

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Radmila Balayan v. Warden of Otay Mesa Detention Center

Balayan · No. 2:25-cv-11512-FWS-KS · Decided December 15, 2025

SUMMARY

The Central District of California ordered an immigration detainee to show cause why her § 2241 habeas petition should not be dismissed for lack of jurisdiction or transferred to the Southern District of California. The court relied on the custodial-court rule because the petitioner was detained at the Otay Mesa Detention Center in San Diego, and advised that failure to respond could result in dismissal for failure to comply with court orders and failure to prosecute.

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL MINUTES — GENERAL Case No. 2:25-cv-11512-FWS-KS Date: December 15, 2025 Title Radmila Balayan v. Warden of Otay Mesa Detention Center Present: The Honorable: Karen L. Stevenson, Chief United States Magistrate Judge Gay Roberson N/A Deputy Clerk Court Reporter / Recorder Attorneys Present for Petitioner: Attorneys Present for Respondent: Proceedings: (IN CHAMBERS) ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE WHY THIS ACTION SHOULD NOT BE DISMISSED FOR LACK OF JURISDICTION, OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, TRANSFERRED TO THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA I. The Petition On December 3, 2025, Petitioner, represented by retained counsel, filed a Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus Under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 (“Petition”).

(Dkt. No. 1.) The Petition reflects that Petitioner is being held by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) on an immigration charge at the Otay Mesa Detention Center in San Diego, California. (/d. at 2.) The Petition raises three claims challenging that detention. (/d. at 2-3, 7.) More generally, Petitioner raises a constitutional challenge to the duration of the detention without a bond hearing. (/d. at 7.)

II. Legal Standard “Federal courts are always under an independent obligation to examine their own jurisdiction, and a federal court may not entertain an action over which it has no jurisdiction.” *Hernandez v. Campbell*, 204 F.3d 861, 865 (9th Cir. 2000) (per curiam) (internal quotation marks and citation omitted). “[A] habeas petition filed pursuant to § 2241 must be heard in the custodial court....” *Id.*; see also *Hosseini v. Warden*, No. CV 19-2529 JAK (SS), 2019 WL 13252062, at *1-2 (C.D.

Cal. Apr. 17, 2019) (transferring habeas matter brought under section 2241 — where an immigration detainee held at the Otay Mesa Detention Center in San Diego, California, claimed he was being held too long in ICE custody without a bond — because “venue is proper in the Southern District of California....”). CV-90 (03/15) Civil Minutes — General Page 1 of 2 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL MINUTES — GENERAL Case No. 2:25-cv-11512-FWS-KS Date: December 15,2025 Title Radmila Balayan v. Warden of Otay Mesa Detention Center Il.

Discussion Here, the Petition reflects that Petitioner is currently in ICE custody at the Otay Mesa Detention Center in San Diego, California. (Dkt. No. 1 at 2.) San Diego is located within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Southern District of California. See 28 U.S.C. § 84(d).

Accordingly, Petitioner is ORDERED TO SHOW CAUSE, no later than January 14, 2026, why this Court should not either recommend that the Petition be dismissed without prejudice for lack of jurisdiction or, in the alternative, why this Court should not transfer the Petition to the District Court for the Southern District of California under 28 U.S.C. § 1631. See Hosseini, 2019 WL 13252062 at *1 n.1 (“[A] magistrate judge may transfer a case for improper venue without approval of the district judge.”) (collecting cases).

Alternatively, Petitioner may file a signed document entitled “Notice of Voluntary Dismissal” if he no longer wishes to proceed with this action. Finally, Petitioner is advised that if he fails to timely respond to this Order to Show Cause, the Court will recommend that this action be dismissed for the failure to comply with Court orders and failure to prosecute.

See Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b). IT IS SO ORDERED. Initials of Preparer or CV-90 (03/15) Civil Minutes — General Page 2 of 2