

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
MICHIGAN, SOUTHERN DIVISION

Walter Pozo Palomino v. Kevin Raycraft et al.

No. 1:25-cv-1725 (W.D. Mich. Dec. 22, 2025) · No. 1:25-cv-1725 · Decided December 22, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan conditionally granted Walter Pozo Palomino’s petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. The court held that 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), rather than the mandatory-detention provision in § 1225(b)(2)(A), governs his detention and concluded that his detention violated the Fifth Amendment’s Due Process Clause. Respondents were ordered to provide a bond hearing within five business days or release Palomino, and the United States Attorney General was dismissed as a respondent.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan, Southern Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Hala Y. Jarbou
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan, Southern Division
DECIDED	December 22, 2025
DOCKET	1:25-cv-1725
DISPOSITION	writ_granted
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner, an ICE detainee, sought habeas relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2241, challenging the statutory basis and constitutionality of his detention and requesting release or a bond hearing.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The Court reviewed the legality of Petitioner's custody under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 and considered whether prudential exhaustion should be required or waived.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court opinion
PARTIES	Walter Pozo Palomino v. Kevin Raycraft et al.

TOPICS

- immigration detention
- due process
- procedural due process
- statutory interpretation
- immigration

PRACTICE AREAS

immigration detention

federal habeas corpus

constitutional law

civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether prudential exhaustion of administrative remedies should bar or delay Palomino's § 2241 habeas petition.
2. Whether 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A), rather than 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), authorized Palomino's detention.
3. Whether detention under the mandatory-detention framework of § 1225(b)(2)(A) violated Palomino's Fifth Amendment due-process rights.
4. Whether the ICE Detroit Field Office Director was the only proper respondent.
5. What relief was appropriate under § 2241.

HOLDINGS

1. The Court declined to enforce prudential exhaustion against Palomino and alternatively concluded that waiver of exhaustion was appropriate.
2. Section 1226(a), not § 1225(b)(2)(A), governs noncitizens such as Palomino who had resided in the United States and were already within the United States when apprehended and arrested.
3. Palomino's current detention under the mandatory-detention framework of § 1225(b)(2)(A) violated the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment.
4. The ICE Detroit Field Office Director was not the only proper respondent; the Court retained that official and the Secretary of Homeland Security and dismissed the United States Attorney General.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The Constitution guarantees that the writ of habeas corpus is “available to every individual detained within the United States.”” (Section III)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Palomino is a native and citizen of Peru who entered the United States in March 2023 without being admitted or paroled. After initially being released on his own recognizance, he was arrested by ICE at a Home Depot in Chicago on or about October 21, 2025, and detained at the North Lake Processing Center in Michigan. DHS charged him as inadmissible under INA § 212(a)(6)(A)(i), and he had an individual immigration-court hearing scheduled for December 23, 2025.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Palomino filed a counseled § 2241 petition on November 24, 2025, originally on behalf of twenty-five detainees. The Court severed the petitioners' claims into separate actions on December 10, 2025, ordered the respondents to show cause, and received the respondents' response and Palomino's reply. The Court conditionally granted the petition and ordered a bond hearing or immediate release.

DISPOSITION

writ_granted

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

Respondents must provide Palomino with a bond hearing under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) within five business days of the opinion and judgment or immediately release him from custody. Respondents must file a status report within six business days certifying compliance and stating whether the hearing occurred, whether bond was granted or denied, the conditions of any bond, or the reasons for denial. The United States Attorney General is dismissed as a respondent.

CASES CITED

- Hamdi v. Rumsfeld, 542 U.S. 507, 525 (2004)
- Zadvydas v. Davis, 533 U.S. 678, 687 (2001)
- A. A. R. P. v. Trump, 145 S. Ct. 1364, 1367 (2025)
- Antelex v. Raycraft, No. 1:25-cv-1669, 2025 WL 3562651 (W.D. Mich. Dec. 12, 2025)
- Candela Bastidas v. Noem, No. 1:25-cv-1528, 2025 WL 3562638 (W.D. Mich. Dec. 12, 2025)
- Acuna Sanchez v. Noem, No. 1:25-cv-1442, 2025 WL 3562577 (W.D. Mich. Dec. 12, 2025)
- Penagos Robles v. U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec., No. 1:25-cv-1578, 2025 WL 3558128 (W.D. Mich. Dec. 12, 2025)

OPINION

Palomino

PER CURIAM.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION

WALTER POZO PALOMINO,

Petitioner, Case No. 1:25-cv-1725 v. Hon. Hala Y. Jarbou KEVIN RAYCRAFT et al.,
Respondents. _____/

OPINION

Petitioner, a United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainee currently detained at the North Lake Processing Center located in Baldwin, Lake County, Michigan, initiated this action on November 24, 2025, by filing a counseled petition for writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241. (Pet., ECF No. 1.) For the following reasons, the Court will conditionally grant Petitioner's petition for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241.

Discussion I. Procedural History In Petitioner's § 2241 petition, originally filed on behalf of twenty-five individuals detained by ICE, Petitioner challenges the lawfulness of his current

detention and asks the Court to, *inter alia*, declare that Respondents' actions to detain Petitioner violate the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment and the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), and issue a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241 either ordering Respondents to release Petitioner or ordering Respondents to conduct a bond hearing to satisfy the requirements of due process. (Pet., ECF No. 1, PageID.21.) Petitioner asked the Court to order Respondents to show cause, within three days, why the petition should not be granted. (Id.) On December 10, 2025, the Court severed the claims of the original twenty-five petitioners into separate actions. (ECF No. 7.) In an order entered on December 12, 2025, the Court directed Respondents to show cause, within three business days, why the writ of habeas corpus and other relief requested by Petitioner should not be granted. (Order, ECF No. 9.) Respondents filed their response on December 16, 2025, (ECF No. 10.), and Petitioner filed his reply on December 19, 2025, (ECF No. 11).

II. Factual Background Petitioner is a native and citizen of Peru. (Pet., ECF No. 1, PageID.8; Notice to Appear (NTA), ECF No. 10-2, PageID.71.) Petitioner entered the United States on or about March 26, 2023, at or near El Paso, Texas, without being "admitted or paroled." (NTA, ECF No. 10-2, PageID.71.) On March 27, 2024, a United States Border Patrol (USBP) agent encountered and arrested Petitioner in the El Paso, Texas "Border Patrol Sector." (I-213 Narrative, ECF No. 10-1, PageID.69.) The Department of Homeland Security issued Petitioner an NTA, charging Petitioner with inadmissibility under § 212(a)(6)(A)(i) of the INA because Petitioner is an immigrant "present in the United States without being admitted or paroled, or who arrived in the United States at any time or place other than as designated by the Attorney General." (NTA, ECF NO. 10-2, PageID.71.) On that date, Petitioner was released on his own recognizance due to lack of space. (I-213 Narrative, ECF No. 10-1, PageID.69.) On or about October 21, 2025, Petitioner "was at a Home Depot in Chicago, Illinois when ICE arrested and detained him." (Pet., ECF No. 1, PageID.8.) Petitioner has an individual hearing before the immigration court scheduled on December 23, 2025. (Notice of Internet-Based Hearing, ECF No. 10-3, PageID.75.) Prior to Petitioner's present detention, he resided in Chicago, Illinois, and had a valid work authorization issued by USCIS. (Pet., ECF No. 1, PageID.8.)

III. Habeas Corpus Legal Standard The Constitution guarantees that the writ of habeas corpus is "available to every individual detained within the United States." *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld*, 542 U.S. 507, 525 (2004) (citing U.S. Const., Art I, § 9, cl. 2). Section 2241 of Title 28 confers the federal courts with the power to issue writs of habeas corpus to persons "in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States." 28 U.S.C. § 2241. This includes challenges by non-citizens in immigration-related matters. See *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 687 (2001); see also *A. A. R. P. v. Trump*, 145 S. Ct. 1364, 1367 (2025).

IV. Exhaustion Respondents argue that the Court should deny Petitioner's request for habeas corpus relief because Petitioner has not exhausted his administrative remedies. Specifically, Respondents argue that Petitioner should pursue a bond hearing and, if necessary, appeal any unfavorable decision to the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA). The Court declines to enforce the doctrine of prudential exhaustion against Petitioner, and

even if the Court were to conclude that exhaustion is warranted, the Court concludes in the alternative that waiver of exhaustion is appropriate, for the reasons set forth in the Court's exhaustion analysis in each of the following cases: *Antele Cobix v. Raycraft*, No. 1:25-cv-1669, 2025 WL 3562651, at *2–3 (W.D. Mich. Dec. 12, 2025); *Candela Bastidas v. Noem*, No. 1:25-cv-1528, 2025 WL 3562638, at *2–4 (W.D. Mich. Dec. 12, 2025); *Acuna Sanchez v. Noem*, No. 1:25-cv-1442, 2025 WL 3562577, at *2–4 (W.D. Mich. Dec. 12, 2025); *Penagos Robles v. U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec.*, No. 1:25-cv-1578, 2025 WL 3558128, at *2–3 (W.D. Mich. Dec. 12, 2025). Accordingly, the Court will proceed to address the merits of Petitioner's § 2241 petition.

V. Merits Discussion A. Statutory Basis for Petitioner's Detention Petitioner contends that Respondents have violated the INA by concluding that Petitioner is detained pursuant to the mandatory detention provisions set forth in 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2). Respondents, however, contend that Petitioner meets every element for detention under § 1225(b)(2), and that the statute's structure and history support Respondents' interpretation. The Court concludes that § 1226(a), not § 1225(b)(2)(A), governs noncitizens, such as Petitioner, who have resided in the United States and were already within the United States when apprehended and arrested for the reasons set forth in the Court's statutory analysis in each of the following cases: *Antele Cobix v. Raycraft*, No. 1:25-cv-1669, 2025 WL 3562651, at *3–6 (W.D. Mich. Dec. 12, 2025); *Candela Bastidas v. Noem*, No. 1:25-cv-1528, 2025 WL 3562638, at *4–6 (W.D. Mich. Dec. 12, 2025); *Acuna Sanchez v. Noem*, No. 1:25-cv-1442, 2025 WL 3562577, at *4–7 (W.D. Mich. Dec. 12, 2025); *Penagos Robles v. U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec.*, No. 1:25-cv-1578, 2025 WL 3558128, at *3–6 (W.D. Mich. Dec. 12, 2025).

B. Fifth Amendment Due Process Considerations Petitioner also argues that his detention violates the Fifth Amendment's Due Process Clause. Respondents counter Petitioner's arguments by stating that Petitioner has received notice of the charges against him, has access to counsel, is scheduled to attend hearings with an immigration judge, has the right to appeal the denial of any request for bond, and has been detained by ICE for a short time. The Court concludes that Petitioner's current detention under the mandatory detention framework set forth in § 1225(b)(2)(A) violates Petitioner's Fifth Amendment due process rights for the reasons set forth in the Court's constitutional analysis in each of the following cases: *Antele Cobix v. Raycraft*, No. 1:25-cv-1669, 2025 WL 3562651, at *6–8 (W.D. Mich. Dec. 12, 2025); *Candela Bastidas v. Noem*, No. 1:25-cv-1528, 2025 WL 3562638, at *7–8 (W.D. Mich. Dec. 12, 2025); *Acuna Sanchez v. Noem*, No. 1:25-cv-1442, 2025 WL 3562577, at *7–9 (W.D. Mich. Dec. 12, 2025); *Penagos Robles v. U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec.*, No. 1:25-cv-1578, 2025 WL 3558128, at *6–8 (W.D. Mich. Dec. 12, 2025).

VI. Other Claims and Other Forms of Relief Because the Court will conditionally grant Petitioner's § 2241 petition as set forth herein, the Court does not address other claims and other requested relief in Petitioner's § 2241 petition.

VII. Proper Respondents Respondents argue that the Detroit ICE Field Office Director is the only proper Respondent in this action, and they seek the dismissal of all of the other named Respondents. The Court concludes that the ICE Detroit Field Office Director is not the only proper Respondent for the reasons set forth in the Court's analysis of the

same argument in each of the following cases: Antele Cobix v. Raycraft, No. 1:25-cv-1669, 2025 WL 3562651, at *8–9 (W.D. Mich. Dec. 12, 2025); Candela Bastidas v. Noem, No. 1:25-cv-1528, 2025 WL 3562638, at *8–9 (W.D. Mich. Dec. 12, 2025); Acuna Sanchez v. Noem, No. 1:25-cv-1442, 2025 WL 3562577, at *9–10 (W.D. Mich. Dec. 12, 2025); Penagos Robles v. U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Sec., No. 1:25-cv-1578, 2025 WL 3558128, at *9–10 (W.D. Mich. Dec. 12, 2025). To ensure that this Court’s orders regarding a hearing or release will bind at least one Respondent with authority to act in the event that Petitioner is transferred out of the Western District of Michigan, the Court will retain the ICE Detroit Field Office Director and the Secretary for the Department of Homeland Security as Respondents. The Court will dismiss the United States Attorney General as a Respondent. Conclusion For the reasons discussed above, the Court will enter a judgment conditionally granting Petitioner’s petition for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241. (ECF No. 1.) The Court will order Respondents to provide Petitioner with a bond hearing under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) within five business days of the date of this Court’s opinion and judgment or, in the alternative, immediately release Petitioner from custody.¹ The Court will also order Respondents to file a status report within six business days of the date of this Court’s opinion and judgment to certify compliance with this opinion and the corresponding judgment. The status report shall include if and when the bond hearing occurred, if bond was granted or denied, and if bond was granted, the conditions of the bond, or if bond was denied, the reasons for the denial. Further, the Court will dismiss the United States Attorney General as a Respondent. Dated: December 22, 2025 /s/ Hala Y. Jarbou

HALA Y. JARBOU

CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

¹ This Court has adopted a standard practice of requiring such a hearing within five business days, even if the Petitioner requests a deadline that is shorter or longer.