

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Marvin Rocael Godinez Garcia v. Jeremy Casey, Warden, Imperial
Regional Detention Center, Calexico, California; Daniel A.
Brightman; Todd M. Lyons; Sirce Owen; Kristi Noem; and Pam
Bondi

Godinez Garcia v. Casey · No. 26-cv-187-JES-DEB · Decided January 22, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of California granted Marvin Rocael Godinez Garcia’s petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. The court ordered respondents to provide him with a bond determination hearing under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) within seven days and directed his immediate release if they failed to do so.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	James E. Simmons Jr.
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of California
DECIDED	January 22, 2026
DOCKET	26-cv-187-JES-DEB
DISPOSITION	writ_granted
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner sought a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 challenging the legal basis and conditions of his immigration detention. After the court issued an order to show cause and respondents filed a response, the court granted the petition.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	District court order; precedential status not identified in the source.

TOPICS

- immigration detention
- federal habeas corpus
- removal proceedings
- immigration
- remedies

PRACTICE AREAS

- immigration detention
- federal habeas corpus
- immigration

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether petitioner was entitled to a bond determination hearing under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a).
2. Whether respondents could deny petitioner a bond hearing on the ground that he was detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2).

HOLDINGS

1. Petitioner was entitled to a bond determination hearing under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), and respondents were ordered to provide the hearing within seven days.
2. Respondents may not deny petitioner bond on the basis that he is detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2).

KEY QUOTATIONS

“At the hearing, Respondents may not deny Petitioner bond on the basis that he is detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2).” (at 1)

“If Respondents fail to provide Petitioner a bond hearing within the specified time period or pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), the Court ORDERS Petitioner’s immediate release;” (at 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Petitioner Marvin Rocael Godinez Garcia was detained in immigration custody at the Imperial Regional Detention Center in Calexico, California. He sought habeas relief under § 2241 concerning the statutory authority governing his detention and his entitlement to a bond determination hearing. Respondents acknowledged that petitioner must be considered detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), rather than denied a bond hearing on the basis that he was detained under § 1225(b)(2).

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Godinez Garcia filed a § 2241 petition on January 13, 2026. Following an order to show cause, respondents filed a response acknowledging that petitioner must be considered detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), consistent with the judgment in *Maldonado Bautista v. Santacruz*. The court granted habeas relief and ordered a bond determination hearing within seven days.

DISPOSITION

writ_granted

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

Respondents must provide petitioner with a bond determination hearing under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) within seven days. If they fail to provide the hearing within that period or fail to conduct it under § 1226(a), petitioner must be immediately released. Respondents must file a notice of compliance within five days after providing the bond redetermination hearing, including the hearing's results. The clerk must close the case after receiving the notice.

CASES CITED

- Maldonado Bautista v. Santacruz, No. 5:25-CV-01873-SSS-BFM, 2025 WL 3289861 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 20, 2025)

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