

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF
INDIANA

Selioutsky v. English

No. 3:26cv307 DRL-SJF · No. No. 3:26cv307 DRL-SJF · Decided May 4, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana grants Boris Selioutsky’s petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. Applying *Zadvydas v. Davis*, the court concludes that the government failed to show a significant likelihood that his removal to Russia would occur in the reasonably foreseeable future. The court orders his release under the conditions of supervised release that existed before his re-detention.

OPINION

Selioutsky

PER CURIAM.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

SOUTH BEND DIVISION

BORIS SELIOUTSKY,

Petitioner, v. CAUSE NO. 3:26cv307 DRL-SJF

BRYAN ENGLISH,

Respondent.

OPINION AND ORDER

Immigration detainee Boris Selioutsky filed a pro se petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241, alleging that he is unlawfully confined in violation of the laws or Constitution of the United States. The respondent answered the petition, and Mr. Selioutsky has filed a reply. The petition is ready to be decided. Mr. Selioutsky entered the United States in 1991 from the Soviet Union. According to Mr. Selioutsky, he became a stateless citizen once the Soviet Union collapsed, but the government says he is a Russian citizen. In 2004, Mr. Selioutsky was convicted of a federal crime. On October 11, 2006, an immigration judge ordered him removed. On July 13, 2007, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) released him on an order of supervision “due to the [Agency’s] inability to obtain a travel document.” According to ICE records, the “Agency [continued to make] numerous attempts to obtain a travel document since [Mr. Selioutsky’s] release from custody, all to no avail.” In 2008, ICE also detained him but released him again on an order of supervision. On October 10, 2025, ICE detained him a third time, and he is currently held at the Miami Correctional Facility. On April 1, 2026, the respondent

represented that it was unlikely that Mr. Selioutsky would be removed within the next 30 days. On April 6, 2026, the respondent represented that the government was currently working to obtain travel documents to remove Mr. Selioutsky to Russia. The respondent first argues that the court lacks subject matter jurisdiction over Mr. Selioutsky's habeas petition under 8 U.S.C. § 1252(g) and § 1252(b)(9). The court has thoroughly considered its jurisdiction to review post-removal-order immigration detention. Jurisdiction is secure insofar as this opinion goes. See *Liang v. English*, No. 3:25cv1052, 2026 WL 835853, 1 (N.D. Ind. Mar. 26, 2026) (Leichty, J.). Turning to the merits, 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)(6) gives the government the authority to detain a noncitizen while it effectuates a removal order. All noncitizens must be detained for a 90-day "removal period," which for Mr. Selioutsky ended 19 years ago. See 8 U.S.C. §§ 231(a)(1)(A), (a)(2)(A). Beyond this 90-day period, certain classes of noncitizens may be detained even longer—what the statute calls inadmissible aliens (under 8 U.S.C. § 1182), those who have violated their nonimmigrant status conditions (under 8 U.S.C. § 1227(a)(1)(C)), those who have committed certain crimes, such as aggravated felonies, drug trafficking, or illegal firearm offenses (under 8 U.S.C. § 1227(a)(2)), those removable for national security or foreign relations reasons (under 8 U.S.C. § 1227(a)(4)), and those whom the Attorney General determines to be a risk to the community or unlikely to comply with the order of removal. These noncitizens "may be detained beyond the removal period" or released on conditions of supervision. 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)(6).¹ Given his criminal conviction, Mr. Selioutsky's detention years ago was authorized by § 1231(a)(6). The Warden likewise relies on this same statute as the basis for his current detention. "The distinction between an alien who has effected an entry into the United States and one who has never entered runs throughout immigration law," and "once an alien enters the country, the legal circumstance changes, for the Due Process Clause applies to all 'persons' within the United States, including aliens, whether their presence here is lawful, unlawful, temporary, or permanent." *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 693 (2001). To avoid a constitutional due process problem with § 1231(a)(6), and specific to a noncitizen who is present within this country and who is ordered removed, the law requires that his detention be limited to a reasonable time—namely "a period reasonably necessary to bring about that alien's removal from the United States." *Id.* at 689; see also *id.* at 682, 690-91. Any § 1231(a)(6) detention of a present-but-ordered-removed noncitizen has this limitation, as it guards against the possibility that he might be indefinitely detained should his removal not be reasonably achievable. His indefinite detention would raise a serious constitutional problem. *Id.* at 690; see also *Clark v. Suarez Martinez*, 543 U.S. 371, 378 (2005) (same). In short, "once removal is no longer reasonably foreseeable, continued detention is no longer authorized by statute." *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 699. ¹ For noncitizens who don't fall in these categories, if they are not removed during the 90-day removal period, they must be released, subject to conditions of supervision. 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)(3). The historic writ of habeas corpus grants a federal court the authority to review a noncitizen's detention and to decide independently whether "a set of particular circumstances amounts to detention within, or beyond, a period reasonably necessary to

secure removal.” *Id.*; see also 28 U.S.C. § 2241(c)(3). “In answering that basic question, the habeas court must ask whether detention exceeds a period reasonably necessary to secure removal” and “should measure reasonableness primarily in terms of the statute’s basic purpose, namely assuring the alien’s presence at the moment of removal.” *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 699. When removal proves reasonably foreseeable, the court can consider other factors (such as risk of crime) and often will deny habeas relief; whereas, when removal seems attenuated or unlikely, the court will order the individual’s release, albeit conditioned on appropriate terms of supervision and the noncitizen’s compliance with these terms. See *id.* at 699-700. After all, the choice isn’t between detention and a noncitizen “living at large,” but between detention and a noncitizen’s supervised release on conditions that he cannot violate. *Id.* at 696. The law materially defers these difficult judgments to the Executive Branch for a six-month period during which detention is considered presumptively reasonable to execute a removal order. *Id.* at 700-01. Even thereafter, the court listens with care when the government’s “foreign policy judgments”—such as the status of repatriation negotiations—are implicated and otherwise affords “appropriate leeway when its judgments rest upon foreign policy expertise.” *Id.* at 700. A noncitizen “may be held in confinement until it has been determined that there is no significant likelihood of removal in the reasonably foreseeable future.” *Id.* at 701. But “once [he] provides good reason to believe that there is no significant likelihood of removal in the reasonably foreseeable future, the government must respond with evidence sufficient to rebut that showing.” *Id.* (cleaned up); see also *Suarez Martinez*, 543 U.S. at 385-86. The petitioner bears the initial burden, and the court sees no reason today to alter this. See 28 U.S.C. § 2241; *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 700; see also *Skaftouros v. United States*, 667 F.3d 144, 158 (2d Cir. 2011); *Espinoza v. Sabol*, 558 F.3d 83, 89 (1st Cir. 2009). Nor must the court engage the same constitutional dilemma that § 1231(a)(6) could present merely because this is another period of detention and not his first. See *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 690. The court may consider not just what led to his detention and release before, both years ago, to the extent still pertinent, but also what circumstances newly exist today. Despite the old adage, past isn’t always prologue in this context, and just because removal couldn’t occur before doesn’t mean it can’t reasonably occur today under renewed efforts. At the same time, nothing in § 1231(a)(6) and nothing in *Zadvydas* suggests that the mere passage of time erases everything about the initial showing to make it all irrelevant. See also *Vu v. English*, No. 3:25cv999, 2026 WL 194171, 11-14 (N.D. Ind. Jan. 26, 2026) (Leichty, J.); cf. *Kem v. Noem*, No. 3:25cv997, 2026 WL 100566, 10-11 (N.D. Ind. Jan. 14, 2026) (Leichty, J.).² After all, as the period of confinement grows, what qualifies as a reasonably foreseeable future conversely must shrink. *Id.* at 701. Because Mr. Selioutsky has been in detention for longer than six months, the court turns to whether his removal is reasonably foreseeable. To start, the respondent identifies 2 No one should read either *Vu* or *Kem* as indicating that an original showing always remains gospel or shifting the burden. Russia as the only country under consideration for removal. In 2006-07, the government released Mr. Selioutsky on an order of supervision because it could not obtain travel documents

from Russia. Following this release, the government made further unsuccessful attempts to obtain travel documents from Russia. His most recent term of detention now spans six months with no indication of any government efforts to obtain travel documents from Russia, and Mr. Selioutsky suggests he is not a Russian citizen. The court finds that Mr. Selioutsky has met his preliminary burden of showing good reason to believe that there is no significant likelihood of his removal to Russia in the reasonably foreseeable future. To rebut this showing, the respondent represents that the government is currently working to obtain travel documents from Russia. This vague representation doesn't demonstrate that Mr. Selioutsky's removal is likely to occur within the reasonably foreseeable future. It does not explain why efforts to remove Mr. Selioutsky will be successful now when the government could not remove him after multiple attempts from 2006 to 2008 and given his disputed citizenship status. It also does not adequately explain why travel documents have not yet been obtained after six months of detention. It does not suggest that the government has submitted a formal request for travel documents, nor does it suggest that the government is in the process of preparing a formal request or any basis for the delay in submitting such a request. It does not provide any insight as to when Russia might reach a decision once a formal request has been submitted or the likelihood that Russia will issue travel documents. In short, the government has not shown a likelihood of Mr. Selioutsky's removal in the reasonably foreseeable future. Therefore, the respondent must release Mr. Selioutsky under *Zadvydas*. Efforts to remove him may continue while he returns to supervision, on the same conditions as his last release. For these reasons, the court:

- (1) GRANTS the petition for writ of habeas corpus [1] and ORDERS the respondent to release Boris Selioutsky on the same conditions of supervised release that existed before his re-detention and to certify compliance with this order by filing a notice with the court by May 6, 2026;
- (2) DIRECTS the clerk to email a copy of this order to the Warden of the Miami Correctional Facility at the Indiana Department of Correction to secure his release; and
- (3) ORDERS that any fee petition should be filed within the deadlines set by the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412. SO ORDERED. May 4, 2026 s/ Damon R. Leichty
Judge, United States District Court