

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Macksuel Alves da Silva v. Pamela Bondi et al.

Alves da Silva v. Bondi · No. 25-CV-1220-LJV · Decided January 25, 2026

SUMMARY

The court held that Macksuel Alves da Silva, who had been released after a credible-fear determination and lived in the United States for approximately nine years, was subject to detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1226 rather than mandatory detention under § 1225(b)(1). The court granted his habeas petition and ordered the respondents to provide an individualized bond hearing before an immigration judge within seven calendar days, with the government bearing the burden of proof by clear and convincing evidence. The respondents’ motion to dismiss was denied.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of New York
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Lawrence J. Vilardo
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of New York
DECIDED	January 25, 2026
DOCKET	25-CV-1220-LJV
DISPOSITION	writ_granted
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner sought habeas relief challenging his detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)(A). Respondents moved to dismiss, arguing that petitioner was subject to mandatory detention. The court granted the petition, denied the motion to dismiss, and ordered an individualized bond hearing.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court decision
PARTIES	Macksuel Alves da Silva v. Pamela Bondi et al.

TOPICS

- immigration detention
- immigration
- removal proceedings
- statutory interpretation
- motions to dismiss

PRACTICE AREAS

- immigration law
- habeas corpus
- immigration detention
- statutory interpretation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether a noncitizen who was initially detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)(A), released on bond after a positive credible-fear determination, and allowed to remain in the United States for years is subject to mandatory detention under section 1225 rather than detention under section 1226 when later re-detained.
2. Whether the petitioner was entitled to an individualized bond hearing before an immigration judge.
3. Whether respondents' motion to dismiss should be granted.

HOLDINGS

1. A noncitizen who was released on bond and allowed to remain present in the United States for approximately nine years, and who was never paroled, is detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1226 when later apprehended inside the country, rather than being subject to mandatory detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)(A).
2. Alves da Silva was entitled to an individualized bond hearing before an immigration judge.
3. At the individualized bond hearing, the government must prove by clear and convincing evidence that petitioner is a danger to the community or a flight risk; the immigration judge must consider alternatives to detention and, if setting bond, petitioner's ability to pay.
4. Matter of M-S- did not establish that petitioner was subject to mandatory detention under section 1225 because it did not address a noncitizen who had been allowed to remain present in the United States for years before being re-detained, and the court independently interpreted the governing statutes.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“This Court disagrees.”

“In other words, Alves da Silva was unquestionably “present” and allowed to live in the United States for almost a decade.”

“The government offers no reason why the Court should not reach the same conclusion here: that Alves da Silva is entitled to a bond hearing.”

“the government cannot now “change[] the rules by fiat, appl[y] them retroactively, and pull[] the rug out from [the petitioner].””

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

In October 2016, immigration authorities apprehended Macksuel Alves da Silva in Texas after he had unlawfully entered the United States. Because he was apprehended within 100 miles of the border and within 14 days of entry, he was initially detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)(A), received a positive credible-fear determination, and was released on bond. He lived freely in the United States for nearly nine years before the government re-detained him on November 4, 2025, asserting that section 1225(b)(1)(A) required his mandatory detention. The government conceded that he had never been paroled.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Alves da Silva was initially detained in 2016 under the expedited-removal detention provision after being apprehended near the border and shortly after entering the United States. After a positive credible-fear determination, the government released him on bond, and he remained at liberty in the United States for approximately nine years. The government re-detained him in November 2025 and asserted that he remained subject to mandatory detention under section 1225(b)(1)(A). He filed a habeas petition, and the respondents moved to dismiss.

DISPOSITION

writ_granted

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

Respondents must provide petitioner with an individualized bond hearing before an immigration judge within seven calendar days of the order. The government must prove by clear and convincing evidence that petitioner is a danger to the community or a flight risk. The immigration judge must consider non-bond alternatives to detention and, if setting bond, petitioner's ability to pay. If respondents fail to provide the hearing within seven calendar days, they must immediately release petitioner.

CASES CITED

- *Jennings v. Rodriguez*, 583 U.S. 281, 303 (2018)
- *Campbell v. Almodovar*, 2025 WL 3538351, at *8 (S.D.N.Y. Dec. 10, 2025)
- *Cabrera Martinez v. Marich*, 2025 WL 3771228 (W.D.N.Y. Dec. 31, 2025)
- *Guaman Pinguil v. Rhoney*, No. 25-cv-1507 (W.D.N.Y. Jan. 8, 2026)
- *Department of Homeland Security v. Thuraissigiam*, 591 U.S. 103, 139 (2020)
- *Shaughnessy v. United States ex rel. Mezei*, 345 U.S. 206, 215 (1953)
- *Matter of M-S-*, 27 I&N Dec. 509, 510, 515 (A.G. 2019)
- *Matter of X-K-*, 23 I&N Dec. 731 (B.I.A. 2005)
- *Mata Velasquez v. Kurzdorfer*, 794 F. Supp. 3d 128, 154 (W.D.N.Y. 2025)
- *Loper Bright Enters. v. Raimondo*, 603 U.S. 369, 394 (2024)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK MACKSUEL ALVES DA SILVA, Petitioner, 25-CV-1220-LJV v. DECISION & ORDER PAMELA BONDI et al., Respondents. In October 2016, the petitioner—Macksuel Alves da Silva—was apprehended in Texas as a noncitizen present in the United States unlawfully. Docket Item 1 at ¶ 13; Docket Item 22-1 at 2.

Because he was caught within 100 miles of the border and 14 days of entry, he was detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)(A). See Docket Item 22- 1 at 2. Alves da Silva was given what is known as a “credible fear interview” under section 1225(b)(1) and was found to have a credible fear of

persecution or torture if returned to his native country, Brazil. See *id.* At that point, the government released Alves da Silva on bond and allowed him to live freely in the country for the next nine years—until November 4, 2025—when he was taken back into custody.

See *id.* at 3-4. The government claims that he now is subject to mandatory detention under section 1225(b)(1)(A) as if its decision to release him on bond in 2016 had never happened. This Court disagrees. As the Supreme Court has explained, section “1226 applies to [noncitizens] already present in the United States.” *Jennings v. Rodriguez*, 583 U.S. 281, 303 (2018).

When the respondents re-detained Alves da Silva in 2025, he had been living in the United States for nine years. As the government concedes, he “was never paroled,” see Docket Item 22-1 at 7, and he therefore was not subject to the “entry fiction” of parole, see *Campbell v. Almodovar*, 2025 WL 3538351, at *8 (S.D.N.Y. Dec. 10, 2025).

In other words, Alves da Silva was unquestionably “present” and allowed to live in the United States for almost a decade. This Court previously has held that even noncitizens who remain in the country following expiration of parole are “present” in the country and are therefore detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1226, not section 1225. *Cabrera Martinez v. Marich*, --- F.Supp.3d ---, 2025 WL 3771228 (W.D.N.Y.

Dec. 31, 2025). Alves da Silva’s situation is even more compelling: He was never subject to the “entry fiction” of parole; rather, from the time he entered the country, he was “present” here. Indeed, in another similar case with a petitioner who had initially been detained under section 1225(b)(1)(A) but subsequently was released, the government—while preserving its objection and reserving all rights—conceded that under *Cabrera Martinez*, the petitioner was entitled to a bond hearing.

See Response to Show Cause Order at 1-2, *Guaman Pinguil v. Rhoney*, No. 25-cv- 1507 (W.D.N.Y. Jan. 8, 2026), Docket Item 8; see also Letter at 1, *Guaman Pinguil v. Rhoney*, No. 25-cv-1507 (W.D.N.Y. Jan. 6, 2026), Docket Item 4 (explaining that petitioner “was encountered within 14 days of unlawfully entering the United States and 100 miles of the border, subjecting him to expedited removal under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)(A)(iii)).

The government offers no reason why the Court should not reach the same conclusion here: that Alves da Silva is entitled to a bond hearing. As it did in *Cabrera Martinez*, the government “relies on several cases that stand for the well-established proposition that noncitizens on parole remain legally at the border.” *Cabrera Martinez*, 2025 WL 3771228, at *8 (citing *Dep’t of Homeland Sec. v. Thuraissigiam*, 591 U.S. 103, 139 (2020); *Shaughnessy v. United States ex rel.*

Mezei, 345 U.S. 206, 215 (1953)); see Docket Item 22-1 at 4-6. But those cases do not speak to a situation like this one where, as noted above, the petitioner was “never paroled,” see Docket Item 22-1 at 7, was allowed to live here not on parole, and was detained while in the country rather than

while attempting to re-enter. It is true, as the government observes, that Cabrera Martinez involved section 1225(b)(2) and this case involves section 1225(b)(1).

See Docket Item 22-1 at 7. But that does not change the fact that, like the petitioner in Cabrera Martinez, Alves da Silva was present inside the United States—and had been for years—when he was apprehended. The government offers no reason, nor does this Court see any, why the same logic should not apply here; if anything, as explained above, Alves da Silva has a stronger argument.

The government also relies on a 2019 decision of the Attorney General, *Matter of M-S-*, 27 I&N Dec. 509 (A.G. 2019), which held that noncitizens “who are originally placed in expedited proceedings and then transferred to full proceedings after establishing a credible fear... remain ineligible for bond upon transfer,” *id.* at 515; see Docket Item 22-1 at 5-7.

The Attorney General’s decision in *M-S-* overruled a prior Board of Immigration Appeals decision, *Matter of X-K-*, 23 I&N Dec. 731 (B.I.A. 2005), which held that certain noncitizens in removal proceedings who had received a positive credible fear determination under section 1225 were no longer subject to mandatory detention, see *M-S-*, 27 I&N Dec. at 510. But the government does not explain why notwithstanding the Attorney General’s decision in 2019, it continued to allow Alves da Silva to remain released on bond for more than five years.

As this Court has observed previously, the government cannot now “change[] the rules by fiat, appl[y] them retroactively, and pull[] the rug out from [the petitioner].” See *Mata Velasquez v. Kurzdorfer*, 794 F. Supp. 3d 128, 154 (W.D.N.Y. 2025).

Moreover, *M-S-* does not speak to the situation here where the petitioner was allowed to remain present in the United States for years before being re-detained. And even if it did, this Court “‘must exercise independent judgment in determining the meaning of statutory provisions’ rather than deferring to agency interpretations when provisions are ambiguous.” *Cabrera Martinez*, 2025 WL 3771228, at *12 (quoting *Loper Bright Enters. v. Raimondo*, 603 U.S. 369, 394 (2024)).

Accordingly, for the reasons explained above and in *Cabrera Martinez*, this Court GRANTS the petition, Docket Item 1, and ORDERS the respondents to provide the petitioner with an individualized bond hearing before an immigration judge within seven calendar days of the date of this order. At that hearing, the government shall bear the burden to demonstrate, by clear and convincing evidence, that the petitioner is a danger to the community or a flight risk.

At that bond hearing, the immigration judge must consider non-bond alternatives to detention or, if setting a bond, the petitioner’s ability to pay. If the respondents fail to provide such a hearing within seven calendar days, they shall immediately release the petitioner.

The respondents' motion to dismiss, Docket Item 22, is DENIED. SO ORDERED. Dated: January 25, 2026 Buffalo, New York /s/ Lawrence J. Vilardo LAWRENCE J. VILARDO UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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