

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
FLORIDA

Yerald Fransico Loasiga-Obando v. Kristi Noem

Loasiga-Obando · No. 26-cv-20981-BLOOM · Decided May 20, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida partially granted a 28 U.S.C. § 2241 petition challenging the immigration detention of a Nicaraguan national who entered the United States without inspection and was detained years later in the interior. Applying Eleventh Circuit precedent, the court held that 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A) did not authorize mandatory detention and that the petitioner was entitled to a bond hearing under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a). Respondents were ordered either to provide a bond hearing within seven days or release the petitioner under reasonable supervision conditions.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida
DECIDED	May 20, 2026
DOCKET	26-cv-20981-BLOOM
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 challenging immigration detention and seeking a bond hearing.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court reviewed the legality of Petitioner’s detention under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 and considered de novo whether the cited immigration detention statutes authorized detention without a bond hearing.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	district court opinion; precedential status not stated
PARTIES	Yerald Fransico Loasiga-Obando v. Kristi Noem, Secretary of DHS, Pam Bondi, U.S. Attorney General, Todd Lyons, Acting Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Garrett Ripa, Field Office Director, Miami Office of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Warden, Miami Federal Detention Center

TOPICS

immigration detention

removal proceedings

statutory interpretation

exhaustion of remedies

administrative law

PRACTICE AREAS

immigration law

immigration detention

habeas corpus

administrative law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether 8 U.S.C. § 1252(g) deprived the district court of jurisdiction to review Petitioner's challenge to the statutory basis for his immigration detention.
2. Whether prudential exhaustion of administrative remedies should be excused where an appeal to the Board of Immigration Appeals would be futile.
3. Whether a noncitizen who entered the United States without inspection years earlier and was later detained in the interior is subject to mandatory detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A), or instead is detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) and entitled to a bond hearing.
4. Whether the court needed to separately resolve Petitioner's Fifth Amendment due process arguments after ordering a bond hearing under § 1226(a).

HOLDINGS

1. Section 1252(g) does not deprive the district court of jurisdiction to review a challenge to the underlying statutory basis for immigration detention under §§ 1225(b)(2)(A) and 1226(a), rather than a challenge to the discretionary execution of removal proceedings.
2. Prudential exhaustion was excused because an administrative appeal would be futile in light of the Board of Immigration Appeals' interpretation in *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*.
3. A noncitizen who entered the United States without inspection years earlier, was later discovered or detained in the interior, and was not seeking lawful entry is not subject to mandatory detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A). Such a person is detained under § 1226(a) and is entitled to a bond hearing.
4. Because Petitioner was detained in violation of federal law, the court granted habeas relief in part and required Respondents either to provide a bond hearing under § 1226(a) or release Petitioner under reasonable conditions of supervision.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“if he (1) is arriving in the United States or is present in the United States without having been granted lawful entry; (2) is seeking lawful entry after inspection and authorization by an immigration officer; and (3) is not clearly and beyond a doubt entitled to lawful entry, as determined by the examining immigration officer.” (at 19-20)

“were not applying for entry in any literal sense when they were detained following a traffic stop[.]” (at 20)

“Simply put, the language that Congress has chosen to use does not grant to the Executive unfettered authority to detain, without the possibility of bond, every unadmitted alien present in the country.” (at 56)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Petitioner is a 43-year-old native and citizen of Nicaragua who entered the United States without inspection in 2008 and remained in the country thereafter. ICE detained him on November 22, 2025, following an argument with his spouse. After detention, he sought a bond hearing, but the immigration judge found no jurisdiction to consider the request. The district court concluded that Petitioner was detained in the interior and was not seeking admission, so mandatory detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A) did not apply.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Petitioner was detained by ICE and requested a bond hearing before an immigration judge. The immigration judge concluded that the immigration court lacked jurisdiction to hear the bond request. Petitioner then filed this § 2241 habeas petition; Respondents filed a response. The district court granted the petition in part and denied it in part, ordering a bond hearing or release.

DISPOSITION

other

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

Within seven days, Respondents must either provide Petitioner with a bond hearing before an immigration judge consistent with § 1226(a), with the Government bearing the burden of proving dangerousness or flight risk by clear and convincing evidence, or release Petitioner under reasonable conditions of supervision. Respondents must file a status report within 24 hours after the hearing and are enjoined from denying bond on the ground that detention is authorized by § 1225(b)(2).

CASES CITED

- *Munaf v. Geren*, 553 U.S. 674, 693 (2008)
- *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 687 (2001)
- *Barrios v. Ripa*, No. 25-cv-22644, 2025 WL 2280485, at *4 (S.D. Fla. Aug. 8, 2025)
- *Madu v. U.S. Atty. Gen.*, 470 F.3d 1362, 1368 (11th Cir. 2006)
- *Merino v. Ripa*, No. 25-cv-23845, 2025 WL 2941609, at *3 (S.D. Fla. Oct. 15, 2025)
- *Kemokai v. U.S. Att'y Gen.*, 83 F.4th 886, 891 (11th Cir. 2023)
- *Santos-Zacaria v. Garland*, 598 U.S. 411, 413 (2023)
- *Linfors v. United States*, 673 F.2d 332, 334 (11th Cir. 1982)
- *Von Hoffberg v. Alexander*, 615 F.2d 633, 638 (5th Cir. 1980)
- *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I&N Dec. 216, 220 (BIA 2025)
- *Puga v. Assistant Field Dir., Krome N. Serv. Processing Ctr.*, No. 25-24535, 2025 WL 2938369, at *2 (S.D. Fla. Oct. 15, 2025)
- *Fidencio Alvarez v. Warden, Fed. Det. Ctr. Miami, et al.*, No. 25-14065, slip op. (11th Cir. May 6, 2026)
- *Huerta-Lopez v. Miami Ice Field Office Director, et al.*, No. 26-cv-20165 (S.D. Fla. Mar. 23, 2026)

- Perez v. Parra, No. 1:25-cv-24820-KMW, Dkt. No. 9 at 6-10 (S.D. Fla. Oct. 27, 2025)
- Barbosa Da Cunha v. Freden, No. 25-3141-pr, slip op. at 2-3 (2d Cir. Apr. 28, 2026)
- Buenrostro-Mendez v. Bondi, 166 F.4th 494 (5th Cir. 2026)
- Avila v. Bondi, 170 F.4th 1128 (8th Cir. 2026)

OPINION

Loasiga-Obando

PER CURIAM.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Case No. 26-cv-20981-BLOOM

YERALD FRANSICO LOASIGA-OBANDO,

Petitioner, v. KRISTI NOEM, Secretary of DHS; PAM BONDI, U.S. Attorney General; TODD LYONS, Acting Director Immigrations and Customs Enforcement; GARRETT RIPA, Field Office Director Miami Office of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; WARDEN, Miami Federal Detention Center, Respondents.

ORDER ON PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS

THIS CAUSE is before the Court upon Petitioner Yerald Fransico Loasiga-Obando's ("Petitioner") Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus ("Petition") under 28 U.S.C. § 2241, alleging that he has been unlawfully detained in Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") custody. ECF No. [1]. Respondents timely filed a Response, ECF No. [5]. The Court has considered the Petition, the Response, the record in this case, applicable law, and is otherwise fully advised. For the reasons set forth below, the Petition is granted in part and denied in part.

I. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Petitioner is a 43-year-old native and citizen of Nicaragua. ECF No. [1] ¶ 1. Petitioner entered the United States in 2008 without inspection and has lived in the United States ever since. *Id.* On November 22, 2025, Petitioner was detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") following an argument with his spouse. *Id.* ¶ 2. After his detention, Petitioner requested a bond hearing before the Immigration Court, and the Immigration Judge found he did not have jurisdiction to hear the bond request. *Id.* ¶ 3. Petitioner is currently being held at the Miami Federal Detention Center. *Id.* ¶ 2. Petitioner argues that because he entered the United States without inspection in 2008, he is covered by 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) and not subject to mandatory detention under § 1225(b)(2)(A). *Id.* ¶ 36. Petitioner argues his continued detention without an individualized bond hearing violates the Fifth Amendment Due Process Clause, 28 U.S.C. § 1361, and the Administrative Procedures Act. See generally ECF No. [1]. Respondents respond that Petitioner is an applicant for admission subject to detention pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A) and 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) is inapplicable. ECF No. [5] at 3. Respondents further contend that

Petitioner has failed to exhaust his administrative remedies and that 8 U.S.C. § 1252(g) bars review of Petitioner's claims. *Id.* at 10-11.

II. LEGAL STANDARD

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241(a), district courts have the authority to grant writs of habeas corpus. Habeas corpus is fundamentally “a remedy for unlawful executive detention.” *Munaf v. Geren*, 553 U.S. 674, 693 (2008) (citation omitted). A writ may be issued to a petitioner who demonstrates that he is being held in custody in violation of the Constitution or federal law. See 28 U.S.C. § 2241(c)(3). The Court's jurisdiction extends to challenges involving immigration detention. See *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 687 (2001).

III. DISCUSSION

A. Jurisdiction As a preliminary matter, the Court finds that it has jurisdiction to review the Petition. While federal district courts still generally retain jurisdiction to review immigration detention claims, in enacting 8 U.S.C. § 1252, Congress has curtailed district court's subject matter jurisdiction over certain immigration actions. Section 1252 strips district court review of certain factual or legal issues concerning specific discretionary decisions related to immigration removal proceedings. Section 1252 has also consolidated review of certain immigration actions in the court of appeals. Relevant here, § 1252(g) strips federal district courts of jurisdiction where the petitioner's claims challenge or arise from (1) the commencement of removal proceedings, (2) the adjudication of cases, and (3) the execution of final removal orders. See *Barrios v. Ripa*, No. 25-cv-22644, 2025 WL 2280485, at *4 (S.D. Fla. Aug. 8, 2025) (citing 8 U.S.C. § 1252(g)). While § 1252(g) “bars courts from reviewing certain exercises of discretion by the attorney general, it does not proscribe substantive review of the underlying legal basis for those discretionary decisions and actions.” *Madu v. U.S. Atty. Gen.*, 470 F.3d 1362, 1368 (11th Cir. 2006). Whether § 1252(g) strips this Court of jurisdiction depends on the nature of Petitioner's challenge to his detention. Where Respondents argue Petitioner is detained pursuant to § 1225(b)(2) and Petitioner invokes § 1226(a), Petitioner challenges the underlying statutory basis for his detention pending removal proceedings, which district courts have jurisdiction to hear. See e.g., *Merino v. Ripa*, No. 25-cv-23845, 2025 WL 2941609, at *3 (S.D. Fla. Oct. 15, 2025) (finding the court has jurisdiction to hear challenges to ongoing detention pending removal proceedings on the basis of § 1226(a) and § 1225(b) arguments). Thus, this Court has jurisdiction to determine the underlying statutory basis for Petitioner's detention.

B. Exhaustion of Administrative Remedies Respondents also argue that the Petition should be dismissed because Petitioner has failed to exhaust available administrative remedies and has not shown administrative review would be futile. ECF No. [5] at 10. The exhaustion requirement under 8 U.S.C. § 1252(d)(1) “is not jurisdictional,” but rather prudential. *Kemokai v. U.S. Att'y Gen.*, 83 F.4th 886, 891 (11th Cir. 2023) (acknowledging the abrogation of prior Eleventh Circuit precedent interpreting § 1252(d)(1) as a jurisdictional bar by *Santos-Zacaria v. Garland*, 598 U.S. 411, 413 (2023)). As a result, administrative “exhaustion is not required where no genuine opportunity for adequate relief exists . . . or an administrative appeal would be

futile.” *Linfors v. United States*, 673 F.2d 332, 334 (11th Cir. 1982) (citing *Von Hoffberg v. Alexander*, 615 F.2d 633, 638 (5th Cir. 1980)). In *Yajure Hurtado*, the Board of Immigration Appeals (“BIA”) concluded that “aliens who are present in the United States without admission are applicants for admission under . . . 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A), and must be detained for the duration of their removal proceedings.” 29 I&N Dec. 216, 220 (BIA 2025). Courts have concluded that because of *Yajure Hurtado*, any appeal to the BIA is essentially futile. See, e.g., *Puga v. Assistant Field Dir., Krome N. Serv. Processing Ctr.*, No. 25-24535, 2025 WL 2938369, at *2 (S.D. Fla. Oct. 15, 2025) (“Since the result of Petitioner’s custody redetermination and any subsequent bond appeal to the BIA is nearly a foregone conclusion under *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, any prudential exhaustion requirements are excused for futility.”). The Court therefore excuses exhaustion.

C. Detention Pending Removal Proceedings Petitioner asserts that he is entitled to a bond hearing under § 1226(a). ECF No. [1] ¶ 39. The Eleventh Circuit recently issued a binding opinion regarding the interpretation of § 1225 and § 1226. See *Fidencio Alvarez v. Warden, Fed. Det. Ctr. Miami, et al.*, No. 25-14065, slip op. (11th Cir. May 6, 2026). The Eleventh Circuit upheld the district court’s ruling that the petitioners, who entered the United States without inspection, were apprehended in the interior of the country years later, and had either no or minimal, traffic-related criminal histories, were entitled to a bond hearing under § 1226(a), despite the Government’s position that the petitioners were properly held without bond under § 1225(b)(2). See *id.* at 4, 8-9. Consistent with this Court’s prior rulings and the rulings of numerous other courts,¹ the Eleventh Circuit rejected Respondents’ “re- 1 The vast majority of courts, including this Court, have adopted reasoning similar to the Eleventh Circuit’s decision. See e.g., *Order Granting Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus* at 10, *Huerta-Lopez v. Miami Ice Field Office Director, et al.*, No. 26-cv-20165 (S.D. Fla. Mar. 23, 2026), Dkt. No. 8 (finding that the petitioner, who was appended approximately eight years after he entered the United States, was detained interpretation” of the Immigration and Nationality Act (“INA”) that foreign nationals already in the country are under the purview of § 1225(b)’s mandatory detention. *Id.* at 4. The Eleventh Circuit explained that an “applicant for admission” is a term of art that “‘deems’ an alien to be an applicant merely by arriving or being present in the United States without having been admitted.” *Id.* at 16. Conversely, an applicant for admission who is “seeking admission” is someone in “pursuit of ‘lawful entry . . . after inspection and authorization by an immigration officer[.]” *Id.* at 19. Thus, someone is properly detained pending removal proceedings under § 1225(b)(2)(A), “if he (1) is arriving in the United States or is present in the United States without having been granted lawful entry; (2) is seeking lawful entry after inspection and authorization by an immigration officer; and (3) is not clearly and beyond a doubt entitled to lawful entry, as determined by the examining immigration officer.” *Id.* at 19-20 (citing § 1225(b)(2)(A)). The Eleventh Circuit explained that petitioners satisfy the first condition because they were “discovered in the interior but were never granted lawful entry;” however, they do not meet the second requirement because they “were not applying for entry in any literal sense when they were

detained following a traffic stop[.]” *Id.* at 20. Thus, § 1225(b)(2)(A) does not apply. *Id.* In upholding the district court’s grant of a bond hearing pursuant to § 1226(a), the Eleventh Circuit concluded, “Simply put, the language that Congress has chosen to use does not grant to the Executive unfettered authority to detain, without the possibility of bond, every unadmitted alien present in the country. . . . [I]t appears to pursuant to the authority of 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) and was entitled to a bond hearing before an immigration judge); see also *Perez v. Parra*, No. 1:25-cv-24820-KMW, Dkt. No. 9 at 6-10 (S.D. Fla. Oct. 27, 2025) (collecting “countless” cases). The Second Circuit recently issued a decision similarly disagreeing with the Government’s interpretation. See *Barbosa Da Cunha v. Freden*, No. 25-3141-pr, slip op. at 2-3 (2d Cir. Apr. 28, 2026) (finding that “[§] 1225(b)(2)(A) does not apply to noncitizens, such as Petitioner, who are present in the United States after entering the country without inspection and admission and who were not apprehended at or near the border at the time of entry.”). Only the Fifth and Eighth Circuits have agreed with the Government’s interpretation of the statute. See *Buenrostro-Mendez v. Bondi*, 166 F.4th 494 (5th Cir. 2026); *Avila v. Bondi*, 170 F.4th 1128 (8th Cir. 2026). us that Congress has instead preserved the longstanding border-interior distinction for purposes of detention, a position it has taken for over a hundred years.” *Id.* at 56. There exist no material distinctions between Petitioner here and the petitioners in *Fidencio Alvarez*. Petitioner entered the United States without inspection in 2008. ECF No. [1] ¶ 1. Petitioner was detained by ICE officials following an argument with his spouse. *Id.* ¶ 2. By the Eleventh Circuit’s binding reasoning, Petitioner was not seeking admission. Therefore, this Court applies the Eleventh Circuit’s decision in *Fidencio Alvarez* to conclude that Petitioner is, as a matter of statutory interpretation, not lawfully held under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2). Accordingly, the Court finds that Petitioner is detained in violation of the laws of the United States pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 2241. Furthermore, the Court finds that Petitioner is detained pursuant to the authority of 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) and is entitled to a bond hearing. Because the Court grants Petitioner’s request for a bond hearing to determine whether there is evidence of dangerousness or risk of flight to justify his continued detention, the Court does not separately address his due process arguments.

IV. CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is ORDERED AND ADJUDGED as follows:

1. Petitioner’s Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus, ECF No. [1], is GRANTED, in part and DENIED in part.
2. Within seven (7) days of the date of this Order, Respondents must either: (1) provide Petitioner with a bond hearing before an immigration judge consistent with 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), at which the Government shall bear the burden of justifying his continued detention by clear and convincing evidence of dangerousness or risk of flight; or (2) release Petitioner from custody, under reasonable conditions of supervision. Case No. 26-cv-22699-BLOOM
3. Respondents are enjoined from denying bond to Petitioner on the basis that he is detained pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2).

4. Respondents must, within 24 hours of the bond hearing, file a status report indicating the outcome of the bond hearing and, if release on bond is denied, the reason(s) for the denial.
 5. The Clerk of Court shall CLOSE this case.
 6. To the extent not otherwise disposed of, any scheduled hearings are CANCELED, all pending motions are DENIED AS MOOT, and all deadlines are TERMINATED. DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Miami, Florida, on May 19, 2026.
- UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
- Copies to: Counsel of record