

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Marlon Castillo Espada v. John Doe, Warden, John Doe, Field Office
Director, Todd M. Lyons, Acting Director, Kristi Noem, Secretary of
Homeland Security, and Pamela Jo Bondi, U.S. Attorney General

Castillo Espada · No. 5:25-cv-02983-JWH-KES · Decided January 23, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Central District of California accepted and adopted the magistrate judge’s final Report and Recommendation and granted Marlon Castillo Espada’s habeas petition. The court ordered his immediate release subject to prior supervision conditions and enjoined respondents from re-detaining him unless they followed specified regulatory procedures. Respondents were also ordered to file a status report regarding Espada’s custody by January 30, 2026.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Central District of California
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Central District of California
DECIDED	January 23, 2026
DOCKET	5:25-cv-02983-JWH-KES
DISPOSITION	writ_granted
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The district court reviewed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241, the respondents' objections to the magistrate judge's initial report and recommendation, and the magistrate judge's final report and recommendation. After conducting de novo review of the issues raised in the objections, the district court accepted and adopted the final report and recommendation and granted the petition.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	De novo review of the issues raised in the objections to the magistrate judge's report and recommendation.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential

TOPICS

- immigration detention
- removal proceedings
- injunctions
- immigration
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

Immigration detention

Federal habeas corpus

Civil procedure

Equitable relief

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the petition for a writ of habeas corpus should be granted based on the issues addressed in the magistrate judge's final report and recommendation.
2. What relief was appropriate concerning Espada's detention and any potential re-detention.

HOLDINGS

1. The district court accepted and adopted the magistrate judge's final report, findings, and recommendations and granted Espada's habeas petition.
2. Respondents were directed to release Espada from custody forthwith, subject to the order of supervision that governed his release before October 23, 2025.
3. Respondents were enjoined and restrained from re-detaining Espada unless and until they followed the procedures set forth in 8 C.F.R. §§ 241.4(l) and 241.13(i).

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Respondents are DIRECTED to RELEASE Petitioner Marlon Castillo Espada from custody FORTHWITH, subject to the order of supervision that governed his release prior to his October 23, 2025, detention.” (1)

“Respondents are ENJOINED AND RESTRAINED from re-detaining Espada unless and until they follow the procedures set forth in 8 C.F.R. §§ 241.4(l) and 241.13(i).” (1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Marlon Castillo Espada was detained on October 23, 2025, after previously being released subject to an order of supervision. He filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 challenging his custody. The district court's order directed his release and prohibited re-detention unless the respondents followed the procedures in 8 C.F.R. §§ 241.4(l) and 241.13(i).

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Petitioner Marlon Castillo Espada sought habeas relief from immigration custody. The magistrate judge issued an initial report and recommendation and then a final report and recommendation after respondents filed objections. The district court conducted de novo review, accepted and adopted the final report and recommendation, granted the petition, ordered Espada's immediate release subject to prior supervision, and barred re-detention unless specified regulatory procedures were followed.

DISPOSITION

writ_granted

CASES CITED

- Harrison v. Ollison, 519 F.3d 952, 958 (9th Cir. 2008)

OPINION

Marlon Castillo Espada v. John Doe, Warden, John Doe, Field Office Director, Todd M. Lyons, Acting Director, Kristi Noem, Secretary of Homeland Security, and Pamela Jo Bondi, U.S. Attorney General

PER CURIAM.

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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

9 FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10 11 MARLON CASTILLO ESPADA, Case No. 5:25-cv-02983-JWH-KES 12 Petitioner,
ORDER ACCEPTING FINAL

13 v. REPORT AND

RECOMMENDATION OF U.S. 14 JOHN DOE, Warden, MAGISTRATE JUDGE

JOHN DOE, Field Office Director, 15 TODD M. LYONS, Acting Director, KRISTI NOEM, Secretary of 16 Homeland Security, and PAMELA JO BONDI, U.S. Attorney 17 General, 18 Respondents. 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 1 Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636, the Court has reviewed the Petition of 2 Petitioner Marlon Castillo Espada,¹ the objections of Respondents John Doe, 3 Warden; John Doe, Field Office Director; Todd M. Lyons, Acting Director; 4 Kristi Noem, Secretary of Homeland Security; and Pamela Jo Bondi, U.S. 5 Attorney General, to the initial Report and Recommendation of the United 6 States Magistrate Judge,² and the Final Report and Recommendation of the 7 United States Magistrate Judge.³ The Court has engaged in a de novo review of 8 the issues raised in the objections. Based upon that review, the Court hereby 9 ORDERS as follows: 10 1. The final report, findings, and recommendations of the Magistrate 11 Judge are ACCEPTED and ADOPTED.⁴ 12 2. The Petition is GRANTED. 13 3. Respondents are DIRECTED to RELEASE Petitioner Marlon 14 Castillo Espada from custody FORTHWITH, subject to the order of 15 supervision that governed his release prior to his October 23, 2025, detention. 16 4. Respondents are ENJOINED AND RESTRAINED from 17 re-detaining Espada unless and until they follow the procedures set forth in 8 18 C.F.R. §§ 241.4(l) and 241.13(i). 19 20 21 22 23 1 Petition [ECF No. 1]. 24 2 Response to Report and Recommendation [ECF No. 20]. 25 3 Final Report and Recommendation [ECF No. 21]. 26 4 As a federal prisoner proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 2241, Espada is not required to obtain a certificate of appealability in order to appeal to the United 27 States Court of Appeals in this case. See Harrison v. Ollison, 519 F.3d 952, 958 28 1 5. Respondents are DIRECTED to file no later than January 30, 2026, a Status Report that advises the Court regarding Espada’s custody status. 3 IT IS SO ORDERED. VM 5\\| Dated: January 23, 2026

6 NITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

& 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

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