

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

J.G.G. v. Trump

J.G.G. · No. Civil Action No. 25-766 (JEB) · Decided February 12, 2026

SUMMARY

The District Court for the District of Columbia addresses remedies for Venezuelan nationals who were deported to El Salvador under the Alien Enemies Act without constitutionally adequate process. The Court orders procedures for affected plaintiffs to seek return from third countries, file supplemental habeas pleadings from abroad, and obtain travel documents, while requiring the Government to report on implementation. The Court also directs the Government to fund and facilitate return travel for qualifying plaintiffs from third countries and to parole them into United States custody upon arrival.

CASE DETAILS

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT                 | United States District Court for the District of Columbia                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| WRITING FOR THE COURT | James E. Boasberg                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| JURISDICTION          | United States District Court for the District of Columbia                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| DECIDED               | February 12, 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| DOCKET                | Civil Action No. 25-766 (JEB)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| DISPOSITION           | other                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE    | The district court addressed remedies following its prior determination that the Government denied due process to Venezuelan class members deported to El Salvador. The court ordered remedial measures facilitating return from third countries, permitting supplemental habeas filings, and requiring status reporting. |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE    | Published district court memorandum opinion and order; persuasive authority within the federal district court and subject to appellate review.                                                                                                                                                                            |
| PARTIES               | J.G.G., et al., Liyanara Sánchez, as next friend on behalf of Fregel Reyes Mota, et al. v. Donald J. Trump, et al.                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

TOPICS

- removal proceedings
- procedural due process
- immigration
- foreign affairs
- equitable relief

PRACTICE AREAS

## QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. What remedial measures are required after the Government unlawfully deported class members without constitutionally adequate process?
2. Whether affected Plaintiffs in third countries may file supplemental pleadings in the existing habeas action.
3. Whether the Government must facilitate and fund the return to the United States of affected Plaintiffs in third countries who seek to pursue their proceedings.

## HOLDINGS

1. When the Government unlawfully removes individuals without constitutionally adequate process, it must provide a means to remedy the wrong and ensure that their cases are handled as they would have been had they not been improperly removed.
2. The Government must facilitate the return to the United States of affected Plaintiffs in third countries who request return for their court proceedings, including by offering boarding letters and paying the cost of commercial air travel; Plaintiffs appearing at a U.S. port of entry must be paroled into United States custody.
3. Plaintiffs located in Venezuela or third countries may file supplemental habeas pleadings challenging the Proclamation's invocation of the Alien Enemies Act and their identification as Tren de Aragua members.

## KEY QUOTATIONS

*“In other words, it is up to the Government to remedy the wrong that it perpetrated here and to provide a means for doing so.” (at 3)*

*“Were it otherwise, the Government could simply remove people from the United States without providing any process and then, once they were in a foreign country, deny them any right to return for a hearing or opportunity to present their case from abroad.” (at 3)*

*“The Court will thus order Defendants to take several discrete actions that will begin the remedial process for at least some Plaintiffs, as the Supreme Court has required in similar circumstances.” (at 4)*

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The Government deported 137 Venezuelans to the Center for Terrorism Confinement in El Salvador under the Alien Enemies Act and later released some into Venezuela as part of a prisoner swap. The court had previously found that the deportees were denied constitutionally adequate process before removal. Some former class members, including individuals in Venezuela and third countries, seek to continue habeas challenges to their designations and to the validity of the presidential Proclamation.

## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The court previously found that the Government had denied due process to a class of Venezuelans deported to El Salvador and invited the Government to propose measures facilitating hearings on their habeas claims. After the Government declined to propose a remedy, the court considered the parties' submissions and a remedies hearing. This memorandum opinion and order establishes remedial procedures for affected Plaintiffs.

## DISPOSITION

other

## REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The Government must promptly return retained passports and identification documents upon written request, make good-faith efforts to obtain documents transferred to El Salvador, and file a status report by March 13, 2026, explaining how and when it will transport Plaintiffs seeking return from third countries and addressing the feasibility of returning willing Plaintiffs still in Venezuela.

## CASES CITED

- J.G.G. v. Trump, 2025 WL 3706685 (D.D.C. Dec. 22, 2025)
- J.G.G. v. Trump, 772 F. Supp. 3d 18 (D.D.C. 2025)
- Noem v. Abrego Garcia, 145 S. Ct. 1017 (2025)
- A.A.R.P. v. Trump, 605 U.S. 91 (2025)
- Reno v. Flores, 507 U.S. 292 (1993)
- Ms. L. v. U.S. Immig. & Customs Enf't (ICE), 2026 WL 313340, at \*4 (S.D. Cal. Feb. 5, 2026)