

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

Lidia Batalla Nava v. Warden Randy Tate, et al.

No. 4:26-cv-00739, United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division (April 23, 2026)

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas grants Lidia Batalla Nava’s petition for a writ of habeas corpus challenging her immigration detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2). The court holds that detention without an individualized assessment, notice, or opportunity to be heard violated her procedural due process rights under the Mathews v. Eldridge framework. The court denies the respondents’ motion for summary judgment and orders her release within 48 hours, subject to specified conditions and reporting requirements.

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	April 23, 2026
DOCKET	4:26-cv-00739
DISPOSITION	writ_granted
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 challenging her detention by ICE. Respondents moved for summary judgment, arguing mandatory detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b) applied and that due process claim failed. The Court denied summary judgment and granted the habeas petition.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The Court applied the Mathews v. Eldridge balancing test to assess the procedural due process claim.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Lidia Batalla Nava v. Warden Randy Tate, et al.

TOPICS

immigration detention

due process

procedural due process

federal habeas corpus

immigration

constitutional law

civil rights

remedies

PRACTICE AREAS

Immigration

Habeas Corpus

Constitutional Law

Civil Rights

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the petitioner's detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2) without an individualized hearing violates the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment as applied to her.

HOLDINGS

1. Detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2) as applied to Petitioner Lidia Batalla Nava, who has lived in the United States for approximately 30 years, has no criminal record, and poses no danger or flight risk, violates her procedural due process rights under the Fifth Amendment because the statute provides no mechanism for an individualized hearing to assess whether her continued detention is justified.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The Constitution guarantees due process of law to every person in the United States, regardless of the person’s immigration status. Zadvydas v. Davis, 533 U.S. 678, 693 (2001) (the Due Process Clause “applies to all ‘persons’ within the United States, including aliens, whether their presence here is lawful, unlawful, temporary, or permanent”).”

“detention under § 1225(b)(2) as applied to this petitioner, without an individualized assessment or any notice or opportunity to be heard, violates the petitioner’s right to procedural due process.”

*“When ‘the only mechanism Petitioner has to test the propriety of his detention is DHS’s discretionary authority,’ that is ‘no real test at all.’ Tenemasa-Lema v. Hyde, No. CV 25-13029-BEM, 2025 WL 3280555, at *9 (D. Mass. Nov. 25, 2025).”*

“Habeas is at its core a remedy for unlawful executive detention. Munaf v. Geren, 553 U.S. 674, 693 (2008).”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Petitioner Lidia Batalla Nava is a native and citizen of Mexico who entered the United States in 1996 at age 17 and has resided continuously since. She has a U.S. citizen daughter, no criminal history, and strong community ties including employment. She is eligible to apply for asylum, withholding of removal, and protection under the Convention Against Torture. On December 25, 2025, she was stopped for a non-functioning vehicle light and was transferred to ICE detention. She has been detained for approximately four months with no end in sight and no individualized hearing to assess danger or flight risk.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Petitioner, a Mexican native who entered the U.S. in 1996, was pulled over for a traffic infraction on December 25, 2025, and transferred to ICE detention. She filed a habeas petition on January 30, 2026, seeking release on

due process grounds. The government moved for summary judgment. The Court decided the matter on the papers.

DISPOSITION

writ_granted

CASES CITED

- Buenrostro-Mendez v. Bondi, 166 F.4th 494 (5th Cir. 2026)
- Gallegos Perez v. Noem, Civil Action No. 4:26-351 (S.D. Tex. Apr. 2, 2026)
- Cruz Osorio v. Noem, Civil Action No. 25-6390 (S.D. Tex. Apr. 2, 2026)
- Rozo-Teran v. Bondi, Civil Action No. 4:26-243 (S.D. Tex. Mar. 16, 2026)
- Navarette-Garcia v. Bradford, Civil Action No. 4:26-1503 (S.D. Tex. Mar. 16, 2026)
- Delgado-Rodriguez v. Tate, Civil Action No. 26-650, 2026 WL 517983 (S.D. Tex. Feb. 25, 2026)
- Zadvydas v. Davis, 533 U.S. 678 (2001)
- A.A.R.P. v. Trump, 605 U.S. 91 (2025)
- Dep't of Homeland Sec. v. Thuraissigiam, 591 U.S. 103 (2020)
- Destino v. FCI Berlin, Warden, No. 1:25-CV-374-SE-AJ, 2025 WL 4010424 (D.N.H. Dec. 24, 2025)
- Vieira v. De Anda-Ybarra, 806 F. Supp. 3d 690 (W.D. Tex. 2025)
- Lopez-Arevelo v. Ripa, 801 F. Supp. 3d 668 (W.D. Tex. 2025)
- Bonilla Chicas v. Warden, No. 5:26-CV-00131, 2026 WL 539475 (S.D. Tex. Feb. 20, 2026)
- Castro Coneo v. Almodovar, No. 25-CV-09850 (NSR), 2025 WL 3754079 (S.D.N.Y. Dec. 29, 2025)
- Rincon v. Hyde, No. CV 25-12633-BEM, 2025 WL 3122784 (D. Mass. Nov. 7, 2025)
- Jennings v. Rodriguez, 583 U.S. 281 (2018)
- Demore v. Kim, 538 U.S. 510 (2003)
- Mathews v. Eldridge, 424 U.S. 319 (1976)
- Hamdi v. Rumsfeld, 542 U.S. 507 (2004)
- United States v. Verdugo-Urquidez, 494 U.S. 259 (1990)
- Landon v. Plasencia, 459 U.S. 21 (1982)
- I.N.S. v. St. Cyr, 533 U.S. 289 (2001)
- United States v. Morgan, 147 F.4th 522 (5th Cir. 2025)
- Kansas v. Hendricks, 521 U.S. 346 (1997)
- United States v. Salerno, 481 U.S. 739 (1987)
- Morrissey v. Brewer, 408 U.S. 471 (1972)
- Trump v. J. G. G., 604 U.S. 670 (2025)
- Cleveland Bd. of Educ. v. Loudermill, 470 U.S. 532 (1985)
- Palm Valley Health Care, Inc. v. Azar, 947 F.3d 321 (5th Cir. 2020)
- Conn. Dep't of Pub. Safety v. Doe, 538 U.S. 1 (2003)

- Aliaga Zamora v. Bondi, No. SA-26-CA-00447-XR, 2026 WL 693054 (W.D. Tex. Mar. 10, 2026)
- Betancourth v. Tate, No. 4:26-CV-01169, 2026 WL 638482 (S.D. Tex. Mar. 6, 2026)
- Noyola v. Bondi, No. 1:26-CV-405-RP, 2026 WL 607266 (W.D. Tex. Mar. 4, 2026)
- Diaz Yanez v. Bondi, No. EP-26-CV-00486-DB, 2026 WL 690005 (W.D. Tex. Mar. 4, 2026)
- Villegas Angel v. Noem, No. 1:26-CV-00384-DAE, 2026 WL 594368 (W.D. Tex. Mar. 3, 2026)
- Bd. of Regents v. Roth, 408 U.S. 564 (1972)
- Boddie v. Connecticut, 401 U.S. 371 (1971)
- Bell v. Burson, 402 U.S. 535 (1971)
- Tenemasa-Lema v. Hyde, No. CV 25-13029-BEM, 2025 WL 3280555 (D. Mass. Nov. 25, 2025)
- Aguilar v. Bondi, No. 5:25-CV-01453-JKP, 2025 WL 3471417 (W.D. Tex. Nov. 26, 2025)
- Barros v. Noem, No. EP-25-CV-488-KC, 2025 WL 3154059 (W.D. Tex. Nov. 10, 2025)
- Gunaydin v. Trump, 784 F. Supp. 3d 1175 (D. Minn. 2025)
- Foucha v. Louisiana, 504 U.S. 71 (1992)
- Munaf v. Geren, 553 U.S. 674 (2008)
- Preiser v. Rodriguez, 411 U.S. 475 (1973)
- Brown v. Davenport, 596 U.S. 118 (2022)
- Aroca v. Mason, No. 2:26-CV-00057, 2026 WL 357872 (S.D.W. Va. Feb. 9, 2026)
- Hilario M.R. v. Warden, Mesa Verde Det. Ctr., 2025 WL 1158841 (E.D. Cal. Apr. 21, 2025)
- Hernandez-Lara v. Lyons, 10 F.4th 19 (1st Cir. 2021)
- Velasco Lopez v. Decker, 978 F.3d 842 (2d Cir. 2020)
- Sampiao v. Hyde, 799 F. Supp. 3d 14 (D. Mass. 2025)
- Ahmed M. v. Bondi, No. 25-CV-4711 (ECT/SGE), 2026 WL 25627 (D. Minn. Jan. 5, 2026)
- Counselman v. Hitchcock, 142 U.S. 547 (1892)
- Kastigar v. United States, 406 U.S. 441 (1972)

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