

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF IDAHO

Dairon Estiven Ochoa Yepes v. Ruben Leyva, et al.

Ochoa Yepes · No. 1:26-cv-00299-DCN · Decided May 28, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Idaho grants Dairon Estiven Ochoa Yepes’s petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. The court concludes that his detention under the asserted mandatory-detention framework is unlawful and orders his immediate release. His motion for a temporary restraining order is denied as moot.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Idaho
WRITING FOR THE COURT	David C. Nye
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Idaho
DECIDED	May 28, 2026
DOCKET	1:26-cv-00299-DCN
DISPOSITION	writ_granted
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241, accompanied by a motion for a temporary restraining order, challenging immigration detention.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court reviewed the legality of confinement in a habeas proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 and considered whether the asserted statutory basis for mandatory detention authorized continued custody.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished, nonprecedential district court decision
PARTIES	Dairon Estiven Ochoa Yepes v. Ruben Leyva, Kenneth Porter, Markwayne Mullin, Todd Blanche, Mike Hollingshead

TOPICS

- immigration detention
- removal proceedings
- due process
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- immigration
- habeas corpus
- constitutional law
- civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether DHS unlawfully detained Ochoa Yepes under the mandatory-detention provisions of 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A), rather than the applicable discretionary-detention and bond framework.
2. Whether Ochoa Yepes was entitled to immediate release from custody.
3. Whether the motion for a temporary restraining order remained necessary after the habeas petition was granted.

HOLDINGS

1. DHS's position concerning the interaction between §§ 1226(a) and 1225(b)(2) and the related bond provisions was erroneous; Ochoa Yepes was not properly subject to continued mandatory detention on the asserted basis.
2. The petition for a writ of habeas corpus was granted, and Ochoa Yepes was ordered immediately released from custody.
3. The motion for a temporary restraining order was denied as moot.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Ochoa Yepes should remain at liberty and be taken into custody only after a determination that his parole status in the United States has been rescinded or revoked or he has otherwise been charged with committing some crime.” (Discussion)

“Accordingly, the Court grants Ochoa Yepes’s Petition and orders his immediate release from custody.” (Discussion)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Ochoa Yepes, a Colombian national, entered the United States without inspection in 2022 and was released after presenting at the border with a notice to appear for asylum proceedings. ICE later detained him at the Elmore County Detention Center under DHS authority, asserting that he was subject to mandatory detention without bond under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A). He had no criminal history, and the government identified no complicating circumstance distinguishing his case from other District of Idaho habeas cases in which release had been ordered.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Ochoa Yepes filed a § 2241 habeas petition challenging his detention by DHS and moved for a temporary restraining order. The court expedited briefing, granted the habeas petition, ordered his immediate release, and denied the temporary restraining order as moot.

DISPOSITION

writ_granted

CASES CITED

- *Lopez v. Heinauer*, 332 F.3d 507, 512 (8th Cir. 2003)
- *Yamataya v. Fisher*, 189 U.S. 86, 100–01 (1903)
- *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 693 (2001)
- *Crawford v. Bell*, 599 F.2d 890, 891 (9th Cir. 1979)
- *Preiser v. Rodriguez*, 411 U.S. 475, 484 (1973)
- *Quijada Cordoba v. Knight*, No. 1:25-cv-00605-BLW, 2025 WL 3228945 (D. Idaho Nov. 19, 2025)
- *Guadarrama Ayala v. Henkey*, No. 1-25-CV-00682-AKB, 2025 WL 3754138 (D. Idaho Dec. 29, 2025)
- *Artega v. Leyva*, 1:26-CV-00236-DCN, 2026 WL 1283869 (D. Idaho May 11, 2026)

OPINION

Hollinshead

PER CURIAM.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF IDAHO

DAIRON ESTIVEN OCHOA YEPES,

Petitioner, Case No. 1:26-cv-00299-DCN

v. MEMORANDUM DECISION

AND ORDER

RUBEN LEYVA, Field Office Director of Enforcement and Removal Operations, Salt Lake City Field Office, Immigration and Customs Enforcement; KENNETH PORTER, Acting Director of the Boise U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Field Sub-Office, MARKWAYNE MULLIN, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; TODD BLANCHE, U.S. Attorney General; MIKE HOLLINGSHEAD, Sheriff of Elmore County, Respondents.

I. INTRODUCTION

Before the Court is Petitioner Dairon Ochoa Yepes’s Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 (Dkt. 1) and Motion for Temporary Restraining Order (Dkt. 2). The Court expedited briefing on the matters. Dkt. 5. The Government opposes Ochoa Yepes’s Petition. Dkt. 7. Upon review, and for the reasons set forth below, the Court GRANTS Ochoa Yepes’s Petition and denies the Motion for Temporary Restraining Order as MOOT.

II. BACKGROUND

Ochoa Yepes is a Columbian national who has lived in the United States since he entered without inspection in 2022. Dkt. 1, at 1–2. When he presented at the border, Ochoa Yepes was arrested and then released into the United States on his own recognizance with a notice to appear for asylum proceedings. Ochoa Yepes was recently detained by ICE and is being held at the Elmore County Detention Center in Mountain Home, Idaho, pursuant to the Department of Homeland Security’s (“DHS”) authority. Ochoa Yepes contends his detention is unlawful because DHS and the Executive Office of Immigration Review have determined he is subject to mandatory detention without the possibility of bond under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A).

III. LEGAL STANDARD

The Constitution guarantees every person in the United States due process of law, including persons who are not United States citizens. E.g., *Lopez v. Heinauer*, 332 F.3d 507, 512 (8th Cir. 2003) (“The Supreme Court has long recognized that deportable aliens are entitled to constitutional protections of due process.” (citing *Yamataya v. Fisher*, 189 U.S. 86, 100–01 (1903))); see also *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 693 (2001). Habeas proceedings provide a forum to challenge the legality of confinement. *Crawford v. Bell*, 599 F.2d 890, 891 (9th Cir. 1979); see also *Preiser v. Rodriguez*, 411 U.S. 475, 484 (1973).

IV. DISCUSSION

Ochoa Yepes’s Petition represents one of many habeas cases in the District of Idaho. All District Judges in this District agree DHS’s position regarding the interplay between 8 U.S.C. §§ 1226(a) and 1225(b)(2), and the associated bond provisions, is erroneous. See, e.g., *Quijada Cordoba v. Knight*, No. 1:25-cv-00605-BLW, 2025 WL 3228945 (D. Idaho Nov. 19, 2025); *Guadarrama Ayala v. Henkey*, No. 1-25-CV-00682-AKB, 2025 WL 3754138 (D. Idaho Dec. 29, 2025); *Artega v. Leyva*, 1:26-CV-00236-DCN, 2026 WL 1283869 (D. Idaho May 11, 2026). The Court will not repeat that analysis here as it is well known at this point. The Government maintains its standing objection to the Court’s holding. Dkt. 7, at 2. The objection is noted and overruled. Other than maintaining its prior position, the Government does little to suggest the outcome in this case should differ from what the Court has done in other cases. In fact, the Government acknowledges this case “presents no complicating feature from those previously filed petitions for habeas corpus relief wherein the Court has ordered release.” Dkt. 7, at 1–2. The Court appreciates the Government’s candor. And the Court agrees. Ochoa Yepes has zero criminal history and there is no evidence suggesting the Court need deviate from what has become its standard operating procedure. Now, the Government does ask that the Court refrain from releasing Ochoa Yepes outright, insisting he remain in custody subject to DHS’s determination concerning potential charges and a bond hearing. But, as Ochoa Yepes points out, this approach is backwards. Ochoa Yepes should remain at liberty and be taken into custody only after a determination that his parole status in the United States has been rescinded or revoked or he has otherwise been charged with committing some crime. Moreover, as previously explained, see *Artega*, 2026 WL 1283869, at *2, the Court is not confident in the fairness and efficacy of bond hearings at this time. Accordingly, the Court grants Ochoa Yepes’s Petition and orders his immediate release from custody.

V. ORDER

1. Ochoa Yepes’s Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus (Dkt. 1) is GRANTED.
 2. Ochoa Yepes’s Motion for Temporary Restraining Order (Dkt. 2) is DENIED AS MOOT.
- a DATED: May 28, 2026 t,o! — x A\$ David C. Nye = U.S. District Court Judge
- MEMORANDUM DECISION AND ORDER - 4

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