

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Mohadjer v. Wolf

Mohadjer v. Wolf · No. 3:25-cv-02409-CAB-AHG · Decided October 10, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of California dismissed Pajman Mohadjer’s 28 U.S.C. § 2241 habeas petition with leave to amend. The court held that the petition was deficient because it failed to name the warden of the Otay Mesa Regional Detention Center as the immediate custodian, and granted thirty days to file an amended petition.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Cathy Ann Bencivengo
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of California
DECIDED	October 10, 2025
DOCKET	3:25-cv-02409-CAB-AHG
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 challenging immigration detention.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court reviewed the habeas petition for jurisdictional sufficiency and proper respondent status.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unknown
PARTIES	Pajman Mohadjer v. Logan Wolf, Assistant Director of the Otay Mesa Field Office, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Todd M. Lyons, Acting Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Kristi Noem, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Pamela Bondi, Attorney General of the United States

TOPICS

- federal habeas corpus
- immigration detention
- immigration
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

immigration

federal habeas corpus

immigration detention

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether a habeas petition challenging present physical confinement must name the detainee's immediate custodian as the respondent.
2. Whether the petition should be dismissed when it fails to name the warden of the detention facility as respondent.

HOLDINGS

1. A habeas petitioner challenging present physical confinement must name the immediate custodian, ordinarily the warden of the facility where the petitioner is detained, as the respondent.
2. A § 2241 habeas petition that fails to name the detainee's immediate custodian may be dismissed with leave to amend to name the proper custodian.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Habeas petitioners “challenging their present physical confinement [must] name their immediate custodian, the warden of the facility where they are detained, as the respondent to their petition.”” (1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Mohadjer is an Iranian national who had been detained at the Otay Mesa Regional Detention Center since November 4, 2024. He filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 challenging his detention. The petition named immigration and executive officials rather than the warden of the facility where he was detained.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Pajman Mohadjer filed a § 2241 habeas petition while detained at the Otay Mesa Regional Detention Center. Respondents filed an opposition. The district court dismissed the petition without prejudice and with leave to amend because the petition did not name the facility warden as the proper respondent.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

No remand. Mohadjer was granted thirty days from the date of the order to refile an amended habeas petition naming the warden of the Otay Mesa Regional Detention Center as respondent.

CASES CITED

- Doe v. Garland, 109 F.4th 1188, 1197 (9th Cir. 2024)

OPINION

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA 10 11 PAJMAN MOHADJER, Case No.: 3:25-cv-02409-CAB-AHG 12 Petitioner,
ORDER DISMISSING PETITION 13 v. FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS 14 LOGAN WOLF,
Assistant Director of the Otay Mesa Field Office, U.S [Doc. No. 1] 15 Immigration Customs
Enforcement; 16 TODD M. LYONS, Acting Director 17 U.S Immigration Customs Enforcement;
KRISTI NOEM, 18 Secretary of the U.S Department of 19 Homeland Security; and PAMELA 20
BONDI, Attorney General of the United States.

21 Respondents. 22 23 Pending before the Court is Pajman Mohadjer’s petition for a writ of
habeas corpus 24 under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. [Doc. No. 1.]1 Mr. Mohadjer is an Iranian national who
has been 25 held in detention at the Otay Mesa Regional Detention Center since November 4,
2024. 26 27 1 Document numbers and page references are to those assigned by CM/ECF for the
docket 28 1 ||[Doc.

No. 4 at 2.] Respondents filed an Opposition. [Doc. No. 4]. For the following 2 |}reasons, Mr.
Mohadjer’s petition for a writ of habeas corpus is DISMISSED WITH 3 || LEAVE TO AMEND. 4
Having reviewed Mr. Mohadjer’s petition, the Court finds that it is deficient because 5 ||the proper
respondent for the petition is the warden of the Otay Mesa Regional Detention 6 || Facility.

Habeas petitioners “challenging their present physical confinement [must] name 7 ||their
immediate custodian, the warden of the facility where they are detained, as the 8 ||respondent to
their petition.” Doe v. Garland, 109 F.4th 1188, 1197 (9th Cir. 2024).

The 9 || Court cannot exercise jurisdiction over Mr. Mohadjer’s petition so long as he fails to name
10 || as respondent the warden of the detention facility where he is being detained. 11 Accordingly,
the Court DISMISSES Mr. Mohadjer’s petition WITH LEAVE TO 12 || AMEND to include the
warden of the Otay Mesa Regional Detention Center as a 13 |}respondent. Plaintiff shall have
thirty (30) days from the date of this order to refile an 14 ||amended petition for a writ of habeas
corpus.

15 IT IS SO ORDERED. 16 17 || Dated: October 10, 2025 18 Hon. Cathy Ann Bencivengo 19
United States District Judge 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28