

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
TEXAS, HOUSTON DIVISION

Israt Jahan, et al. v. Ur M. Jaddou, et al.

Civil Action No. 4:24-CV-4559 (S.D. Tex. Mar. 6, 2026) · No. 4:24-CV-4559 · Decided March 6, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas dismissed without prejudice a lawsuit challenging the denial of Israt Jahan’s applications for adjustment of status and a waiver of inadmissibility. Relying on 8 U.S.C. § 1252(a)(2)(B)(i) and Fifth Circuit precedent, the court held that it lacked subject matter jurisdiction to review those discretionary determinations. The court also rejected the plaintiffs’ argument that due process provided an alternative basis for jurisdiction.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	George C. Hanks, Jr.
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division
DECIDED	March 6, 2026
DOCKET	4:24-CV-4559
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiffs brought an action under the Administrative Procedure Act seeking review of the denials of an application for adjustment of status and an application for a waiver of inadmissibility. Defendants moved to dismiss for lack of subject matter jurisdiction under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1).
STANDARD OF REVIEW	On a Rule 12(b)(1) motion, the court may consider the complaint, the complaint supplemented by undisputed facts in the record, or the complaint supplemented by undisputed facts and the court's resolution of disputed facts. The party asserting federal subject matter jurisdiction bears the burden of proving jurisdiction by a preponderance of the evidence.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	district court memorandum opinion; precedential status not stated

PARTIES

Israt Jahan, Iftekhar Basith, Fatima Iftekhar, Jubaida Iftekhar, Mehwish Iftekhar, Nurjahan Begum v. Ur M. Jaddou, Joseph Edlow, Carolyn Kemokai

TOPICS

subject matter jurisdiction motions to dismiss adjustment of status judicial review of agency action
immigration

PRACTICE AREAS

immigration administrative law federal civil procedure constitutional law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether 8 U.S.C. § 1252(a)(2)(B)(i) stripped the district court of subject matter jurisdiction to review the denials of Jahan's applications for adjustment of status and waiver of inadmissibility.
2. Whether Plaintiffs' asserted Due Process Clause theory supplied jurisdiction or a viable claim despite the absence of a pleaded Fifth Amendment due-process claim.

HOLDINGS

1. 8 U.S.C. § 1252(a)(2)(B)(i) precludes judicial review of denials of applications for adjustment of status and waivers of inadmissibility, requiring dismissal for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.
2. Plaintiffs' Due Process Clause argument did not establish jurisdiction because they had not pleaded a Fifth Amendment due-process claim, and, in any event, adjustment of status is not a liberty or property interest protected by due process.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“8 U.S.C. § 1252(a)(2)(B)(i) precludes judicial review of denials of applications for adjustment of status and waivers of inadmissibility.” (p. 3)

“Because Nyika had no liberty interest in adjustment of status, there can be no due process violation.” (p. 3)

“This circuit has repeatedly held that discretionary relief from removal, including an application for an adjustment of status, is not a liberty or property right that requires due process protection.” (p. 3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Israt Jahan, a native of Bangladesh and Canadian citizen residing in the United States, applied in 2018 for adjustment of status as the derivative spouse beneficiary of an employment-based immigrant petition. USCIS determined that she was inadmissible under 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(C)(i) based on allegations that she had used a false name and fraudulent documents and had entered into a sham marriage in connection with a 1999 diversity-visa application. USCIS denied both her adjustment application and her application for a waiver of inadmissibility, prompting this suit.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

USCIS denied Israt Jahan's Form I-485 application for adjustment of status and Form I-601 application for a waiver of inadmissibility. Plaintiffs then filed this federal action seeking judicial review and declaratory relief. The district court granted Defendants' Rule 12(b)(1) motion and dismissed the action without prejudice for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- *Ramming v. United States*, 281 F.3d 158, 161 (5th Cir. 2001)
- *Ballew v. Continental Airlines, Inc.*, 668 F.3d 777, 781 (5th Cir. 2012)
- *Coury v. Prot*, 85 F.3d 244, 248 (5th Cir. 1996)
- *Walch v. Adjutant General's Department of Texas*, 533 F.3d 289, 293 (5th Cir. 2008)
- *Home Builders Association of Mississippi, Inc. v. City of Madison, Mississippi*, 143 F.3d 1006, 1010 (5th Cir. 1998)
- *Momin v. Jaddou*, 113 F.4th 552, 560 (5th Cir. 2024)
- *Nyika v. Holder*, 571 Fed. App'x 351, 352 (5th Cir. 2014)
- *Ahmed v. Gonzales*, 447 F.3d 433, 440 (5th Cir. 2006)
- *Vasylchenko v. United States Citizenship and Immigration Services*, No. 3:21-CV-2815, 2022 WL 2953018, at *3 (N.D. Tex. July 25, 2022)

OPINION

Jahan

PER CURIAM.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT March 06, 2026

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS Nathan Ochsner, Clerk

HOUSTON DIVISION

ISRAT JAHAN, et al., § § Plaintiffs, §

VS. § CIVIL ACTION NO. 4:24-CV-4559

§ UR M. JADDOU, et al., § § Defendants. § §

MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER

Plaintiffs Israt Jahan (“Jahan”), Iftekhar Basith (“Basith”), Fatima Iftekhar (“Fatima”), Jubaida Iftekhar (“Jubaida”), Mehwish Iftekhar (“Mehwish”), and Nurjahan Begum (“Begum”) (collectively “Plaintiffs”) seek judicial review under the Administrative Procedure Act (“APA”) and a judicial declaration that the denials of Jahan’s applications for adjustment of status and waiver of inadmissibility were arbitrary and capricious. (Dkt. 1 at p. 4; Dkt. 13 at pp. 3–4). Defendants Joseph Edlow¹ and Carolyn Kemokai (collectively “Defendants”) have moved for

dismissal for lack of subject matter jurisdiction under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1). Defendants' motion to dismiss under Rule 12(b)(1) (Dkt. 12) is GRANTED. This case is DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE.

I. FACTUAL AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

According to Plaintiffs' complaint, Jahan is a native of Bangladesh and a Canadian citizen who has lived in the United States since August of 2016. (Dkt. 1 at p. 2). Jahan is 1 Joseph Edlow, current Director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, has been substituted for Ur Jaddou. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 25(d). married to Basith, who is a college professor and "the principal beneficiary of an employment-based immigrant petition filed by Sam Houston State University." (Dkt. 1 at p. 2). In September of 2018, Jahan, "based on being the spouse derivative beneficiary" of Basith, filed a Form I-485 application to adjust her immigration status to that of a lawful permanent resident. (Dkt. 1 at p. 3). After Jahan sat for an application interview, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services ("USCIS") notified her by letter of its intent to deny her I-485 application. (Dkt. 1 at pp. 3-4). In its letter, USCIS cited an October 1999 incident in which Jahan applied for a diversity visa using a false name, fraudulent documents, and a sham marriage: e You used a false name (Amena Rahman) when you applied for your Diversity Visa in October 1999, in Bangladesh; e You submitted fraudulent documents with the Visa application, namely school certificates; e You were not married to Mahabub Khan and he was your cousin; and, e You claimed your family made go to the US Embassy and give a false testimony. Dkt. 1-5 at p. 1. On account of that October 1999 visa application, USCIS further stated in its letter that Jahan was inadmissible to the United States under 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(C)(i) because she had sought to procure a visa by fraud or by willfully misrepresenting a material fact. (Dkt. 1-5 at p. 2). After receiving USCIS's letter, Jahan filed a Form I-601 application for waiver of grounds of inadmissibility. (Dkt. 1 at p. 4). USCIS denied Jahan's I-601 application (Dkt. 1 at p. 4), and this lawsuit followed. Defendant have moved for dismissal for lack of subject 2/5 matter jurisdiction under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1), contending that the jurisdiction-stripping provisions of 8 U.S.C. § 1252(a)(2)(B)(i) bar Plaintiffs' claims. (Dkt. 12).

II. RULE 12(b)(1)

A motion filed under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1) allows a party to challenge the subject matter jurisdiction of the district court to hear a case. *Ramming v. United States*, 281 F.3d 158, 161 (5th Cir. 2001). The party asserting that federal subject matter jurisdiction exists bears the burden of proving it by a preponderance of the evidence. *Ballew v. Continental Airlines, Inc.*, 668 F.3d 777, 781 (5th Cir. 2012). "[T]here is a presumption against subject matter jurisdiction that must be rebutted by the party bringing an action to federal court." *Coury v. Prot*, 85 F.3d 244, 248 (5th Cir. 1996). Under Rule 12(b)(1), the court may consider any of the following: (1) the complaint alone; (2) the complaint supplemented by the undisputed facts evidenced in the record; or

(3) the complaint supplemented by undisputed facts plus the court's resolution of disputed

facts. *Walch v. Adjutant General's Department of Texas*, 533 F.3d 289, 293 (5th Cir. 2008). "A case is properly dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction when the court lacks the statutory or constitutional power to adjudicate the case." *Home Builders Association of Mississippi, Inc. v. City of Madison, Mississippi*, 143 F.3d 1006, 1010 (5th Cir. 1998).

III. ANALYSIS

The Court concludes that it lacks the power to adjudicate this case. As the Fifth Circuit recently explained, "8 U.S.C. § 1252(a)(2)(B)(i) precludes judicial review of denials of applications for adjustment of status and waivers of inadmissibility." *Momin v. Jaddou*, 113 F.4th 552, 560 (5th Cir. 2024). *Momin* compels dismissal of this lawsuit. Plaintiffs have no answer for *Momin*, which goes unremarked in their papers. In their briefing, Plaintiffs contend that "this Court retains its jurisdiction and authority to review the arbitrary and capricious actions made by the Defendants under the Due Process clause of the U.S. Constitution." (Dkt. 13 at p. 4). However, Plaintiffs have not pled a claim under the Fifth Amendment Due Process clause, and in any event such a claim would fail at the outset. *Nyika v. Holder*, 571 Fed. App'x 351, 352 (5th Cir. 2014) ("Because *Nyika* had no liberty interest in adjustment of status, there can be no due process violation."); see also *Ahmed v. Gonzales*, 447 F.3d 433, 440 (5th Cir. 2006) ("This circuit has repeatedly held that discretionary relief from removal, including an application for an adjustment of status, is not a liberty or property right that requires due process protection."); *Vasylchenko v. United States Citizenship and Immigration Services*, No. 3:21-CV-2815, 2022 WL 2953018, at *3 (N.D. Tex. July 25, 2022) ("The Fifth Circuit has held that adjustment of status and interests related to these proceedings are not protected liberty interests that can support a due process claim.") (collecting cases). The Court concludes that Plaintiffs have not shown by a preponderance of the evidence that this Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this case. Accordingly, the Court will grant Defendants' motion to dismiss.

IV. CONCLUSION

Defendants' motion to dismiss under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1) (Dkt. 12) is GRANTED. Any other pending motions are DENIED AS MOOT. Plaintiffs' claims are DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. The Court will issue a separate final judgment. SIGNED at Houston, Texas, on M a r c h 6 , 2026.

GEORGE C. HANKS, JR.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE