

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

Marcelo Herazo Paso v. Kevin Raycraft et al.

No. 1:25-cv-1716 · No. 1:25-cv-1716 · Decided January 13, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan conditionally granted Marcelo Herazo Paso’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 provisions of § 1225(b)(2)(A), governed his detention and ordered Respondents to provide a bond hearing or release him. The court also retained the Detroit ICE Field Office Director and the Secretary of Homeland Security as Respondents and dismissed the Attorney General.

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	January 13, 2026
DOCKET	1:25-cv-1716
DISPOSITION	writ_granted
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner sought a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 challenging his immigration detention and requesting a bond hearing or release.
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PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court opinion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	Marcelo Herazo Paso v. Kevin Raycraft et al.

TOPICS

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

PRACTICE AREAS

immigration detention

habeas corpus

constitutional law

immigration law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should enforce prudential exhaustion of administrative remedies before considering petitioner's § 2241 challenge to immigration detention.
2. Whether petitioner's detention was governed by the mandatory-detention provisions of 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A) or the discretionary detention authority of 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a).
3. Whether detention under the mandatory-detention framework violated petitioner's Fifth Amendment due process rights.
4. Whether the Detroit ICE Field Office Director was the only proper respondent in the habeas action.

HOLDINGS

1. The court declined to enforce prudential exhaustion and alternatively concluded that waiver of exhaustion was appropriate.
2. Section 1226(a), rather than 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A), governs noncitizens who have resided in the United States and were already within the country when apprehended and arrested.
3. Petitioner's current detention under the mandatory-detention framework of 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A) violated the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment.
4. The Detroit ICE 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

Petitioner, a Venezuelan citizen, entered the United States on June 15, 2023, was paroled into the country, and later filed a pending asylum application. After being placed on alternative-to-detention monitoring, he reported for a scheduled ICE check-in on October 6, 2025, was deemed an absconder, and was arrested. ICE charged him as inadmissible under 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(7)(A)(i)(I), and he remained detained at the North Lake Processing Center in Michigan.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Paso was one of twenty-five petitioners originally named in a consolidated § 2241 petition. The court severed the petitioners' claims into separate actions, ordered the respondents to show cause, received the parties' briefing, and conditionally granted habeas relief. The court ordered a bond hearing under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) within five business days or immediate release, and dismissed the United States Attorney General as a respondent.

DISPOSITION

writ_granted

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

Respondents must provide petitioner with a bond hearing under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) within five business days of the opinion and judgment, or immediately release petitioner. Respondents must file a status report within six business days certifying compliance and stating whether the hearing occurred, whether bond was granted or denied, and the applicable bond conditions or reasons for denial.

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)
- Antele Cobix 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)
- Hernandez Montiel v. Raycraft, No. 1:25-cv-1610, 2026 WL 32076 (W.D. Mich. Jan. 6, 2026)

OPINION

Paso

PER CURIAM.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

SOUTHERN DIVISION

MARCELO HERAZO PASO,

Petitioner, Case No. 1:25-cv-1716 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. § 2241.1 (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, Petitioner challenges the lawfulness of his current detention and asks the Court to, inter alia, accept jurisdiction over this

action, 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. 1 Petitioner was one of twenty-five petitioners named in the § 2241 petition. In an order entered on December 10, 2025, the Court severed the claims of the petitioners into twenty-five separate actions. (Order, ECF No. 7.) Petitioner's claims proceed in the present action. § 2241 ordering Respondents to conduct a bond hearing for Petitioner's removal proceedings or release Petitioner. (Pet., ECF No. 1, PageID.21.) 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 17, 2025, (ECF No. 10), and Petitioner filed his reply on December 22, 2025, (ECF No. 11).

II. Factual Background Petitioner is a native and citizen of Venezuela. (Pet., ECF No. 1, PageID.5; Notice to Appear (NTA), ECF No. 10-4, PageID.72.) Petitioner entered the United States on June 15, 2023, at Brownsville, Texas. (NTA, ECF No. 10-4, PageID.72.) At that time, the Department of Homeland Security paroled Petitioner into the United States. (June 15, 2023, Form I-213, ECF No. 10-1, PageID.62.) Petitioner then filed an asylum application, which remains pending, and Petitioner received authorization to work in the United States. (July 2, 2025, Form I-213, ECF No. 10-2, PageID.65.) On July 2, 2025, Petitioner reported for a scheduled appointment with ICE in Chicago, Illinois, and at that time, ICE cancelled Petitioner's prior NTA, and ICE "placed [Petitioner] on Alternate To Detention (ATD) monitoring pending his credible fear determination." (Id.; October 6, 2025, Form I-213, ECF No. 10-3, PageID.69.) On October 6, 2025, Petitioner reported for an ICE "check in with ATD," and at that time, Petitioner "was deemed an absconder and was arrested" by ICE.² (October 6, 2025, Form I-213, ECF No. 10-3, PageID.69 (capitalization in original omitted).) ICE issued Petitioner a Form I-862, NTA, charging Petitioner with inadmissibility under 2 Respondents do not explain why Petitioner was "deemed an absconder" when he reported for a scheduled ICE "check in with ATD." (October 6, 2025, Form I-213, ECF No. 10-3, PageID.69 (capitalization in original omitted).) § 212(a)(7)(A)(i)(I) of the INA because Petitioner is "an immigrant who, at the time of application for admission, is not in possession of a valid unexpired [immigration or travel document]." (NTA, ECF No. 10-4, PageID.72.)

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).³

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 3 Additionally, for the same reasons set forth in *Hernandez Montiel v. Raycraft*, No. 1:25-cv-1610, 2026 WL 32076 (W.D. Mich. Jan. 6, 2026), the Court disagrees with Respondents' argument that Petitioner's detention is governed by § 1225 because the NTA charged him as an "arriving alien" (see Resp., ECF No. 10, PageID.50), and the Court concludes that § 1226(a) governs Petitioner's detention. immigration judge, has the right to appeal the denial of any request for bond, and has been detained by ICE for a short period 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 the other named Respondents. The Court concludes that the Detroit ICE 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 Detroit ICE Field Office Director and the United States Secretary 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.⁴ 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: January 13, 2026 /s/ Hala Y. Jarbou

HALA Y. JARBOU

CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

⁴ 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.