

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF
FLORIDA, FORT MYERS DIVISION

Rogelio Bolufe Izquierdo v. Warden, Alligator Alcatraz

Bolufe Izquierdo · No. 2:26-cv-35-KCD-NPM · Decided February 23, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida denied Rogelio Bolufe Izquierdo’s emergency motion for injunctive relief against the Warden of Alligator Alcatraz. The court held that the requested injunction was an unenforceable general command to obey the law and that Plaintiff had not shown a likelihood of imminent irreparable harm from retaliation or evidence preservation failures.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Fort Myers Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Kyle C. Dudek
JURISDICTION	United States District Court, Middle District of Florida, Fort Myers Division
DECIDED	February 23, 2026
DOCKET	2:26-cv-35-KCD-NPM
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff, a civil immigration detainee, moved for emergency injunctive relief to prevent alleged retaliation against him or his witnesses and to require preservation of evidence. The district court denied the motion.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	A preliminary or emergency injunction requires a showing that irreparable harm is likely in the absence of relief; injunctions must also comply with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d)'s specificity requirements.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unknown
PARTIES	Rogelio Bolufe Izquierdo v. Warden, Alligator Alcatraz

TOPICS

injunctions

immigration detention

civil rights

civil procedure

remedies

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

immigration

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remedies

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the requested injunction satisfied Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d)'s requirement that an injunction specifically state its terms and describe in reasonable detail the acts restrained or required.
2. Whether Plaintiff demonstrated a likelihood of irreparable harm sufficient to warrant emergency injunctive relief.

HOLDINGS

1. An injunction that merely commands a defendant to obey the law, without identifying specific acts to be restrained or required, is impermissibly broad and unenforceable under Rule 65(d).
2. Emergency injunctive relief is unavailable absent a concrete showing that irreparable harm is likely in the absence of an injunction; speculative or merely possible future harm is insufficient.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d), an injunction must “state its terms specifically” and “describe in reasonable detail . . . the act or acts restrained or required.””

“Without a concrete showing that irreparable harm is likely, rather than merely possible or speculative, the Court cannot grant this extraordinary relief.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff, a civil immigration detainee, alleged severe abuse, coercive confinement, and psychological mistreatment amounting to torture at the Alligator Alcatraz detention facility. He sought an emergency injunction barring retaliation against him or his witnesses and requiring preservation of relevant evidence. He offered no specific facts or evidence showing that retaliation was planned, impending, or otherwise likely.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Rogelio Bolufe Izquierdo filed a civil action alleging abuse, coercive confinement, and psychological mistreatment at the Alligator Alcatraz detention facility. He then filed an emergency motion for an injunction. The Middle District of Florida denied the motion because the requested relief was impermissibly broad and because Plaintiff failed to show that future irreparable harm was likely.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- SEC v. Goble, 682 F.3d 934, 949 (11th Cir. 2012)
- Burton v. City of Belle Glade, 178 F.3d 1175, 1201 (11th Cir. 1999)
- Winter v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., 555 U.S. 7, 22 (2008)
- City of Los Angeles v. Lyons, 461 U.S. 95, 102 (1983)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA FORT MYERS DIVISION ROGELIO BOLUFE IZQUIERDO, Plaintiff, Case No. 2:26-cv-35-KCD-NPM v. WARDEN, ALLIGATOR ALCATRAZ, Defendant, / ORDER Plaintiff Rogelio Bolufe Izquierdo, a civil immigration detainee, paints a grim picture of his time at the detention facility known as Alligator Alcatraz. He alleges severe abuse, coercive confinement, and psychological mistreatment that amounted to torture.

(Doc. 1 at 1.)¹ Based on these allegations, Plaintiff seeks an emergency injunction to prevent Defendant from retaliating against him or his witnesses and to force the facility to preserve evidence. (Doc. 3.) The Court takes allegations of unconstitutional conditions seriously. But Plaintiff’s motion for emergency injunctive relief must be denied.

The relief he seeks is simply not the kind a federal court can grant at this stage, ¹ Unless otherwise indicated, all internal quotation marks, citations, case history, and alterations have been omitted in this and later citations. and even if it were, he has not shown that an emergency injunction is actually necessary here. There are two fundamental problems with his request.

First, consider the exact nature of the relief sought. Plaintiff asks the Court to “[e]njoin Defendants from retaliating against [him] or witnesses” and preserve any relevant evidence. (Doc. 3 at 3.) In essence, he is asking Defendant to obey the law. But that is not how injunctions work.

Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d), an injunction must “state its terms specifically” and “describe in reasonable detail... the act or acts restrained or required.” *Id.* As the Eleventh Circuit has repeatedly explained, broad “obey the law” injunctions are unenforceable because they lack the required specificity and merely instruct a defendant to do what the law already requires.

SEC v. Goble, 682 F.3d 939, 949 (11th Cir. 2012); see also *Burton v. City of Belle Glade*, 178 F.3d 1175, 1201 (11th Cir. 1999). An injunction is a precise tool designed to stop specific harms. It is not a generalized reminder to follow the Constitution.

Second, an injunction is a forward-looking remedy meant to prevent irreparable harm. To get one, a plaintiff must show that such harm is “likely in the absence of an injunction.” *Winter v. Nat. Res. Def. Council, Inc.*, 555 U.S. 7, 22 (2008).

The Supreme Court has long held that a plaintiff's past exposure to illegal conduct does not establish a present case or controversy for injunctive relief if it is unaccompanied by any continuing, present adverse effects. *City of Los Angeles v. Lyons*, 461 U.S. 95, 102 (1983). Plaintiff asks the Court to stop Defendant from retaliating against him or his witnesses.

Yet he provides no specific facts or evidence to suggest that any such retaliation is actually being planned or is in any way impending. Without a concrete showing that irreparable harm is likely, rather than merely possible or speculative, the Court cannot grant this extraordinary relief. Federal law already imposes strict duties on parties to preserve relevant evidence and to refrain from retaliating against a claimant.

A specific court order duplicating these baseline duties is unnecessary absent a concrete showing of future harm. Plaintiff has provided no evidence or specific argument suggesting Defendant is skirting such obligations here.

Accordingly, Plaintiff's emergency motion for injunctive relief (Doc. 3) is DENIED. ORDERED in Fort Myers, Florida on February 23, 2026. Kyle C. Dudek United States District Judge