

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

Baljinder Singh v. Pamela Bondi, Attorney General of the United States; Kristi Noem, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security; Mary De Anda-Ybarra, El Paso Field Office Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Todd Lyons, Acting Director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and Warden, Torrance County Detention Facility

Baljinder Singh v. Pamela Bondi, et al., No. 1:26-cv-0541 KG/GBW (D.N.M. Feb. 25, 2026) · No. No. 1:26-cv-0541 KG/GBW · Decided February 25, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of New Mexico grants Baljinder Singh’s motion to proceed in forma pauperis in his 28 U.S.C. § 2241 habeas petition challenging immigration detention. The court orders the United States Attorney’s Office to answer within ten business days and adds federal immigration officials as respondents.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of New Mexico
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Kenneth J. Gonzales
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of New Mexico
DECIDED	February 25, 2026
DOCKET	No. 1:26-cv-0541 KG/GBW
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner filed a pro se petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 challenging his immigration detention and separately moved to proceed in forma pauperis. On initial review, the court found a colorable claim, granted in forma pauperis status, added proper respondent parties, and ordered the United States Attorney's Office to answer.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Initial review under Habeas Rules 1(b) and 4 to determine whether the petition states a colorable claim warranting an answer.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court order

TOPICS

immigration detention

federal habeas corpus

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PRACTICE AREAS

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Singh should be permitted to proceed without prepaying the habeas filing fee under 28 U.S.C. § 1915.
2. Whether the allegations in Singh's § 2241 petition raised a colorable claim concerning his immigration detention sufficient to require the respondents to answer.
3. Whether the proper government officials and facility warden should be added as respondents in the immigration-detention habeas proceeding.

HOLDINGS

1. The court granted Singh leave to proceed in forma pauperis because he appeared unable to prepay the \$5 habeas filing fee.
2. The petition raised a colorable claim for relief, and the United States Attorney's Office was required to answer and show cause why the requested relief should not be granted.
3. The court added the Attorney General, Secretary of Homeland Security, relevant ICE officials, and the warden as additional respondents.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Singh alleged that ICE detained him on January 10, 2026, without a warrant or explanation. He stated that his asylum and removal proceedings were pending and that he had not received a bond hearing or custody redetermination. He also alleged serious medical conditions and inadequate medical treatment, and asserted that he had valid employment authorization, a Social Security number, and complied with United States laws.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Baljinder Singh filed a § 2241 habeas petition on February 24, 2026, alleging unlawful immigration detention and seeking release. The court granted his motion to proceed in forma pauperis, determined that the petition raised a colorable claim for relief, electronically served the federal respondents, and ordered the United States Attorney's Office to respond within ten business days.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Lowmaster v. Dir., Bureau of Prisons, 2024 WL 5135970, at *1 (D. Kan. Dec. 17, 2024)
- Danderson v. Page, 2024 WL 3913051, at *2 (E.D. Okla. Aug. 20, 2024)
- Garcia Sanchez v. Noem, et al., 25-cv-1219 KG/JFR
- Pu Sacvin v. De Anda-Ybarra, 2025 WL 3187432, at *3 (D.N.M.)
- Danierov v. Noem, 2026 WL 45288, at *2 (D.N.M.)

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