

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
KENTUCKY, NORTHERN DIVISION AT COVINGTON

Fabian Tunjano Campos v. Jason Maydak, et al.

Civil Action No. 26-168-DLB · No. Civil Action No. 26-168-DLB · Decided May 18, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky granted Fabian Tunjano Campos’s petition for a writ of habeas corpus challenging his immigration detention. The court held that 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), rather than § 1225, governed his detention and that due process required an individualized bond hearing. Respondents were ordered to release Campos or provide a constitutionally adequate bond hearing, with the government bearing the burden of proof by clear and convincing evidence.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky, Northern Division at Covington
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky, Northern Division at Covington
DECIDED	May 18, 2026
DOCKET	Civil Action No. 26-168-DLB
DISPOSITION	writ_granted
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 challenging immigration detention under the Immigration and Nationality Act and the Fifth Amendment Due Process Clause.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court reviewed the § 2241 habeas petition to determine whether petitioner was detained in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished district court memorandum opinion; persuasive authority only
PARTIES	Fabian Tunjano Campos v. Jason Maydak, Todd M. Lyons, Markwayne Mullin, Todd Blanche, Field Office Director, Chicago Field Office

TOPICS

immigration detention

procedural due process

due process

statutory interpretation

remedies

PRACTICE AREAS

immigration law

constitutional law

federal habeas corpus

civil procedure

remedies

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Boone County Jailer was a proper respondent in Campos's § 2241 habeas petition.
2. Whether 8 U.S.C. § 1226, rather than 8 U.S.C. § 1225, governed Campos's detention.
3. Whether detention under § 1226(a) without an individualized bond hearing violated the Fifth Amendment Due Process Clause.
4. Whether the appropriate remedy was immediate release or a constitutionally adequate bond hearing at which the government bears the burden of proof by clear and convincing evidence.

HOLDINGS

1. The jailer who exercised day-to-day control over the facility where Campos was detained was a proper respondent because he was Campos's immediate custodian.
2. Section 1226 was the applicable statutory framework for Campos's detention; he was not subject to mandatory detention under § 1225.
3. Campos's detention without access to an individualized hearing violated the Fifth Amendment Due Process Clause.
4. The proper remedy was immediate release or, alternatively, a constitutionally adequate bond hearing within seven days at which the government bears the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that continued detention is justified.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“[T]he federal habeas statute straightforwardly provides that the proper respondent to a habeas petition is ‘the person who has custody over the petitioner.’” (at 4)

“At its core, habeas provides ‘a remedy for unlawful executive detention.’” (at 6)

“Freedom from bodily restraint has always been at the core of the liberty protected by the Due Process Clause.” (at 8)

“This Court agrees with Petitioner that his Fifth Amendment due process rights were violated when he was detained without access to an individualized hearing.” (at 9)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Fabian Tunjano Campos, a native and citizen of Colombia, entered the United States near San Luis, Arizona, on or about August 1, 2022, and was issued a notice to appear in removal proceedings. After initially being released, he was arrested by ICE on April 8, 2026, under an I-200 warrant issued pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1226 and

transferred to the Boone County Jail in Kentucky. He had not received an individualized hearing to determine whether he was eligible for bond before filing his habeas petition.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Campos entered the United States in 2022, was placed in removal proceedings, and was initially released. ICE arrested and detained him in April 2026 under an 8 U.S.C. § 1226 warrant. He filed a § 2241 habeas petition seeking release or a bond hearing. After respondents filed responses and Campos filed a reply, the district court granted the petition.

DISPOSITION

writ_granted

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

Respondents must immediately release Campos or, alternatively, provide a constitutionally adequate bond hearing under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) within seven days of the order, with the government bearing the burden of proof by clear and convincing evidence. Respondents must file a status report by June 1, 2026 certifying compliance and reporting the hearing's outcome and reasons for any denial of bond.

CASES CITED

- *Rumsfeld v. Padilla*, 542 U.S. 426, 434, 447 (2004)
- *M.T.B. v. Byers*, No. 2:24-cv-082-DCR, 2024 WL 3881843, at *1 (E.D. Ky. Aug. 20, 2024)
- *Roman v. Ashcroft*, 340 F.3d 314, 319 (6th Cir. 2003)
- *Munaf v. Geren*, 553 U.S. 674, 693 (2008)
- *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld*, 542 U.S. 507, 525, 531 (2004)
- *Rasul v. Bush*, 542 U.S. 466, 483 (2004)
- *Barrera v. Tindall*, No. 3:25-cv-541-RGJ, 2025 WL 2690565, at *3, *7 (W.D. Ky. Sept. 19, 2025)
- *Lopez-Campos et al. v. Raycraft et al.*, 2026 WL 1283891, at *6, *11, *13 (6th Cir. May 11, 2026)
- *A.A.R.P. v. Trump*, 605 U.S. 91, 94 (2025)
- *Trump v. J.G.G.*, 604 U.S. 670, 673 (2025)
- *Mathews v. Eldridge*, 424 U.S. 319, 321 (1976)
- *Foucha v. Louisiana*, 504 U.S. 71, 80 (1992)
- *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 690 (2001)
- *Yamataya v. Fisher*, 189 U.S. 86, 101 (1903)
- *Goldberg v. Kelly*, 397 U.S. 254, 268 (1970)
- *Edahi*, 2025 WL 3466682, at *14
- *Yao v. Almodovar*, No. 25 Civ. 9983 (PAE) (S.D.N.Y. Dec. 17, 2025)
- *Günaydin v. Trump*, No. 25-cv-01151, 2025 WL 1459154, at *10 (D. Minn. May 21, 2025)
- *Hernandez-Lara v. Lyons*, 10 F.4th 19, 39 (1st Cir. 2021)

- Velasco Lopez v. Decker, 978 F.3d 842, 846 (2d Cir. 2020)
- Azalyar v. Raycraft, No. 1:25-cv-916, 2026 WL 30741, at *5 (S.D. Ohio Jan. 2, 2026)
- Rajesh v. Barr, 420 F. Supp. 3d 78, 87-88 (W.D.N.Y. Oct. 29, 2019)
- Addington v. Texas, 441 U.S. 418, 427 (1979)

OPINION

Campos

PER CURIAM.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

EASTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY

NORTHERN DIVISION

AT COVINGTON

CIVIL ACTION NO. 26-168-DLB

FABIAN TUNJANO CAMPOS PETITIONER

v. MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER

JASON MAYDAK, et al. RESPONDENTS * * * * *

I. INTRODUCTION

This matter is before the Court on Petitioner Fabian Tunjano Campos’s Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus (Doc. # 1). Respondents¹ having filed their Responses² (Docs. # 7 and 8) and Petitioner having filed his Reply (Doc. # 9), the matter is now ripe for the Court’s review. For the following reasons, the Court will grant the Petition.

II. FACTUAL AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

Petitioner is a native and citizen of Columbia who entered the United States on or about August 1, 2022 near San Luis, Arizona. (Doc. # 8-1 at 1. Upon arrival, Petitioner was detained by Customs and Border Patrol (“CBP”) and was issued a Notice to Appear before an immigration judge (“IJ”) for removal proceedings. (Id.). He was then released ¹ Petitioner files this action against Todd M. Lyons, Acting Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”); Markwayne Mullin, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”); Todd Blanche, Attorney General; Field Office Director, Chicago Field Office; and Jason Maydak, Jailer, Boone County Jail. (Doc. # 1 at 1). ² Respondent Maydak filed a separate response, arguing that he is not Petitioner’s immediate custodian. (Doc. # 7 at 2). on his own recognizance. (Doc. # 1 ¶ 60; Doc. # 8-1 at 4). He has resided in the United States since his arrival nearly four years ago. Petitioner was arrested by ICE officials on April 8, 2026. (Doc. # 8 at 2). He was served with an I-200 “Warrant for Arrest of Alien,” authorizing his apprehension and detention pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1226. (Doc. # 8-4). Following his arrest, he was transferred to the Boone County Jail in Burlington, Kentucky, where he remains detained. (Doc. # 1 ¶ 63). On April 17, 2026, Tunjano Campos filed the instant Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus (Doc. # 1). On April 20, 2026 the Court issued an order directing Respondents to respond to the Petition. (Doc. # 5). Respondents having filed their Responses

(Docs. # 7 and 8), and Petitioner having filed his Reply (Doc. # 9), the Petition is ripe for the Court's review.

III. ANALYSIS

Tunjano Campos's Petition alleges that his present detention violates the Immigration and Nationality Act ("INA") and deprives him of his right to due process under the Fifth Amendment. (Doc. # 1 at 19-20). Specifically, he contends he is entitled to immediate release or, alternatively, a bond hearing at which the Government is required to justify his detention as necessary by clear and convincing evidence. (Id. at 25-26).

A. Proper Respondents Before turning to Petitioner's substantive argument, the Court will address Respondent Maydak's contention that he is not a suitable respondent. (Doc. # 7 at 2). "[T]he federal habeas statute straightforwardly provides that the proper respondent to a habeas petition is 'the person who has custody over the petitioner.'" *Rumsfeld v. Padilla*, 542 U.S. 426, 434 (2004) (quoting 28 U.S.C. § 2242). The Supreme Court has held that "[w]hen a § 2241 habeas petitioner seeks to challenge his present physical custody within the United States, he should name his warden as respondent and file the petition in the district of confinement." Id. at 447. Similarly, this Court has held that, where an immigration detainee files a petition for writ of habeas corpus, the jailer is a proper respondent. *M.T.B. v. Byers*, No. 2:24-cv-082-DCR, 2024 WL 3881843, at *1 (E.D. Ky. Aug. 20, 2024). Indeed, "as the person who has 'day-to-day control over the facility in which [Tunjano Campos] is being detained,' Maydak is [Tunjano Campos's] custodian." Id. (quoting *Roman v. Ashcroft*, 340 F.3d 314, 319 (6th Cir. 2003)). Petitioner is presently detained at the Boone County Jail. (Doc. # 1 ¶ 16; Doc. # 7 at 1). Maydak, as the elected Jailer, "oversee[s] and operate[s]" the Boone County Jail. (Id.). Therefore, Maydak is a proper respondent to Tunjano Campos's Petition. See *Padilla*, 542 U.S. at 447; *Byers*, 2024 WL 3881843, at *1. Accordingly, the Court will deny Maydak's request to dismiss him as a respondent. Having concluded that Maydak is a proper respondent, the Court turns to the substantive arguments Petitioner raises in his Petition.

B. Relevant Framework At its core, habeas provides "a remedy for unlawful executive detention." *Munaf v. Geren*, 553 U.S. 674, 693 (2008). And this relief is available to "every individual detained within the United States." *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld*, 542 U.S. 507, 525 (2004). A district court may grant a writ of habeas corpus to any person who shows that he is detained within the court's jurisdiction in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States. 28 U.S.C. § 2241(c)(3). The Supreme Court has recognized that habeas relief extends to noncitizens. See *Rasul v. Bush*, 542 U.S. 466, 483 (2004) ("[Alien] Petitioners contend that they are being held in federal custody in violation of the laws of the United States . . . Section 2241, by its terms, requires nothing more."). Enacted in 1952, the INA consolidated previous immigration and nationality laws and now contains "many of the most important provisions of immigration law." U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Immigration and Nationality Act (July 10, 2019), <https://www.uscis.gov/lawsandpolicy/legislation/immigrationandnationalityact#:~:text=The%20Immigration%20and%20Nationality%20Act,the%20U.S.%20House%20of%20Rep>

representatives. Relevant to Tunjano Campos's Petition, Congress has established two statutes, codified in Title 8, which govern detention of noncitizens pending removal proceedings—8 U.S.C. §§ 1225 and 1226. The first statute, 8 U.S.C. § 1225 is titled "Inspection by immigration officers; expedited removal of inadmissible arriving aliens; referral for hearing." It states, in pertinent part: (b) Inspection of applicants for admission

(2) Inspection of other aliens

(A) In general Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C), in the case of an alien who is an applicant for admission, if the examining immigration officer determines that an alien seeking admission is not clearly and beyond a doubt entitled to be admitted, the alien shall be detained for a proceeding under section 1229(a) of this title. 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A). Important to note, for purposes of this provision, "an alien who is an applicant for admission" is defined as an "alien present in the United States who has not been admitted or who arrives in the United States." 8 U.S.C. § 1225(a)

(1). The second provision at issue, 8 U.S.C. § 1226, is titled "Apprehension and detention of aliens" and reads: (a) Arrest, detention, and release On a warrant issued by the Attorney General, an alien may be arrested and detained pending a decision on whether the alien is to be removed from the United States. Except as provided in subsection (c) and pending such decision, the Attorney General—

(1) May continue to detain the arrested alien; and

(2) May release the alien on—

(A) Bond of at least \$1,500 with security approved by, and containing conditions prescribed by, the Attorney General 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a). Section 1226(c) of the INA was amended by Congress in January 2025 with the enactment of the Laken Riley Act, which added a new subsection under Section 1226(c), requiring mandatory detention in certain circumstances. Pub. L. No. 119-1, § 2, 139 Stat. 3, 3 (2025). The amendment added a two-step process, in which the Attorney General must detain a noncitizen if

(1) they are inadmissible because they are in the United States without

being admitted or paroled, obtained documents or admission through misrepresentation or fraud, or lacks valid documentation and

(2) is charged with, is arrested for, is convicted of, admits having committed,

or admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of any burglary, theft, larceny, shoplifting, or assault of a law enforcement officer offense, or any crime that results in death or serious bodily injury to another person. *Barrera v. Tindall*, No. 3:25-cv-541-RGJ, 2025 WL 2690565, at *3 (W.D. Ky. Sep. 19, 2025) (quoting U.S.C. §§ 1226(c)(1)(E)(i)-(ii)). Neither of these subsections applies to Petitioner Tunjano Campos. On May 11, 2026, the Sixth Circuit issued its decision in *Lopez-Campos et al. v. Raycraft et al.*, wherein it determined that § 1226 is the properly applied statutory provision for detaining noncitizens like Tunjano Campos who arrived in the United States without inspection. --- F.4th ---, 2026 WL 1283891, at *13 (6th Cir. May 11, 2026). In its opinion, the Sixth Circuit affirmed the judgments of four district courts below,

determining that the “text, canons, and past practice” of two statutes all support the conclusion that the petitioners were not subject to the mandatory detention provisions of § 1225. *Id.* at

*6. Accordingly, the Circuit rejected the government’s position that § 1225 governs noncitizen detainees, concluding that “[t]o hold otherwise would subject long-term law-abiding residents in the United States. . . to the hardship of mandatory detention without due process.” *Id.* at *13. The same reasoning applies here. Tunjano Campos has been in the United States for nearly four years. (Doc. # 1 ¶ 2). After being detained at the border he was immediately released on his own recognizance after DHS determined he was an alien present in the United States who had “not been inspected and admitted or paroled.” (Docs. # 8-1 at 4 and 8-2 at 1) (internal quotations omitted). Accordingly, pursuant to the Sixth Circuit’s recent opinion in *Lopez-Campos*, the Court concludes that § 1226 governs Tunjano Campos’s detention. C. Due Process Because the Court has concluded that § 1226(a) is the appropriate statutory framework to apply to Tunjano Campos, the Court must now determine whether his present detention violates his due process rights. Respondents contend that Tunjano Campos is not entitled to any more detention than Congress has authorized. (Doc. # 6 at 25). And because Respondents insist that his detention is mandatory under § 1225(b)(2)(A), they conclude that Tunjano Campos is receiving all the process he is due. (*Id.*). However, as discussed above, Tunjano Campos detention is governed by § 1226(a). In fact, the Sixth Circuit has concluded that petitioners like Tunjano Campos have “passed through our gates” which affords them protection by the Fifth Amendment’s Due Process Clause. See *Lopez-Campos*, 2026 WL 1283891, at *11. The Fifth Amendment provides, in pertinent part, that no person shall be “deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law[.]” U.S. Const. amend. V. The Supreme Court has repeatedly held that the Due Process Clause extends to all persons, regardless of citizenship status. See *A.A.R.P. v. Trump*, 605 U.S. 91, 94 (2025) (“[T]he Fifth Amendment entitles aliens to due process of law in the context of removal proceedings.” (quoting *Trump v. J.G.G.*, 604 U.S. 670, 673 (2025))). To determine whether a detainee’s due process rights have been violated, courts apply a three-part balancing test to weigh

(1) the private interest that will be affected by the official action; (2) the risk of an erroneous deprivation of such interest through the procedures used, and the probable value, if any, of additional or substitute procedural safeguards; and (3) the United States’ interest, including the function involved and the fiscal and administrative burdens that the additional or substitute procedural requirement would entail. *Mathews v. Eldridge*, 424 U.S. 319, 321 (1976). It is undisputed that Tunjano Campos has a cognizable liberty interest in avoiding detention. See *Lopez-Campos*, 2026 WL 1283891, at *13 (a person’s liberty interest in being free from detention “is the most fundamental interest protected by the Due Process Clause and is shared by citizens and noncitizens alike.”); *Hamdi*, 542 U.S. at 531 (affirming “the fundamental nature of a citizen’s right to be free from involuntary confinement by his own government without due process of law[.]”). Indeed, “[f]reedom from bodily restraint has always been at the core of the liberty protected by the Due Process Clause[.]” *Foucha v. Louisiana*, 504 U.S. 71, 80 (1992); see also

Zadvydas, 533 U.S. at 690 (“Freedom from imprisonment—from government custody, detention, or other forms of physical restraint—lies at the heart of the very liberty that [the Due Process Clause] protects.”). Our immigration law has long recognized that noncitizens have an interest in an individualized hearing prior to detention in connection with immigration proceedings. See *Yamataya v. Fisher*, 189 U.S. 86, 101 (1903). Further, the Supreme Court has previously required individualized hearings for deprivations of interests less fundamental than Tunjano Campos’s interest in freedom from detention. See *Goldberg v. Kelly*, 397 U.S. 254, 268 (1970) (requiring an individualized hearing prior to the termination of welfare benefits). Second, the risk of erroneous deprivation of that interest is high if Tunjano Campos is not afforded a detention hearing. See *Edahi*, 2025 WL 3466682, at *14 (holding that detention “without any individualized assessment, leads to a high risk of erroneous deprivation of an individual’s liberty interest”) (citation omitted); *Yao v. Almodovar*, No. 25 Civ. 9983 (PAE), 2025 WL 3653433, at *11 (S.D.N.Y. Dec. 17, 2025) (finding that ICE’s “discretion-free detention of [the petitioner] abridged his rights under [8 U.S.C.] § 1226 and violated due process”) (citations omitted). To date, Tunjano Campos has not had a detention hearing at which his eligibility for bond is determined on the merits of his individual circumstances. Thus, Tunjano Campos’s present detention creates a high risk of an erroneous deprivation of his liberty interest. Accordingly, the second Mathews factor favors Tunjano Campos. As to the third factor, Respondents have not put forth any argument whatsoever advocating for the United States’ interest. The Court, on its own, concludes that the United States likely has a strong interest in immigration proceedings, but certainly, the “existing statutory and regulatory safeguards” which this Court discussed at length about above, “serve the governmental interest in public safety.” *Barrera*, 2025 WL 2690565, at

*7 (quoting *Günaydin v. Trump*, No. 25-cv-01151, 2025 WL 1459154, at *10 (D. Minn. May 21, 2025)). Accordingly, all three factors weigh in favor of Tunjano Campos. Tunjano Campos claims that immediate release is the most appropriate remedy in this case. (Doc. # 1 at 26). This Court agrees with Petitioner that his Fifth Amendment due process rights were violated when he was detained without access to an individualized hearing. However, the Court disagrees that immediate release is the proper remedy. Rather, this Court agrees with other district courts in the country which have concluded that the proper remedy to this violation is a constitutionally adequate bond hearing in which the government bears the burden of proof by clear and convincing evidence. See *Hernandez-Lara v. Lyons*, 10 F.4th 19, 39 (1st Cir. 2021) (“[T]he government must bear the burden of proving dangerousness or flight risk in order to continue detaining a noncitizen under section 1226(a)"); *Velasco Lopez v. Decker*, 978 F.3d 842, 846 (2nd Cir. 2020) (finding that the “district court correctly ordered a new bond hearing where the Government bore the burden of proof”); *Azalyar v. Raycraft*, No. 1:25- cv-916, 2026 WL 30741, at *5 (S.D. Ohio Jan. 2, 2026) (“Respondents must provide a custody redetermination hearing at which the government bears the burden of justifying [the petitioner’s] continued detention”); *Rajesh v. Barr*, 420 F. Supp. 3d 78, 87-88 (W.D.N.Y. Oct. 29, 2019) (“The Court agrees with the district court cases holding that

allocating the burden to a noncriminal alien to prove he should be released on bond under § 1226(a) violates due process because it asks ‘[t]he individual . . . to share equally with society the risk of error when the possible injury to the individual is significantly greater than any possible harm to the [Government]’ (quoting *Addington v. Texas*, 441 U.S. 418, 427 (1979))).

IV. CONCLUSION

Accordingly, for the reasons stated herein, IT IS SO ORDERED as follows:

(1) Tunjano Campos Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus (Doc. # 1) is

GRANTED;

(2) | Respondents are ORDERED to immediately release Petitioner, or in the alternative, provide him with a constitutionally adequate bond hearing where the government bears the burden of proof by clear and convincing evidence under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) within seven (7) days of the date of this Order; and

(3) | Respondents shall file a Status Report with this Court on or before June

1, 2026 to certify compliance with this Order. The Status Report shall include when the bond hearing occurred, if bond was granted or denied, and if denied, the reasons for that denial. This 18th day of May, 2026. Signed By: ; *, ne David L. Bunning DP ' Chief United States District Judge 10