or calculation of good time credits)

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- ☐ Pretrial detention
☒ Immigration detention
☐ Detainer
☐ The validity of your conviction or sentence as imposed (for example, sentence beyond the statutory maximum or improperly calculated under the sentencing guidelines)
☐ Disciplinary proceedings
☐ Other (explain): _____

6. Provide more information about the decision or action you are challenging:

(a) Name and location of the agency or court: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)Florida Soft Side South Detention Center, Ochopee, Florida(b) Docket number, case number, or opinion number: 

(c) Decision or action you are challenging (for disciplinary proceedings, specify the penalties imposed):

Continued ICE detention since February 13, 2026, under a 1996 exclusion order, despite no foreseeable removal and petitioner's legal blindness.(d) Date of the decision or action: 02/13/2026**Your Earlier Challenges of the Decision or Action**7. **First appeal**

Did you appeal the decision, file a grievance, or seek an administrative remedy?

☐ Yes

 ☒ No

(a) If "Yes," provide:

(1) Name of the authority, agency, or court: _____

(2) Date of filing: _____

(3) Docket number, case number, or opinion number: _____

(4) Result: _____

(5) Date of result: _____

(6) Issues raised: _____

(b) If you answered "No," explain why you did not appeal: _____

Petitioner did not file an appeal because he is challenging his continued detention, not the underlying exclusion order.8. **Second appeal**

After the first appeal, did you file a second appeal to a higher authority, agency, or court?

☐ Yes

 ☒ No

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(a) If "Yes," provide:

(1) Name of the authority, agency, or court: _____

(2) Date of filing: _____

(3) Docket number, case number, or opinion number: _____

(4) Result: _____

(5) Date of result: _____

(6) Issues raised: _____

(b) If you answered "No," explain why you did not file a second appeal: _____

No second appeal was filed because petitioner challenges his continued detention, not the original exclusion order

9. **Third appeal**

After the second appeal, did you file a third appeal to a higher authority, agency, or court?

☐ Yes

☒ No

(a) If "Yes," provide:

(1) Name of the authority, agency, or court: _____

(2) Date of filing: _____

(3) Docket number, case number, or opinion number: _____

(4) Result: _____

(5) Date of result: _____

(6) Issues raised: _____

(b) If you answered "No," explain why you did not file a third appeal: _____

No third appeal was filed because petitioner challenges his continued detention through habeas corpus relief.

10. **Motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255**

In this petition, are you challenging the validity of your conviction or sentence as imposed?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If "Yes," answer the following:

(a) Have you already filed a motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 that challenged this conviction or sentence?

☐ Yes

☐ No

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If "Yes," provide:

(1) Name of court: _____

(2) Case number: _____

(3) Date of filing: _____

(4) Result: _____

(5) Date of result: _____

(6) Issues raised: _____

- (b) Have you ever filed a motion in a United States Court of Appeals under 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3)(A), seeking permission to file a second or successive Section 2255 motion to challenge this conviction or sentence?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If "Yes," provide:

(1) Name of court: _____

(2) Case number: _____

(3) Date of filing: _____

(4) Result: _____

(5) Date of result: _____

(6) Issues raised: _____

- (c) Explain why the remedy under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 is inadequate or ineffective to challenge your conviction or sentence: _____

11. **Appeals of immigration proceedings**

Does this case concern immigration proceedings?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If "Yes," provide:

(a) Date you were taken into immigration custody: 02/13/2026

(b) Date of the removal or reinstatement order: 05/06/1996

(c) Did you file an appeal with the Board of Immigration Appeals?

☐ Yes

☒ No

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If "Yes," provide:

(1) Date of filing: _____

(2) Case number: _____

(3) Result: _____

(4) Date of result: _____

(5) Issues raised: _____

(d) Did you appeal the decision to the United States Court of Appeals?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If "Yes," provide:

(1) Name of court: _____

(2) Date of filing: _____

(3) Case number: _____

(4) Result: _____

(5) Date of result: _____

(6) Issues raised: _____

12. **Other appeals**

Other than the appeals you listed above, have you filed any other petition, application, or motion about the issues raised in this petition?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If "Yes," provide:

(a) Kind of petition, motion, or application: _____

(b) Name of the authority, agency, or court: _____

(c) Date of filing: _____

(d) Docket number, case number, or opinion number: _____

(e) Result: _____

(f) Date of result: _____

(g) Issues raised: _____

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Grounds for Your Challenge in This Petition

13. State every ground (reason) that supports your claim that you are being held in violation of the Constitution, laws, or treaties of the United States. Attach additional pages if you have more than four grounds. State the facts supporting each ground. Any legal arguments must be submitted in a separate memorandum.

GROUND ONE: SEE ATTACHMENT A

(a) Supporting facts *(Be brief. Do not cite cases or law.)*:

(b) Did you present Ground One in all appeals that were available to you?

☐ Yes

☒ No

GROUND TWO: SEE ATTACHMENT A

(a) Supporting facts *(Be brief. Do not cite cases or law.)*:

(b) Did you present Ground Two in all appeals that were available to you?

☐ Yes

☒ No

GROUND THREE: SEE ATTACHMENT A

(a) Supporting facts *(Be brief. Do not cite cases or law.)*:

(b) Did you present Ground Three in all appeals that were available to you?

☐ Yes

☒ No

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GROUND FOUR: SEE ATTACHMENT A

(a) Supporting facts (*Be brief. Do not cite cases or law.*):

(b) Did you present Ground Four in all appeals that were available to you?

☐ Yes

☒ No

14. If there are any grounds that you did not present in all appeals that were available to you, explain why you did not: Petitioner did not raise these grounds in prior appeals because this petition challenges prolonged and unconstitutional detention, not the underlying exclusion order.

Request for Relief

15. State exactly what you want the court to do: Petitioner respectfully requests that this Court:

Review the legality of continued detention;

Order release under appropriate conditions of supervision, or in the alternative order a custody review; and

Grant any other relief the Court deems just and proper.

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Declaration Under Penalty Of Perjury

If you are incarcerated, on what date did you place this petition in the prison mail system:

05-14-2026

I declare under penalty of perjury that I am the petitioner, I have read this petition or had it read to me, and the information in this petition is true and correct. I understand that a false statement of a material fact may serve as the basis for prosecution for perjury.

Date:

05-14-2026

Justine B. Bazzani

Signature of Petitioner

Signature of Attorney or other authorized person, if any