

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Trong Quy Nguyen v. Michael Ball, in his official capacity as Acting Deputy Field Office Director, Buffalo Field Office, U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement, et al.

1:26-CV-01099-EAW · No. 1:26-CV-01099-EAW · Decided June 17, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of New York granted Trong Quy Nguyen’s 28 U.S.C. § 2241 petition to the extent it sought a bond hearing regarding his civil immigration detention. The court ordered an immigration judge to conduct the hearing by June 24, 2026, required the government to prove dangerousness or flight risk by clear and convincing evidence, and directed consideration of less-restrictive alternatives and Nguyen’s ability to pay. Respondents were also ordered to file a status update by June 26, 2026.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of New York
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of New York
DECIDED	June 17, 2026
DOCKET	1:26-CV-01099-EAW
DISPOSITION	writ_granted
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 by a civil immigration detainee seeking, among other relief, a bond hearing.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The Court applied the procedural due process balancing test from Mathews v. Eldridge to determine the constitutionally required procedures and burden of proof for continued immigration detention.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown; district court decision identified in the source metadata as having unknown precedential status.
PARTIES	Trong Quy Nguyen v. Michael Ball, in his official capacity as Acting Deputy Field Office Director, Buffalo Field Office, U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement, et al.

TOPICS

immigration detention

removal proceedings

procedural due process

due process

immigration

PRACTICE AREAS

immigration detention

habeas corpus

constitutional law

civil procedure

remedies

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Petitioner was entitled to a bond hearing concerning his continued detention pending removal proceedings.
2. Whether the government must prove dangerousness or flight risk by clear and convincing evidence at the bond hearing.
3. What procedures and findings are required for continued detention and for setting bond.

HOLDINGS

1. Petitioner was entitled to a bond hearing because his detention was governed by 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), rather than the mandatory-detention provision in § 1225(b)(2), under the circumstances addressed by the controlling and analogous decisions.
2. The government must prove dangerousness or flight risk by clear and convincing evidence at the bond hearing.
3. To continue detention after the hearing, the immigration judge must find by clear and convincing evidence that no condition or combination of conditions can reasonably ensure the petitioner's appearance and community safety; if that burden is not met, the judge must consider the petitioner's ability to pay and alternative conditions of release when setting bond.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“After considering the balancing test set forth in Mathews v. Eldridge, 424 U.S. 319 (1976), the Court concludes that the government shall have the burden to demonstrate dangerousness or flight risk by clear and convincing evidence.” (at 2)

“Thus, in order to continue Petitioner’s detention after any bond hearing, the IJ must find by clear and convincing evidence and make findings that no condition or combination of conditions of release can reasonably ensure Petitioner’s appearance and the safety of the community” (at 3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Petitioner is a civil immigration detainee held in ICE custody at the Buffalo Federal Detention Facility in Batavia, New York, pending removal proceedings. He challenged the legal basis and continued duration of his detention under the United States Constitution and sought relief under § 2241. Respondents acknowledged that decisions addressing the same or similar detention policy required that Petitioner receive a bond hearing.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Petitioner filed a § 2241 petition challenging his detention in ICE custody pending removal proceedings. Respondents failed to timely respond to the Court's show-cause deadline but were granted an extension; they then acknowledged that controlling and analogous decisions required the same outcome. The Court granted the petition to the extent it sought a bond hearing and directed that the hearing occur before an immigration judge.

DISPOSITION

writ_granted

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

An immigration judge must conduct a bond hearing on or before June 24, 2026, subject to a reasonable continuance requested by Petitioner. The government bears the burden of proving dangerousness or flight risk by clear and convincing evidence; the immigration judge must consider less-restrictive alternatives, ability to pay, and alternative conditions of release. Respondents must file a status update by June 26, 2026.

CASES CITED

- *Cunha v. Freden*, 175 F.4th 61 (2d Cir. 2026)
- *Ivonin v. Rhoney*, et al., No. 6:25-CV-06673 EAW, 2026 WL 199283 (W.D.N.Y. Jan. 26, 2026)
- *Ab-Rahim v. Marich*, No. 6:26-CV-06005-EAW, 2026 WL 279113, at *1 (W.D.N.Y. Feb. 3, 2026)
- *Mathews v. Eldridge*, 424 U.S. 319 (1976)
- *Lieogo v. Freden*, No. 6:25-CV-06615 EAW, 2025 WL 3290694, at *4-6 (W.D.N.Y. Nov. 26, 2025)

OPINION

Nguyen

PER CURIAM.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

TRONG QUY NGUYEN,

Petitioner,

v. DECISION AND ORDER

1:26-CV-01099-EAW

MICHAEL BALL, in his official capacity as Acting Deputy Field Office Director, Buffalo Field Office, U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement, et al.,¹ Respondents. Petitioner Trong Quy Nguyen (“Petitioner”) is a civil immigration detainee alleging that he is being detained in United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) custody pending removal proceedings in violation of the United States Constitution. (Dkt. 1). He seeks relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. (Id.). Petitioner is being held at the Buffalo Federal Detention Facility in Batavia, New York. (Id. at ¶ 10). The Second Circuit issued a decision in *Cunha v. Freden*, 175 F.4th 61 (2d Cir. 2026), holding that noncitizens who are present in the United States after entering without inspection and

admission and who were not apprehended at or near the border at the time 1 Michael Ball is the Acting Deputy Field Office Director of the Buffalo Field Office of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement and thus is substituted as Respondent in place of James Bausch pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 25(d). In addition, David Venturella is the Acting Director of ICE and is substituted in place of Todd Lyons. The Clerk of Court is directed to update the docket to reflect this substitution. of entry are not subject to mandatory detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2) but instead are subject to detention under section 1226(a). In addition, this Court issued Decisions and Orders in *Ivonin v. Rhoney, et al.*, No. 6:25-CV-06673 EAW, 2026 WL 199283 (W.D.N.Y. Jan. 26, 2026) and *Ab-Rahim v. Marich*, No. 6:26-CV-06005-EAW, 2026 WL 279113, at

*1 (W.D.N.Y. Feb. 3, 2026), holding that the detention of noncitizens following expiration of parole is also governed by 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), and not § 1225(b)(2). Respondents acknowledge that the rulings in the identified cases concern the same or similar challenges to the government policy or practice at issue in the instant petition and would direct the same outcome in this matter entitling Petitioner to a bond hearing. (Dkt. 7).² Accordingly, for the reasons articulated in the aforementioned decisions, the petition is granted to the extent that Petitioner seeks a bond hearing, and a bond hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the following terms:

1. Petitioner shall be granted a bond hearing before an immigration judge (“IJ”) on or before June 24, 2026. If Petitioner requests a continuance that results in a bond hearing date outside this deadline, such a continuance will comply with this Order as long as the new date falls within a reasonable time period. 2 On June 16, 2026, the Court entered a Text Order informing Respondents that they failed to comply with the Court’s deadline of June 5, 2026, for Respondents to show cause why the petition should not be granted to the extent it seeks an order requiring that Petitioner receive a bond hearing. (Dkt. 5). Respondents subsequently moved for an extension of the June 5, 2026 deadline. (Dkt. 6). Because Respondents did not intentionally ignore the June 5, 2026 deadline, the motion for extension of time (Dkt. 6) is granted.

2. After considering the balancing test set forth in *Mathews v. Eldridge*, 424 U.S. 319 (1976), the Court concludes that the government shall have the burden to demonstrate dangerousness or flight risk by clear and convincing evidence. See *Lieogo v. Freden*, No. 6:25-CV-06615 EAW, 2025 WL 3290694, at *4-6 (W.D.N.Y. Nov. 26, 2025) (Court’s analysis of *Mathews* factors under similar circumstances to this case, which applies equally here). In deciding whether the government has met its burden of proof, the IJ must consider whether less-restrictive alternatives to detention can reasonably address the government’s interest in Petitioner’s continued detention.

3. If the IJ finds that the government has not met its burden, then in setting any bond the IJ must consider Petitioner’s ability to pay and alternative conditions of release.

4. Thus, in order to continue Petitioner’s detention after any bond hearing, the IJ must find by clear and convincing evidence and make findings that no condition or combination

of conditions of release can reasonably ensure Petitioner's appearance and the safety of the community—that is, even with conditions, Petitioner presents an identified and articulable risk of flight or a threat to another person or the community.

5. Respondents are directed to file a status update with the Court on or before June 26, 2026. SO ORDERED. A.

BLIZABEJH A -WOLFORT)

Chief Judge United States District Court Dated: June 17, 2026 Rochester, New York _3-