

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
KENTUCKY, OWENSBORO DIVISION

Ali Mamoud v. Mike Lewis, et al.

Mamoud · No. 4:26-cv-237-RGJ · Decided April 17, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Kentucky granted Ali Mamoud’s petition for a writ of habeas corpus. The court held that 8 U.S.C. § 1226, rather than § 1225(b)(2), governed his detention and that his continued detention without an individualized bond hearing violated due process. The court ordered Mamoud’s immediate release, subject to a bond hearing before a neutral immigration judge, and required the government to certify compliance.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Kentucky, Owensboro Division
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Kentucky, Owensboro Division
DECIDED	April 17, 2026
DOCKET	4:26-cv-237-RGJ
DISPOSITION	writ_granted
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner sought a writ of habeas corpus challenging his immigration detention under 8 U.S.C. §§ 1225 and 1226 and asserting a violation of the Fifth Amendment Due Process Clause. The district court granted the petition, ordered immediate release, and required a bond hearing before a neutral immigration judge before any re-detention.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court applied the three-part Mathews v. Eldridge balancing test to determine whether continued civil detention violated procedural due process.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	The opinion is a federal district court memorandum opinion and is not binding outside the case, though it may have persuasive value.
PARTIES	Ali Mamoud v. Mike Lewis, et al.

TOPICS

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

PRACTICE AREAS

immigration

immigration detention

habeas corpus

constitutional law

civil rights

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Mamoud's detention was governed by the mandatory-detention provisions of 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A) or the detention provisions of 8 U.S.C. § 1226.
2. Whether Mamoud's continued detention without a merits bond hearing violated the Fifth Amendment Due Process Clause and the Immigration and Nationality Act.
3. Whether the proper habeas remedy was immediate release and a bond hearing before a neutral immigration judge before any re-detention.

HOLDINGS

1. Section 1226, rather than § 1225(b)(2), governed Mamoud's detention because he was not seeking admission and was arrested pursuant to an I-200 warrant issued under § 1226.
2. Mamoud's continued detention under § 1226 without a merits bond hearing violated the Fifth Amendment Due Process Clause and the INA.
3. The proper remedy for Mamoud's unlawful detention was immediate release and a bond hearing on the merits before a neutral immigration judge before any re-detention.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Freedom from imprisonment—from government custody, detention, or other forms of physical restraint—lies at the heart of the very liberty that [the Due Process Clause] protects.” (Section II.B.1)

“Habeas has traditionally been a means to secure release from unlawful detention.” (Section III)

“Rather, [Petitioner’s rights] are violated because he has been detained without a hearing that accords with due process.” (Section III)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Ali Mamoud is a 23-year-old native and citizen of Ghana who entered the United States without inspection in March 2023 and was later released with conditions and issued a Notice to Appear. He applied for asylum in March 2024, and his application remained pending while he participated in removal proceedings. On January 6, 2026, ICE arrested him at a required check-in appointment, issued an I-200 warrant, and detained him at Hopkins County Jail. He had no criminal convictions or charges and had not received a merits bond hearing before an immigration judge.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Mamoud was arrested by ICE at a required check-in appointment on January 6, 2026, issued an I-200 warrant, and detained at Hopkins County Jail while in removal proceedings. He filed a habeas petition; the respondents opposed it by incorporating arguments made in related Sixth Circuit litigation. The parties agreed that no evidentiary hearing was necessary, and the district court adjudicated the petition on the papers.

DISPOSITION

writ_granted

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The United States was ordered to release Mamoud immediately, provide a bond hearing on the merits before a neutral immigration judge pursuant to § 1226 before any re-detention, and certify compliance on the docket by April 18, 2026.

CASES CITED

- Edahi v. Lewis, 2025 WL 3466682, at *2-*3, *5-*13 (W.D. Ky. Nov. 27, 2025)
- Vicen v. Lewis, 2026 WL 541171, at *2-*9 (W.D. Ky. Feb. 26, 2026)
- Lopez-Campos v. Raycraft, Case No. 25-1965 (6th Cir. Oct. 27, 2025)
- Alvarez v. Noem, Case No. 25-1969 (6th Cir. Oct. 27, 2025)
- Contreras-Cervantes v. Raycraft, Case No. 25-1978 (6th Cir. Oct. 28, 2025)
- Pizarro Reyes v. Raycraft, Case No. 25-1982 (6th Cir. Oct. 29, 2025)
- A.A.R.P. v. Trump, 605 U.S. 91, 94 (2025)
- Mathews v. Eldridge, 424 U.S. 319, 335 (1976)
- Hamdi v. Rumsfeld, 542 U.S. 507, 529 (2004)
- Zadvydas v. Davis, 533 U.S. 678, 690 (2001)
- Loper Bright Enters., 603 U.S. at 413
- Munoz Materano, 2025 WL 2630826, at *15, *20
- Martinez v. Noem, 2025 WL 2598379, at *2 (W.D. Tex. Sept. 8, 2025)
- Sampiao, 2025 WL 2607924, at *12
- Hyppolite v. Noem, 2025 WL 2829511, at *15-*16 (E.D.N.Y. Oct. 6, 2025)
- Günaydin v. Trump, 2025 WL 1459154, at *10 (D. Minn. May 21, 2025)
- Patel, 2025 WL 2823607, at *6
- Beltran Barrera, 2025 WL 2690565, at *7
- Roble v. Bondi, 2025 WL 2443453, at *5 (D. Minn. Aug. 25, 2025)
- Thuraissigiam, 591 U.S. at 107
- Matter of Guerra, 24 I. & N. Dec. 37, 40 (BIA 2006)
- Alonso, 2025 WL 3083920, at *9
- Lopez-Campos, F. Supp. 3d at 785-86
- Mboup v. Field Office Director of N.J., 2025 WL 3062791, at *2 (D.N.J. Nov. 3, 2025)
- Espinoza, 2025 WL 2675785, at *11
- Ramirez Clavijo, 2025 WL 2419263, at *6
- Lopez-Arevelo v. Ripa, 2025 WL 2691828, at *12 (W.D. Tex. Sept. 22, 2025)

- Black v. Decker, 103 F.4th 133, 149-150 (2d Cir. 2024)
- Maldonado, 2025 WL 2968042, at *9-*10
- Morales-Martinez v. Raycraft, 2025 WL 3124695, at *7 (E.D. Mich. Nov. 7, 2025)

OPINION

Mamoud

PER CURIAM.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

WESTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY

OWENSBORO DIVISION

ALI MAMOUD, Petitioner, v. Civil Action No. 4:26-cv-237-RGJ MIKE LEWIS, et al.,
Respondents. * * * * *

MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER

This matter is before the Court on Petitioner Ali Mamoud’s Writ of Habeas Corpus. [DE 1]. Respondents responded on April 13, 2026. [DE 9]. Petitioner replied on April 15, 2026. [DE 10]. The parties agree no evidentiary hearing is necessary. [DE 7; DE 8]. This matter is ripe for adjudication. For the reasons below, this Court GRANTS the Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus. [DE 1]. I. Background Petitioner Ali Mamoud (“Mamod”) is a 23-year-old native and citizen of Ghana. [DE 9-2 at 82]. Mamoud has been present in the United States since March 2023. [DE 1 at 8]. Mamoud entered the United States without inspection. [DE 9 at 74].¹ Although entering without inspection, Mamoud encountered immigration officials shortly thereafter near Luis, Arizona. [Id.]. After encountering immigration officials, Mamoud was transferred to Yuma, Arizona for further processing. [Id.]. After further processing, Mamoud was released into the interior of the United States with certain preconditions, such as routine check-ins with immigration officials. [Id.]. He was also issued a Notice to Appear. [DE 9-1 at 79]. Since his arrival, Mamoud has resided in Columbus, Ohio. [DE 1 at 8]. He applied for asylum on March 18, 2024, and the application remains pending. [Id.]. Mamoud has been in detention since January 6, 2026. [DE 1 at 8]. On January 6, 2026, Mamoud attended, as required, an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) check-in appointment. [DE 9-3 at 85]. However, upon arriving at his appointment, ICE officers arrested him. [Id.]. After his arrest, he was transported to Hopkins County Jail in the Western District of Kentucky. [Id.]. He remains there today. [Id.]. On the same day as his arrest and detention, ICE issued an I-200 Warrant for Arrest to Mamoud. [DE 9-3 at 85]. As stated, ICE had previously issued a Notice to Appear Form I-862. [DE 9-1 at 79]. The Notice to Appear marked Mamoud as an “alien present in the United States who has not been admitted or paroled.” [Id.]. Mamoud is currently in removal proceedings pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1229a. [DE 1 at 8]. ICE contends that based on interim guidance from DHS, issued July 8, 2025, titled “Interim Guidance Regarding Detention Authority for Applicants for Admission,” only those noncitizens who have already been admitted into the United States are eligible to be released during removal

proceedings and all other noncitizens are subject to mandatory detention, under 8 U.S.C. § 1225 (“Section 1225”), not Section 1226. [DE 1 at 2-3]. This is a reversal of longstanding policy. [Id.]. Mamoud asserts that the United States illegally detained him under Section 1225 instead of Section 1226 in violation of the INA. [Id. at 9-10]. And that this prolonged detention is in violation of his Due Process Rights under the Fifth Amendment. [Id. at 10-13]. Therefore, Mamoud seeks release from his detention, or in the alternative, to hold a bond hearing before a neutral IJ to determine whether he should remain in custody. [Id.]. In response, the United States “relies on and incorporate[s] by reference the legal arguments from the briefs the government filed with the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in the four §§ 1225-1226 appeals.” [DE 9 at 75-76]. Those cases are *Lopez-Campos v. Raycraft*, Case No. 25- 1965 (6th Cir. Oct. 27, 2025); *Alvarez v. Noem*, Case No. 25-1969 (6th Cir. Oct. 27, 2025); *Contreras-Cervantes v. Raycraft*, Case No. 25-1978 (6th Cir. Oct. 28, 2025); *Pizarro Reyes v. Raycraft*, Case No. 25-1982 (6th Cir. Oct. 29, 2025). The United States concedes that the “relevant facts in all four matters on appeal” are “similar to the relevant facts in this matter” and the only “relevant legal question” is whether the Petitioner is detained under Section 1225(b)(2)(A) or Section 1226. [DE 9 at 76].

II. DISCUSSION²

A. Section 1225(b)(2) vs. Section 1226 While the relevant facts are undisputed by the parties, the United States argues Section 1225 applies to Mamoud’s detention, not Section 1226. The United States acknowledges that the Court has previously ruled on the substantive question regarding § 1225 mandatory detention, [DE 9 at 73-74], and, that the only relevant legal question is whether Mamoud is “detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1225 or § 1226?” [Id. at 74]. As both parties acknowledge that the Court has previously ruled on this substantive issue, which is the only “relevant legal question,” the Court incorporates by reference its reasoning in *Edahi v. Lewis*, 2025 WL 3466682, at *5-*13 (W.D. Ky. Nov. 27, 2025) and *Vicen v. Lewis*, 2026 WL 541171, *2-*9 (W.D. Ky. Feb. 26, 2026), holding that Section 1226 applies to the Petitioner based on the facts set forth above. 2 Neither party asserted any jurisdiction-related arguments. However, the Court has analyzed jurisdiction of remedies in similar circumstances, such as *Edahi*, 2025 WL 3466682, at *2-*3 incorporates its reasoning into this opinion. Neither party asserted any exhaustion-related arguments and no applicable statute or rule mandates exhaustion. However, because many decisions in similar cases by district courts within the Sixth Circuit discuss this principal, the Court incorporates its analysis on exhaustion of remedies from a previous case, *Edahi*, 2025 WL 3466682, at *3, and the Court waives the exhaustion requirement for the same i. Related Case Law The United States incorporated brief cites to several nonbinding district courts, and one BIA decision, to support their interpretation.³ However, the Court is not persuaded by these decisions for the reasons previously explained in *Edahi*, 2025 WL 3466682, at *9-*13 and *Vicen* 2026 WL 541171, at *2-*9, incorporated here by reference. * * * For the reasons above and incorporated, Mamoud, who has been present in the United States for approximately three years, is not “seeking admission” into the United States, a fact acknowledged in his Notice for Appearance by not

marking him as an “arriving alien,” as well as his arrest pursuant to the I-200 Warrant which authority arises out of Section 1226. Section 1226, not Section 1225(b)(2), applies to his detention.

B. Lawfulness of Current Detention As stated, Mamoud is detained under Section 1226. The United States contends that because Mamoud is properly detained under Section 1225(b)(2), not Section 1226, and he has not been “deprived of any due process.” [DE 9 at 78]. Otherwise, the United States does not respond to Mamoud’s alleged violation of due process. Because the Court found that Mamoud’s detention is guided by Section 1226, the Court must determine whether the continued detention pursuant to Section 1226 is in violation of his Due Process. The Due Process Clause extends to all persons regardless of status. *A.A.R.P. v. Trump*, 605 U.S. 91, 94 (2025). This includes non-citizens. *Id.* To determine whether a civil detention violates a detainee’s due process rights, courts apply the three-part balancing test set forth in *Mathews v. 3* None of the cases cited by the United States are controlling authority within the Sixth Circuit. Further, the BIA is neither binding, nor should be viewed as persuasive authority, on any district court. See *Loper Bright Enter.*, 603 U.S. at 413 (“courts. . . may not defer to an agency interpretation of the law simply because a *Eldridge*, 424 U.S. 319 (1976). The Court must weigh: (1) the private interest that will be affected by the official action; (2) the risk of an erroneous deprivation of such interest through the procedures used, and the probable value, if any, of additional or substitute procedural safeguards; and (3) the United States’ interest, including the function involved and the fiscal and administrative burdens that the additional or substitute procedural requirement would entail. *Id.* at 335. The United States does not address the merits of his Due Process claim, but instead focuses solely on the legal argument of Section 1225(b)(2) versus Section 1226 as referenced above.

1. Private Interest

It is undisputed Mamoud has a significant private interest in not being detained. One of the “most elemental of liberty interests” is to be free from detention. *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld*, 542 U.S. 507, 529 (2004). “Freedom from imprisonment—from government custody, detention, or other forms of physical restraint—lies at the heart of the very liberty that [the Due Process Clause] protects.” *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 690 (2001). Courts can also consider the detainee’s condition of confinement. *Martinez v. Noem*, 2025 WL 2598379, at *2 (W.D. Tex. Sep. 8, 2025). This is to determine if the conditions are indistinguishable from criminal incarceration. *Id.* Mamoud is being detained at Hopkins County Jail. [DE 1 at 8]. Mamoud previously lived in Columbus, Ohio. [Id.]. But because of his detention in a separate state, he is away and separated from his community. [Id.]. The detention is thus making it difficult for Mamoud to participate in his community, work, and care for others. [Id.]. As a result, the first *Mathews* factor favors Mamoud’s position.

2. Risk of Error

The second factor concerns the risk of the erroneous deprivation of Mamoud’s liberty. A re-detention, without any individualized assessment, leads to a high risk of erroneous deprivation of an individual’s liberty interest. *Munoz Materano*, 2025 WL 2630826, at *15 (holding that “re-detention without any individualized assessment” establishes a “high risk of erroneous

deprivation” of a protected liberty interest). As of today, Mamoud has not had a merits bond hearing, with counsel and evidence. Munoz Materano, 2025 WL 2630826, at *15 (holding that Due process requires at a minimum the opportunity for the petitioner to submit evidence and be heard). Respondents have not demonstrated that Mamoud is a flight risk or a danger to the community, nor is it likely they can. Mamoud has no criminal convictions or charges. [DE 9-3 at 85]. Therefore, it would appear to the Court the only material change within the past year, with respect to Mamoud, is the United States’ interpretation of Section 1225 and Section 1226. Thus, because of a high, if not already evident, risk of erroneous deprivation of Mamoud’s liberty interest, the second Matthews factor favors Mamoud.

3. United States’ Interest

The final Matthews factor concerns the United States’ interest in the procedure, as well as any financial or administrative burdens associated with permissible alternatives. Matthews, 424 U.S. at 335. The Court recognizes that the United States does have a strong interest in ensuring noncitizens do not harm their community and that they appear for future immigration proceedings. Sampiao, 2025 WL 2607924, at *12. However, a “routine bond hearing” before an IJ presently “minimal” burdens to the United States.” Hyppolite v. Noem, 2025 WL 2829511, at *15 (E.D. N.Y. Oct. 6, 2025). These procedures are also already in place. *Id.* Therefore, “existing statutory and regulatory safeguards adequately serve the governmental interest in promoting public safety.” Günaydin v. Trump, 2025 WL 1459154, at *10 (D. Minn. May 21, 2025). Because of that, the Court finds that the third Matthews factor also favors Mamoud. Therefore, the Court finds that all three Matthews factors favor Mamoud. The current detention of Mamoud is in violation of the Due Process Clause and the INA. III. Remedy Numerous courts across the country have ordered the release of individuals stemming from ICE’s illegal detention. Patel, 2025 WL 2823607, at *6; Beltran Barrera, 2025 WL 2690565, at *7; Roble v. Bondi, 2025 WL 2443453, at *5 (D. Minn. Aug. 25, 2025) (ordering petitioner’s “release from custody as a remedy for ICE’s illegal re-detention”). The Supreme Court has also recognized that “Habeas has traditionally been a means to secure release from unlawful detention.” Thuraissigiam, 591 U.S. at 107 (emphasis in original). This Court is releasing Mamoud because of the “unlawful detention” by ICE and the United States for the reasons stated above. Mamoud is not being released because he is detained pursuant to Section 1226. But instead, the Court is ordering his release because of the United States’ illegal actions it undertook in Mamoud’s detention. Hyppolite, 2025 WL 2829511 *16 (holding that the United States cannot “detain [Petitioner] without first conducting a hearing before an IJ” because of the unlawful detention of Petitioner). As a result of his release stemming from the “unlawful detention” in violation of his due process rights, and further pursuant to Section 1226 and its supporting regulations, Petitioner must be provided with a bond hearing on the merits before a neutral IJ prior to any re-detention. See 8 C.F.R. §§ 1236.1(c)(8), (d)(1). The IJ may consider the non-exhaustive list of factors set out in Matter of Guerra 24 I. & N. 37, 40 (BIA 2006). Courts across the country have routinely held

this procedure proper. *Alonso*, 2025 WL 3083920, at *9; *Lopez-Campos*, F.Supp. 3d at 785-86; *Mboup v. Field Office Director of N.J.*, 2025 WL 3062791, at *2 (D.N.J. Nov. 3, 2025); *Espinoza*, 2025 WL 2675785, at *11; *Ramirez Clavijo*, 2025 WL 2419263, at *6; *Munoz Materano*, 2025 WL 2630826, at *20. Mamoud’s procedural due process rights are not violated by the fact he is detained. “Rather, [Petitioner’s rights] are violated because he has been detained without a hearing that accords with due process.” *Lopez-Arevelo v. Ripa*, 2025 WL 2691828, *12 (W.D. Tex. Sep. 22, 2025) (citing to *Black v. Decker*, 103 F.4th 133, 149-150 (2d Cir. 2024)). Therefore, “the proper remedy” is the “full process due under [Section 1226] which includes a bond hearing before an [IJ].” *Maldonado*, 2025 WL 2968042, at *9-10; *Morales-Martinez v. Raycraft*, 2025 WL 3124695, at *7 (E.D. Mich. Nov. 7, 2025) (holding that because Petitioner had been detained “without a... hearing, he is in federal custody in violation of federal law.”) Because Mamoud is being detained pursuant to Section 1226, relevant regulations entitle him to a neutral bond hearing. See 8 C.F.R. §§ 1236.1(c)(8), (d)(1). Therefore, to afford Mamoud with the “full [due] process” under Section 1226, the United States must provide Mamoud with a neutral bond hearing before an IJ. *Maldonado*, 2025 WL 2968042, at *9-10. VI. Conclusion For the reasons stated above, the United States has violated Mamoud’s due process rights. The Court GRANTS Mamoud’s Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus [DE 1] and orders the following: I. The United States is directed to release Petitioner Mamoud immediately because of the unlawful detention in violation of his due process rights. II. The United States must provide him with a bond hearing before a neutral IJ pursuant to Section 1226. IH. The United States must certify compliance with the Court’s order by a filing on the docket by April 18, 2026. United States District Court April 17, 2026