

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

**Juana Bebsabe Flores Lara v. Christopher J. LaRose, Senior
Warden, Otay Mesa Detention Center, et al.**

Flores Lara v. LaRose · No. 25-cv-3565-RSH-DEB · Decided January 6, 2026

SUMMARY

The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California granted Juana Bebsabe Flores Lara’s petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. The court held that her challenge to the legality of her immigration detention was not barred by 8 U.S.C. § 1252(g), and that respondents had not shown compliance with applicable regulations governing revocation of her order of supervision. The court ordered her immediate release subject to the conditions of her preexisting order of supervision and vacated the scheduled hearing.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Robert S. Huie
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of California
DECIDED	January 6, 2026
DOCKET	25-cv-3565-RSH-DEB
DISPOSITION	writ_granted
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 challenging immigration detention.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Under 28 U.S.C. § 2241, the petitioner bears the burden of showing that she is in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown; district court opinion
PARTIES	Juana Bebsabe Flores Lara v. Christopher J. LaRose, Senior Warden, Otay Mesa Detention Center, et al.

TOPICS

- immigration detention
- federal habeas corpus
- removal proceedings
- administrative law
- equitable relief

PRACTICE AREAS

immigration

federal habeas corpus

administrative law

remedies

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether 8 U.S.C. § 1252(g) deprived the district court of jurisdiction over petitioner's challenge to the legality of her detention.
2. Whether respondents' failure to comply with the procedural requirements of 8 C.F.R. §§ 241.4 and 241.13 rendered petitioner's detention unlawful.
3. Whether petitioner was required to establish prejudice from the agency's failure to follow its own regulations.

HOLDINGS

1. Section 1252(g) did not bar the petition because petitioner challenged the legality of her detention rather than a removal order or the decision to execute a removal order.
2. Respondents' failure to establish compliance with the requirements of 8 C.F.R. §§ 241.4 and 241.13 rendered petitioner's detention unlawful, requiring her release.
3. Petitioner was prejudiced by the unlawful deprivation of her liberty and was not required to show that the agency could not have lawfully revoked her supervision or that a lawful revocation would have produced a different result.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The Supreme Court has interpreted the “arising from” jurisdiction-limiting provision in 8 U.S.C. § 1252(g) narrowly, restricting it “only to three discrete actions that the Attorney General may take”: the “‘decision or action’ to ‘commence proceedings, adjudicate cases, or execute removal orders.’” (at 4)

“Government agencies are required to follow their own regulations.” (at 10)

“Petitioner was indeed prejudiced by the unlawful deprivation of her liberty, even if DHS could have revoked her supervision in a lawful manner and may yet do so in the future.” (at 10)

“For the foregoing reasons, the Petition is GRANTED. Respondents are ordered to immediately release Petitioner from custody, subject to the conditions of her preexisting order of supervision.” (at 10)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Petitioner, a Honduran citizen, was paroled into the United States in 2014 and released on an order of supervision. After a 2019 removal order was upheld through administrative and judicial review, ICE arrested her on March 3, 2025, and detained her at the Otay Mesa Detention Center. The court found that respondents provided no evidence that the required officials exercised discretion to revoke her supervision, that changed circumstances established a significant likelihood of removal in the reasonably foreseeable future, or that petitioner received notice and a prompt informal interview after revocation.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Petitioner was ordered removed in 2019, appealed to the Board of Immigration Appeals, and unsuccessfully sought review in the Ninth Circuit. ICE arrested and detained her in March 2025 after she had previously been paroled and released on an order of supervision. She filed a § 2241 petition challenging the legality of her detention; the district court granted the petition and ordered her immediate release subject to the conditions of her preexisting order of supervision.

DISPOSITION

writ_granted

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

Respondents were ordered to immediately release petitioner from custody subject to the conditions of her preexisting order of supervision. The hearing scheduled for January 8, 2026, was vacated.

CASES CITED

- Espinoza v. Sabol, 558 F.3d 83, 89 (1st Cir. 2009)
- Reno v. Am.-Arab Anti-Discrimination Comm., 525 U.S. 471, 482 (1999)
- Jennings v. Rodriguez, 583 U.S. 281, 294 (2018)
- United States ex rel. Accardi v. Shaughnessy, 347 U.S. 260, 268 (1954)
- Ass'n of Home Builders v. Norton, 340 F.3d 835, 852 (9th Cir. 2003)
- Orellana v. Baker, No. 25-1788-TDC, 2025 WL 2444087, at *8 (D. Md. Aug. 25, 2025)
- M.S.L. v. Bostock, No. 6:25-cv-1204-AA, 2025 WL 2430267, at *10 (D. Or. Aug. 21, 2025)
- Ceesay v. Kurzdorfer, 781 F. Supp. 3d 137, 165-66 (W.D.N.Y. 2025)
- Rombot v. Souza, 296 F. Supp. 3d 383, 388 (D. Mass. 2017)

OPINION

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA 10 11 JUANA BEBSABE FLORES LARA, Case No.: 25-cv-3565-RSH-DEB 12
Petitioner, ORDER GRANTING PETITION 13 v. FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS 14
CHRISTOPHER J. LAROSE, Senior Warden, Otay Mesa Detention Center, et al., 15
Respondents. 16 17 18 On December 12, 2025, petitioner Juana Bebsabe Flores Lara filed a
petition for writ 19 of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241 (the “Petition”).

ECF No. 1. 20 Petitioner is a citizen of Honduras. Id. ¶ 9. In 2014, she applied for admission to the
21 United States, and was thereafter paroled into the United States and released on an order 22 of
supervision. ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 23-24; ECF No. 4 at 2.

In 2019, Petitioner was ordered 23 removed from the United States. ECF No. 1 ¶ 25; ECF No. 4 at
2. Petitioner appealed to 24 the Board of Immigration Appeals, which dismissed her appeal; she
thereafter filed a 25 petition for review with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, which

denied her 26 petition. ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 25-26; ECF No. 4 at 2. 27 On March 3, 2025, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) arrested 28 Petitioner.

ECF No. 1 ¶ 27. On March 20, 2025, Petitioner filed a motion to reopen her 1 immigration case, which motion remains pending. Id. Petitioner is detained by ICE at the 2 Otay Mesa Detention Center in San Diego, California. 3 Petitioner challenges the lawfulness of her detention.

The merits of the Petition have 4 been fully briefed. See ECF Nos. 1, 4, 5. As set forth below, the Court grants the petition. 5 I. LEGAL STANDARD 6 Title 28 of the U.S. Code, Section 2241, provides that “[w]rits of habeas corpus may 7 be granted by the Supreme Court, any justice thereof, the district courts and any circuit 8 judge within their respective jurisdictions.” 28 U.S.C. § 2241(a).

A prisoner bears the 9 burden of demonstrating that “[h]e is in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or 10 treaties of the United States.” 28 U.S.C. § 2241(c)(3). See also *Espinoza v. Sabol*, 558 F.3d 11 83, 89 (1st Cir. 2009) (“[T]he burden of proof under § 2241 is on the prisoner”). 12 II. JURISDICTION 13 Respondents first contend that Petitioner’s claim is jurisdictionally barred under 8 14 U.S.C. § 1252(g).

ECF No. 4 at 3-4. Section 1252(g) provides that, except as otherwise 15 provided in that section, and notwithstanding any other provision of law including 28 16 U.S.C. § 2241, “no court shall have jurisdiction to hear any cause or claim by or on behalf 17 of any alien arising from the decision or action by the Attorney General to commence 18 proceedings, adjudicate cases, or execute removal orders against any alien under this 19 chapter.” 8 U.S.C. § 1252(g).

Respondents argue that Petitioner’s claims “necessarily 20 arise” from the decision by Respondents to execute removal orders, and that those claims 21 are therefore barred. ECF No. 4 at 3. 22 The Supreme Court has interpreted the “arising from” jurisdiction-limiting provision 23 in 8 U.S.C. § 1252(g) narrowly, restricting it “only to three discrete actions that the 24 Attorney General may take”: the “‘decision or action’ to ‘commence proceedings, 25 adjudicate cases, or execute removal orders.’” *Reno v. Am. –Arab Anti–Discrimination* 26 Comm., 525 U.S. 471, 482 (1999) (emphasis in original) (quoting 8 U.S.C. § 1252(g)).

See 27 also *Jennings v. Rodriguez*, 583 U.S. 281, 294 (2018) (“We did not interpret [8 U.S.C. § 28 1252(g)] to sweep in any claim that can technically be said to ‘arise from’ the three listed 1 actions of the Attorney General. Instead, we read the language to refer to just those three 2 specific actions themselves.”).

Here, as the Court construes the Petition, Petitioner 3 challenges the legality of her detention rather than challenging a removal order or 4 Respondents’ decision to execute a removal order. The Court concludes that Petitioner’s 5 claims are not barred by 8 U.S.C. § 1252(g). 6 III.

ANALYSIS 7 The detention and release of noncitizens who are subject to a final order of removal 8 is addressed by 8 U.S.C. § 1231.

Under that statute, “when an alien is ordered removed, 9 the Attorney General shall remove the alien from the United States within a period of 90 10 days.” 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)(1)(A). “If the alien does not leave or is not removed within the 11 removal period, the alien, pending removal, shall be subject to supervision under 12 regulations prescribed by the Attorney General.” 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)(3).

13 Respondents contend that Petitioner’s previous order of supervision was lawfully 14 revoked under 8 C.F.R. § 241.4(l) and/or § 241.13(i)(2). Respondents state: 15 An order of supervision may be issued under 8 C.F.R. § 241.4, and the order may be revoked under 8 C.F.R. § 241.4(l)(2)(iii) where 16 “appropriate to enforce a removal order.” See also 8 C.F.R. § 241.5 17 (conditions of release after removal period).

ICE may also revoke the order of supervision where, “on account of changed circumstances, 18 [ICE] determines that there is a significant likelihood that the alien may 19 be removed in the reasonably foreseeable future.” 8 C.F.R. § 241.13(i)(2).

The regulations further provide: 20 21 Upon revocation, the alien will be notified of the reasons for revocation of his or her release or parole. The alien will be 22 afforded an initial informal interview promptly after his or her 23 return to Service custody to afford the alien an opportunity to respond to the reasons for revocation stated in the notification.

24 25 8 C.F.R. § 241.4(l)(1). 26 ECF No. 4 at 10. 27 The first of the regulations cited by Respondents, 8 C.F.R. § 241.4(l)(2), provides 28 1 that “[r]elease may be revoked in the exercise of discretion when, in the opinion of the 2 revoking official ... it is appropriate to enforce a removal order”; and vests such revocation 3 authority in the “Executive Associate Commissioner,” while providing that “[a] district 4 director may also revoke release of an alien when, in the district director’s opinion, 5 revocation is in the public interest and circumstances do not reasonably permit referral of 6 the case to the Executive Associate Commissioner.” 8 C.F.R. § 241.4(l)(2).

7 The second of the regulations cited by Respondents, 8 C.F.R. § 241.13(i)(2), 8 provides that “[t]he Service may revoke an alien’s release under this section and return the 9 alien to custody if, on account of changed circumstances, the Service determines that there 10 is a significant likelihood that the alien may be removed in the reasonably foreseeable 11 future.” The regulation further provides, in language similar to 8 C.F.R. § 241.4(l)(1), that 12 “[u]pon revocation, the alien will be notified of the reasons for revocation of his or her 13 release.

The Service will conduct an initial informal interview promptly after his or her 14 return to Service custody to afford the alien an opportunity to respond to the reasons for 15 revocation stated in the notification.” 8 C.F.R. § 241.13(i)(3). 16 The Petition asserts that Petitioner’s

detention is unlawful, among other reasons, 17 because Respondents failed to comply with the requirements of 8 C.F.R. § 241.4 or § 18 241.13.

ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 17-20, 32-34. In their return, Respondents do not provide evidence 19 reflecting that prior to the revocation of Petitioner's supervision: (1) the Executive 20 Associate Commissioner, or a district director, exercised his or her discretion to revoke 21 Petitioner's supervision upon determining that such revocation was appropriate to enforce 22 a removal order; or that (2) on account of changed circumstances, DHS determined that 23 there is a significant likelihood that Petitioner may be removed in the reasonably 24 foreseeable future.

Nor do Respondents provide evidence reflecting that, upon revocation, 25 Petitioner was notified of the reasons for the revocation, or was provided a prompt initial 26 informal interview to allow her a chance to respond. Respondents do not assert that any of 27 these requirements were met, but argue instead that "[e]ven if the agency failed to follow 28 these regulations," the Court should deny the Petition because "Petitioner cannot establish 1 she was prejudiced by these acts or omissions." ECF No. 4 at 10.

2 The Court disagrees. Government agencies are required to follow their own 3 ||regulations. *United States ex rel. Accardi v. Shaughnessy*, 347 U.S. 260, 268 (1954); □□□□ 4 ||*Ass'n of Home Builders v. Norton*, 340 F.3d 835, 852 (9th Cir. 2003). Courts have 5 determined that where DHS fails to follow its own regulations in revoking release, the 6 || detention is unlawful and the petitioner's release must be ordered.

See, e.g., *Orellana v. 7 || Baker*, No. 25-1788-TDC, 2025 WL 2444087, at *8 (D. Md. Aug. 25, 2025); *M.S.L. v. 8 || Bostock*, No. 6:25-cv-1204-AA, 2025 WL 2430267, at *10 (D. Or. Aug. 21, 2025); *Ceesay 9 || v. Kurzdorfer*, 781 F. Supp. 3d 137, 165-66 (W.D.N.Y. 2025); *Rombot v. Souza*, 296 F. 10 Supp. 3d 383, 388 (D. Mass. 2017). This Court reaches the same conclusion.

Petitioner 11 || was indeed prejudiced by the unlawful deprivation of her liberty, even if DHS could have 12 revoked her supervision in a lawful manner and may yet do so in the future. 13 In light of the disposition herein, the Court declines to address the remaining grounds 14 the Petition for seeking release. 15 CONCLUSION 16 For the foregoing reasons, the Petition is GRANTED.

Respondents are ordered to 17 ||immediately release Petitioner from custody, subject to the conditions of her preexisting 18 order of supervision. 19 The hearing currently scheduled for January 8, 2026 is hereby VACATED. 20 IT IS SO ORDERED. Dated: January 6, 2026 [ekut ¢ Love 3 Hon. Robert S. Huie United States District Judge 24 25 26 27 28