

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII

Yujing Shentu v. Director, ICE Honolulu Field Office

Civil No. 26-00137 DKW-RT (D. Haw. Apr. 27, 2026) · No. Civil No. 26-00137 DKW-RT · Decided April 27, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Hawaii dismissed Yujing Shentu’s petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 for lack of jurisdiction because she was not in custody when the petition was filed. The court concluded that GPS monitoring and the threat of future detention did not satisfy the habeas statute’s custody requirement and denied the remaining requests for relief as moot.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Hawaii
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Derrick K. Watson
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Hawaii
DECIDED	April 27, 2026
DOCKET	Civil No. 26-00137 DKW-RT
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner sought habeas relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 and filed related requests for emergency injunctive relief, in camera review, and suppression. The district court dismissed the petition for lack of jurisdiction because Petitioner was not in custody when the petition was filed.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Jurisdictional requirements for habeas relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2241, including whether the petitioner was in custody when the petition was filed.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Yujing Shentu v. Director, ICE Honolulu Field Office

TOPICS

- immigration detention
- federal habeas corpus
- subject matter jurisdiction
- immigration
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Court had jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 when Shentu was not in physical custody and was not subject to a final order of removal.
2. Whether GPS monitoring and the threat of future detention satisfied the in-custody requirement for federal habeas jurisdiction.
3. Whether Shentu's remaining requests for relief should be denied as moot after dismissal of the petition.

HOLDINGS

1. A petitioner who is not in custody when a § 2241 petition is filed does not satisfy the statute's in-custody requirement, and the district court therefore lacks jurisdiction over the petition.
2. Electronic monitoring and the threat of future confinement, without more, do not satisfy the in-custody requirement for a § 2241 petition.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“In short, nothing in Shentu’s memorandum undermines the Court’s conclusion that it lacks jurisdiction to consider the petition because Shentu is not “in custody” under 28 U.S.C. § 2241.”

“The Petition, ECF No. 1, is therefore DISMISSED for lack of jurisdiction, and all other pending requests for relief in this action are DENIED as moot.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Shentu was not in physical custody and was not subject to a final order of removal when she filed her § 2241 petition. She argued that GPS monitoring and the threat of future detention satisfied the statute's in-custody requirement. The Court rejected those arguments, concluding that neither electronic monitoring nor a threat of confinement established custody for purposes of § 2241.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Shentu filed a § 2241 habeas petition challenging matters related to her immigration detention and submitted several additional requests for relief. Respondent opposed the filings and argued that the Court lacked jurisdiction because Shentu was not in custody. After an April 8, 2026 hearing, the Court held its jurisdictional ruling in abeyance to allow Shentu to respond; after considering her April 15 memorandum, the Court dismissed the petition and denied the remaining requests as moot.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- *Maleng v. Cook*, 490 U.S. 488, 490–91 (1989)
- *Veltmann-Barragan v. Holder*, 717 F.3d 1086, 1087 (9th Cir. 2013)
- *Thornton v. Brown*, 757 F.3d 834 (9th Cir. 2013)
- *Araiza v. Hermosillo*, 2025 WL 3516103 (W.D. Wash. Dec. 8, 2025)
- *Munoz v. Smith*, 17 F.4th 1237, 1245 (9th Cir. 2021)
- *Edmunds v. Won Bae Chang*, 509 F.2d 39, 41 (9th Cir. 1975)
- *Wang v. United States Dep’t of Homeland Sec.*, 2026 WL 452343 (D. Haw. Feb. 17, 2026)

OPINION

Shentu

PER CURIAM.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII

YUJING SHENTU, CIVIL NO. 26-00137 DKW-RT

Petitioner, ORDER DISMISSING PETITION vs.

DIRECTOR, ICE HONOLULU FIELD

OFFICE,

Respondent. Before the Court are pro se Petitioner Yujing Shentu’s Petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 for a Writ of Habeas Corpus, ECF No. 1, and various additional requests, including an Emergency Motion for Temporary Restraining Order to Prevent Re-Detention, and a Motion for In Camera Review of Redacted Evidence and, in the Alternative, Motion to Suppress Evidence, see, e.g., ECF Nos. 13, 16,

19. In these documents, Shentu raises a host of claims related to her “immigration detention.” See *id.* at PageID.4–7. In their consolidated opposition to Shentu’s filings, Respondent argues, among other things, that the Court lacks jurisdiction because Shentu is not in custody. ECF No. 17 at PageID.137–41; see *Maleng v. Cook*, 490 U.S. 488, 490– 91 (1989) (“We have interpreted the statutory language as requiring that the habeas petitioner be “in custody” . . . at the time his petition is filed.”). During an April 8, 2026 hearing, the Court agreed with Respondent, concluding that it lacked jurisdiction to consider the petition because Shentu does not meet the “in custody” requirement of 28 U.S.C. § 2241. See ECF 24; *Veltmann-Barragan v. Holder*, 717 F.3d 1086, 1087 (9th Cir. 2013) (holding that “aliens who are removable, but not yet subject to a removal order,” are not “‘in custody’ for purposes of 28 U.S.C. § 2241”). The Court held its ruling in abeyance, however, to give Shentu an opportunity to further address its jurisdictional concerns. *Id.* Shentu did so on April 15, 2026, filing a Memorandum in Support of Habeas Jurisdiction. ECF No. 25. In her memorandum, Shentu confirms what the Court already knew – that she is not currently in physical custody – nor does she dispute that she is not subject to a final order of removal. Shentu nevertheless contends that various conditions—principally GPS monitoring and the “threat” of detention—are enough to satisfy the habeas statute’s “in custody” requirement. *Id.*

at PageID.227. For example, Shentu cites *Thornton v. Brown*, 757 F.3d 1034, 1041 (9th Cir. 2013), in support of the notion that electronic monitoring satisfies the custodial requirement of 28 U.S.C. § 2241. ECF No. 25 at PageID.227. The Court, however, could not find such a case using Shentu's citation. To the extent Shentu meant to cite *Thornton v. Brown*, 757 F.3d 834 (9th Cir. 2013), that case does not help her because it involved claims under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, not the habeas statute. Shentu also cites two district court cases for similar reasons. See ECF No. 25 at PageID.228. The Court found orders relating to only one of those cases, and that case does not help Shentu because, there, the petitioner was detained. See *Araiza v. Hermosillo*, 2025 WL 3516103 (W.D. Wash. Dec. 8, 2025) ("Petitioner is presently detained at the Northwest ICE Processing Center.").¹ In short, nothing in Shentu's memorandum undermines the Court's conclusion that it lacks jurisdiction to consider the petition because Shentu is not "in custody" under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. Cf. *Munoz v. Smith*, 17 F.4th 1237, 1245 (9th Cir. 2021) ("[W]e have little difficulty concluding that [plaintiff's] electronic monitoring requirement . . . does not cause him to be 'in custody' under § 2254."); *Edmunds v. Won Bae Chang*, 509 F.2d 39, 41 (9th Cir. 1975) (concluding that the threat of confinement is not enough to satisfy the custodial requirements of 28 U.S.C. §§ 2241, 2254); see also *Wang v. United States Dep't of Homeland Sec.*, 2026 WL 452343 (D. Haw. Feb. 17, 2026) (concluding that fear of arrest by 1The other district court case she cited is *Mendoza Araiza v. Wamsley*, 2:25-cv-02139 (W.D. Wash. 2025). ECF No. 25 at PageID.228. immigration agents is not sufficient to meet "in custody" requirement of 28 U.S.C. § 2241). The Petition, ECF No. 1, is therefore DISMISSED for lack of jurisdiction, and all other pending requests for relief in this action are DENIED as moot. The Clerk is DIRECTED to enter judgment and close the case. IT IS SO ORDERED. DATED: April 27, 2026 at Honolulu, Hawat'i. Ko /s/ Derrick K. Watson dot Derrick K. Watson Rn i LS Chief United States District Judge Yujing Shentu v. Director, ICE Honolulu Field Office; Civil No. 26-00137
DKW-RT; ORDER DISMISSING PETITION