

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
LOUISIANA, ALEXANDRIA DIVISION

Aziz Mukhtarov v. Judge James D. Cain, Jr., et al.

Mukhtarov · No. 1:25-CV-02127 SEC P · Decided May 5, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana denied Aziz Mukhtarov’s motions for a stay of removal, immediate release, access to counsel and medical evaluation, and expedited review. The court held that Mukhtarov had not shown a substantial likelihood of success because the Board of Immigration Appeals had dismissed his appeal, making his removal order final and authorizing detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)(6). The court also concluded that transfer, disclosure, and excessive-force claims did not warrant habeas or injunctive relief and that conditions-of-confinement claims should be brought in a civil rights action.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana, Alexandria Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	James D. Cain, Jr.
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana, Alexandria Division
DECIDED	May 5, 2026
DOCKET	1:25-CV-02127 SEC P
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner sought habeas relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 and filed emergency motions for a stay of removal, immediate release, access to counsel and medical evaluation, and expedited review. The district court denied the motions for injunctive and related relief.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	A request for a temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction requires a substantial likelihood of success on the merits, a substantial threat of irreparable injury, a balance of threatened harms favoring relief, and consistency with the public interest. Granting or denying a TRO is within the district court's discretion.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown; memorandum order from a federal district court with no reporter citation.

PARTIES

Aziz Mukhtarov v. Judge James D. Cain, Jr., Warden LaSalle I C E Processing Center

TOPICS

immigration detention

removal proceedings

injunctions

federal habeas corpus

civil rights

PRACTICE AREAS

immigration law

federal habeas corpus

civil procedure

civil rights

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Mukhtarov was entitled to a stay of removal or transfer as preliminary injunctive relief after the BIA dismissed his appeal and his removal order became final.
2. Whether the court should prohibit or condition transfers between ICE detention facilities and require disclosure of Mukhtarov's location.
3. Whether allegations of excessive force and coercion concerning detention conditions could support relief in a § 2241 habeas proceeding.
4. Whether Mukhtarov was entitled to immediate release, access to counsel and medical evaluation, or other emergency relief.

HOLDINGS

1. A stay of removal was unwarranted because Mukhtarov failed to show a substantial likelihood of success on the merits, and federal courts lack jurisdiction over claims connected directly and immediately with the Attorney General's execution of a final removal order.
2. Mukhtarov was not entitled to an injunction prohibiting or conditioning his transfer because he failed to establish a likelihood of success or actual interference with his ability to litigate, and a transfer restriction would interfere with the government's ability to execute the removal order.
3. Claims challenging the conditions of confinement, including excessive force and coercion by detention staff, must be brought through a civil-rights action rather than a habeas petition and do not warrant release from custody.
4. Mukhtarov was not entitled to a temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction because he failed to satisfy the required elements, particularly substantial likelihood of success on the merits and a sufficient showing of irreparable harm.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"Federal courts lack jurisdiction over 'claims connected directly and immediately with a decision or action by the Attorney General to commence proceedings, adjudicate cases, or execute removal orders.'" (Law & Application)

“A habeas petition is reserved for “challenges to the fact or duration of confinement . . . while challenges to the conditions of confinement are properly brought under civil rights actions.”” (Law & Application)

““[U]nconstitutional claims of confinement—even conditions that create a risk of serious physical injury, illness, or death—do not warrant release.”” (Law & Application)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Mukhtarov, a native of Uzbekistan, entered the United States with his wife and children through a scheduled CBP appointment in July 2023 and was paroled into the country. ICE arrested him in January 2025, and an immigration judge later found him removable; the BIA dismissed his appeal on April 30, 2026, making the removal order final. While detained, Mukhtarov alleged that ICE officers used physical force to coerce him to sign removal-related documents and that transfers between facilities interfered with his access to counsel and the court.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Mukhtarov challenged his ICE detention under § 2241. A magistrate judge issued a Report and Recommendation concluding that the revocation of his parole violated procedural due process and recommending release. Before the district court reviewed that recommendation, the Board of Immigration Appeals dismissed Mukhtarov's appeal, making his removal order final. The district court denied the emergency motions, while noting that it would review the Report and Recommendation after the period for responding to the government's objections.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Misquitta v. Warden Pine Prairie ICE Processing Ctr., 353 F. Supp. 3d 518, 521 (W.D. La. 2018)
- Piedmont Heights Civic Club, Inc. v. Moreland, 637 F.2d 430 (5th Cir. 1981)
- Moore v. Brown, 868 F.3d 398, 402 (5th Cir. 2017)
- Albright v. City of New Orleans, 46 F. Supp. 2d 523, 532 (E.D. La. 1999)
- Suburban Propane, L.P. v. D & S GCTX LLC, 2025 WL 2429087, at *2 (W.D. Tex. 2025)
- Anderson v. Jackson, 556 F.3d 351, 355-56 (5th Cir. 2009)
- Imran v. Harper, 2026 WL 93131, at *1 (5th Cir. Jan. 13, 2026)
- Humphries v. Various Fed. USINS Emps., 164 F.3d 936, 943 (5th Cir. 1999)
- Lotter v. Lyons, 2025 WL 2946630, at *1 (W.D. Tex. Aug. 22, 2025)
- Poree v. Collins, 866 F.3d 235, 243 (5th Cir. 2017)
- Ahmed v. Warden, 2024 WL 5104545, at *1 (W.D. La. Sept. 25, 2024)
- Cureno Hernandez v. Mora, 467 F. Supp. 3d 454, 460 (N.D. Tex. 2020)

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