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GU v. ALMODOVAR et al, Docket No. 1:25-cv-17746 (D.N.J. Nov 19, 2025), Court Docket

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U.S. District Court District of New Jersey (LIVE) (Cadden) CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:25-cv-17746-RMB

GU v. ALMODOVAR et al

DOCKET INFORMATION Minimize

Table with docket information: DATE FILED: Wed Nov 19 2025, STATUS: Closed, NATURE OF SUIT: 463 Habeas Corpus - Alien Detainee, ASSIGNED TO: Chief Judge Renee Marie Bumb, CASE IN OTHER COURT: New York Southern, 1:25-cv-09240, CAUSE: 28:2241 Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus (federa), DATE TERMINATED: Mon Feb 23 2026, JURISDICTION: U.S. Government Defendant, JURY DEMAND: None

PARTIES AND ATTORNEYS Expand All Minimize

KEYWORD Type here to filter parties and attorneys by keyword

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ZENGHUI GU Petitioner

JUDITH ALMODOVAR In her official capacity as Field Office Director of Enforcement and Removal Operations, New York City, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Field Office Director of Enforcement and Removal Operations, New York City Field Office, Immigration and Customs.. Respondent

Kristi Noem In her official capacity as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Respondent

PAMELA BONDI In her official capacity as Attorney General of the United States Respondent

EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW Respondent

DOCKET ENTRIES Minimize

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Table with columns: ENTRY, FILED, PDF, DESCRIPTION

1 Nov. 05, 2025 Request PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2241. (Filing Fee \$ 5.00, Receipt Number ANYSDC31952868) Document filed by Zenghui Gu.(Wasserman, Jed) (Entered: 11/05/2025)

2 Nov. 05, 2025 Request CIVIL COVER SHEET filed..(Wasserman, Jed) (Entered: 11/05/2025)

Nov. 06, 2025 ***NOTICE TO ATTORNEY REGARDING PARTY MODIFICATION. Notice to attorney Jed Sweetwater Wasserman. The party information for the following party/parties has been modified: Zenghui Gu, Judith Almodovar, Kristi Noem, Pamela Bondi, Executive Office Of Immigration Review. The information for the party/parties has been modified for the following reason/reasons: party role was entered incorrectly. (v) (Entered: 11/06/2025)

Nov. 06, 2025 CASE OPENING INITIAL ASSIGNMENT NOTICE: The above-entitled action is assigned to Judge Lewis J. Liman. Please download and review the Individual Practices of the assigned District Judge, located at https://nysd.uscourts.gov/judges/district-judges. Attorneys are responsible for providing courtesy copies to judges where their Individual Practices require such. Please download and review the ECF Rules and instructions, located at https://nysd.uscourts.gov/rules/ecf-related-instructions..(v) (Entered: 11/06/2025)

Nov. 06, 2025 Magistrate Judge Robert W. Lehrburger is designated to handle matters that may be referred in this case. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 636(c) and Fed. R. Civ. P. 73(b)(1) parties are notified that they may consent to proceed before a United States Magistrate Judge. Parties who wish to consent may access the necessary form at the following link: https://nysd.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/2018-06/AO-3.pdf. (v) (Entered: 11/06/2025)

Nov. 06, 2025 Case Designated ECF. (v) (Entered: 11/06/2025)

3 Nov. 06, 2025 Request ORDER TO ANSWER, 28 U.S.C. § 2241: The Court, having examined this Section 2241 petition, hereby ORDERS that: (1) Within three days of the date of this order, the U.S. Attorney's Office shall file an opposition as to why this petition for a writ of habeas corpus should not be granted; (2) Petitioner shall have the opportunity to reply to the government's response within three days; (3) To preserve the Courts jurisdiction pending a ruling on the petition, Petitioner shall not be removed from the United States unless and until the Court orders otherwise; (4) Petitioner shall not be transferred, except to a facility within this District, the Eastern District of New York, or the District of New Jersey, in light of Petitioner's interests in participating in further proceedings before this Court and maintaining adequate access to legal counsel throughout these proceedings; (5) The Clerk of Court shall electronically notify the Civil Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York of this order at the following email address: jeffrey.oestericher@usdoj.gov. (Signed by Judge Lewis J. Liman on 11/6/2025) (tro) (Entered: 11/06/2025)

4 Nov. 10, 2025 Request NOTICE OF APPEARANCE by Brandon Matthew Waterman on behalf of Judith Almodovar, Pamela Bondi, Executive Office For Immigration Review, Kristi Noem..(Waterman, Brandon) (Entered: 11/10/2025)

5 Nov. 10, 2025 Request MOTION to Transfer Case to the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, or Alternatively, Dismiss. Document filed by Judith Almodovar, Pamela Bondi, Executive Office For Immigration Review, Kristi Noem..(Waterman, Brandon) (Entered: 11/10/2025)

6 Nov. 10, 2025 Request MEMORANDUM OF LAW in Support re: 5 MOTION to Transfer Case to the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, or Alternatively, Dismiss.. Document filed by Judith Almodovar, Pamela Bondi, Executive Office For Immigration Review, Kristi Noem..(Waterman, Brandon) (Entered: 11/10/2025)

7 Nov. 10, 2025 Request DECLARATION of Supervisory Detention and Deportation Officer Merlin Marcellin in Support re: 5 MOTION to Transfer Case to the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, or Alternatively, Dismiss.. Document filed by Judith Almodovar, Pamela Bondi, Executive Office For Immigration Review, Kristi Noem..(Waterman, Brandon) (Entered: 11/10/2025)

8 Nov. 12, 2025 Request FIRST REPLY MEMORANDUM OF LAW in Opposition re: 5 MOTION to Transfer Case to the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, or Alternatively, Dismiss.. Document filed by Zenghui Gu..(Wasserman, Jed) (Entered: 11/12/2025)

9 Nov. 12, 2025 Request ORDER: The Court is in receipt of the parties' respective memoranda of law regarding the petition for a writ of habeas corpus. Dkt. Nos. 1, 6, 8. The Court will hold an evidentiary hearing on the petition tomorrow, November 13, 2025, at 3:00 PM in Courtroom 15C, 500 Pearl Street, New York, NY 10007. At that hearing, Respondents should be prepared to address the facts underlying the declaration at Dkt. No. 7, as well as the underlying merits of the petition. A copy of this Order will be emailed to counsel for both Petitioner and Respondents. SO ORDERED. (Signed by Judge Lewis J. Liman on 11/12/2025) (Evidentiary Hearing set for 11/13/2025 at 03:00 PM in Courtroom 15C, 500 Pearl Street, New York, NY 10007 before Judge Lewis J. Liman.) (ks) (Entered: 11/12/2025)

10 Nov. 13, 2025 Request CONSENT LETTER MOTION to Adjourn Conference /Evidentiary Hearing addressed to Judge Lewis J. Liman from Brandon M. Waterman dated November 13, 2025. Document filed by Judith Almodovar, Pamela Bondi, Executive Office For Immigration Review, Kristi Noem..(Waterman, Brandon) (Entered: 11/13/2025)

11 Nov. 13, 2025 Request ORDER granting 10 Letter Motion to Adjourn Conference. The request is GRANTED. The evidentiary hearing scheduled for November 13, 2025, is adjourned to November 19, 2025 at 10:00 AM in Courtroom 15C, 500 Pearl Street, New York, NY 10007. It is FURTHER ORDERED that Respondents' reply brief shall be due by November 16, 2025, at 5:00 PM. SO ORDERED. (Signed by Judge Lewis J. Liman on 11/13/2025) (Evidentiary Hearing set for 11/19/2025 at 10:00 AM in Courtroom 15C, 500 Pearl Street, New York, NY 10007 before Judge Lewis J. Liman.) (ks) (Entered: 11/13/2025)

Nov. 13, 2025 Set/Reset Deadlines: Replies due by 11/16/2025. (ks) (Entered: 11/13/2025)

12 Nov. 16, 2025 Request REPLY MEMORANDUM OF LAW in Support re: 5 MOTION to Transfer Case to the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, or Alternatively, Dismiss.. Document filed by Judith Almodovar, Pamela Bondi, Executive Office For Immigration Review, Kristi Noem..(Waterman, Brandon) (Entered: 11/16/2025)

13 Nov. 16, 2025 Request DECLARATION of Deportation Officer Alonzo Paulino in Support re: 5 MOTION to Transfer Case to the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, or Alternatively, Dismiss.. Document filed by Judith Almodovar, Pamela Bondi, Executive Office For Immigration Review, Kristi Noem..(Waterman, Brandon) (Entered: 11/16/2025)

14 Nov. 18, 2025 Request PROPOSED STIPULATION AND ORDER. Document filed by Judith Almodovar, Pamela Bondi, Executive Office For Immigration Review, Kristi Noem..(Waterman, Brandon) (Entered: 11/18/2025)

15 Nov. 18, 2025 Request STIPULATION AND ORDER OF TRANSFER OF VENUE: IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED, by and between the parties, that this action shall be and hereby is transferred to the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, and that the seven-day waiting period in Local Civil Rule 83.1 is waived. SO ORDERED, Motions terminated: 5 MOTION to Transfer Case to the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, or Alternatively, Dismiss. Filed by Kristi Noem, Executive Office For Immigration Review, Judith Almodovar, Pamela Bondi. (Signed by Judge Lewis J. Liman on 11/18/2025) (ks) (Entered: 11/18/2025)

Nov. 18, 2025 CASE TRANSFERRED OUT ELECTRONICALLY FROM THE U.S.D.C. Southern District of New York to the United States District Court - District of District of New Jersey.(ks) (Entered: 11/18/2025)

16 Nov. 19, 2025 Request Certified Copy of Transfer Order and docket received, Case transferred in from District of New York Southern; Case Number 1:25-cv-09240. Original file certified copy of transfer order and docket sheet received. (Entered: 11/19/2025)

Nov. 19, 2025 Case Assigned to Chief Judge Renee Marie Bumb. (mfr) (Entered: 11/19/2025)

17 Nov. 19, 2025 Request Clerk's Letter: Attorney is not admitted to the Federal Bar of New Jersey. Notice has been mailed to the attorney's address. (dmw,N.M.) (Entered: 11/19/2025)

Nov. 19, 2025 Notice of Judicial Preferences. Click here for the Judge's Individual Procedure Requirements. (dmw, N.M.) (Entered: 11/19/2025)

Nov. 19, 2025 Attorney not admitted letter along with a copy of the judicial preferences, has been mailed to the Petitioner's counsel Jed S. Wasserman. (dmw) (Entered: 11/19/2025)

18 Nov. 20, 2025 Request ORDER TO ANSWER: Respondents shall electronically file a full and complete answer to the Petition within ten days of the date of the entry of this Order; Petitioner may file and serve a reply brief in support of the Petition within five days after the answer is filed; Pursuant to the All Writs Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1651, Respondents shall not transfer Petitioner from New Jersey during the pendency of this proceeding, without permission from this Court. Signed by Chief Judge Renee Marie Bumb on 11/20/2025. (kes,N.M.) (Entered: 11/20/2025)

19 Nov. 26, 2025 Request NOTICE of Appearance by STEPHANIE ELIZABETH GIBBS on behalf of ZENGHUI GU (GIBBS, STEPHANIE) (Entered: 11/26/2025)

20 Nov. 26, 2025 Request MOTION for Leave to Appear Pro Hac Vice by ZENGHUI GU. (Attachments: # 1 Statement by Pro Hac Vice counsel Jed Wasserman, # 2 Text of Proposed Order)(GIBBS, STEPHANIE) (Entered: 11/26/2025)

21 Nov. 26, 2025 Request Substitution of Attorney - Attorney FRANCES C. BAJADA terminated. Attorney John T. Stinson, Jr for JUDITH ALMODOVAR,John T. Stinson, Jr for PAMELA BONDI,John T. Stinson, Jr for EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW,John T. Stinson, Jr for KRISTI NOEM added.. (Stinson, John) (Entered: 11/26/2025)

22 Nov. 28, 2025 Request ANSWER to Complaint by JUDITH ALMODOVAR, PAMELA BONDI, EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW, Kristi Noem.(Stinson, John) (Entered: 11/28/2025)

Dec. 01, 2025 CLERK'S QUALITY CONTROL MESSAGE - The Statement by Pro Hac Vice counsel Jed Wasserman attached to the Motion for Pro Hac Vice 20 submitted by STEPHANIE GIBBS on 11/26/2025 contains an improper signature. Only Registered Users are permitted to sign electronically filed documents with an s/. PLEASE RESUBMIT THE DOCUMENT WITH A PROPER SCANNED SIGNATURE using the "Exhibit to Document" event found under Other Documents. This submission will remain on the docket unless otherwise ordered by the court. (dmr) (Entered: 12/01/2025)

Dec. 01, 2025 Set Deadlines as to 20 MOTION for Leave to Appear Pro Hac Vice . Motion set for 1/5/2026 before Chief Judge Renee Marie Bumb. Unless otherwise directed by the Court, this motion will be decided on the papers and no appearances are required. Note that this is an automatically generated message from the Clerk's Office and does not supersede any previous or subsequent orders from the Court. (dmr) (Entered: 12/01/2025)

23 Dec. 03, 2025 Request Amended MOTION for Leave to Appear Pro Hac Vice by ZENGHUI GU. (Attachments: # 1 Statement by Pro Hac Vice counsel Jed Wasserman, # 2 Text of Proposed Order)(GIBBS, STEPHANIE) (Entered: 12/03/2025)

24 Dec. 03, 2025 Request BRIEF REPLY BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS AND IN RESPONSE TO RESPONDENTS ANSWER (Attachments: # 1 Exhibit 1, # 2 Exhibit 2)(GIBBS, STEPHANIE) (Entered: 12/03/2025)

Dec. 04, 2025 Set Deadlines as to 23 Amended MOTION for Leave to Appear Pro Hac Vice. Motion set for 1/5/2026 before Chief Judge Renee Marie Bumb. Unless otherwise directed by the Court, this motion will be decided on the papers and no appearances are required. Note that this is an automatically generated message from the Clerk's Office and does not supersede any previous or subsequent orders from the Court. (sms2) (Entered: 12/04/2025)

25 Dec. 04, 2025 Request ORDER granting 20 Motion for Leave to Appear Pro Hac Vice admission as to JED S. WASSERMAN. The Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus is GRANTED. Signed by Chief Judge Renee Marie Bumb on 12/4/2025. (KHT) (Entered: 12/04/2025)

Dec. 05, 2025 Pro Hac Vice fee as to Jed Wasserman 3:25-cv-17799 and 1:25-cv-17746: \$ 500, receipt number NEW 53086.(sks) (Entered: 12/11/2025)

26 Dec. 09, 2025 Request Notice of Request by Pro Hac Vice Jed S. Wasserman to receive Notices of Electronic Filings. (GIBBS, STEPHANIE)(Main Document 26 replaced on 12/10/2025) (js). (Entered: 12/09/2025)

Dec. 09, 2025 CLERK'S OFFICE QUALITY CONTROL MESSAGE - The Notice of Request by Pro Hac Vice to receive Notices of Electronic Filings 26 filed by STEPHANIE ELIZABETH GIBBS, ESQ. on 12/9/2025 was uploaded prior to being flattened. Before uploading fileable forms to ECF you must flatten the file to prevent other users from manipulating or editing the information. The easiest way to flatten a PDF form is by selecting Print to PDF and saving the flattened form, other PDF software may differ. Please visit our website under Flattening PDF Forms for guidance. Your document has been corrected. This message is for informational purposes only. (js) (Entered: 12/10/2025)

Dec. 09, 2025 CLERK'S QUALITY CONTROL MESSAGE - Please be advised that the Request for Electronic Notification of Pro Hac Vice Counsel 26 submitted by STEPHANIE ELIZABETH GIBBS, ESQ. on 12/9/2025 cannot be processed until the application fee is paid. Please review the Electronic Notification for Pro Hac Vice instructions on our website. Counsel is advised to resubmit the Request for Electronic Notification of Pro Hac Vice Counsel once payment has been recorded. This message is for informational purposes only. (js) (Entered: 12/10/2025)

27 Dec. 10, 2025 Request Notice of Request by Pro Hac Vice Jed S. Wasserman to receive Notices of Electronic Filings. (Attachments: # 1 Affidavit by Pro Hac Vice counsel Jed Wasserman)(GIBBS, STEPHANIE) (Entered: 12/10/2025)

Dec. 10, 2025 Pro Hac Vice counsel, JED S. WASSERMAN for ZENGHUI GU, has been added to receive Notices of Electronic Filing. Pursuant to L.Civ.R. 101.1, only local counsel are entitled to sign and file papers, enter appearances and receive payments on judgments, decrees or orders. (js) (Entered: 12/11/2025)

28 Dec. 12, 2025 Request NOTICE by ZENGHUI GU of Noncompliance with Court Order (Attachments: # 1 Exhibit EOIR case portal bond decision information, #2 Exhibit EOIR Immigration Judge order on Change of Venue)(GIBBS, STEPHANIE) (Entered: 12/12/2025)

29 Dec. 13, 2025 Request TEXT ORDER: This matter comes before the Court upon Petitioner's Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus (Dkt. 1). Respondents have filed a letter response to the petition stipulating to the facts alleged in the petition and acknowledging that they rely on the same statutory interpretation set forth in the Matter of Hurtado as reflected by this Court in Marca Lemu v. Soto, 25-CV-17098 and by many other courts within this District and across the country. Therefore, for the same reasons stated in Marca Lemu v. Soto, the Court finds Petitioner is detained under 8 USC section 1226(a) which requires an opportunity for a bond hearing and therefore grants the petition. It is therefore ordered on this 13th day of December, 2025, ORDERED that the petition for writ of habeas corpus under 28 USC section 2241 is GRANTED; and is further ORDERED that Respondents shall provide Petitioner with a bond hearing pursuant to 8 USC section 1226 (a) and BCFR section 236.1 (d) within ten days of the date of this Order; it is further ORDERED that within three days of the bond hearing, Respondents shall file a letter advising the Court of the outcome, upon which the Court will close this matter unless there has been a violation of this Court's Orders; and is further ORDERED that Respondents shall by December 16, 2025, respond to Petitioner's letter (Docket No. 28) alleging Respondent's claim of noncompliance with this Court's order, which this Court understands the Immigration Judge denied based solely upon this Court's prior ruling that because Petitioner must remain in New Jersey pending further order of the Court, such Immigration Judge had no jurisdiction to act and that is what the challenged order appears to reflect. Respondent shall confirm the Court's understanding of that order. So Ordered by Chief Judge Renee Marie Bumb on 12/13/25. (Bumb, Renee) (Entered: 12/13/2025)

30 Dec. 16, 2025 Request Letter from the United States Attorney's Office: Update on Petitioner's Location and Return to New Jersey. (STINSON, JOHN) (Entered: 12/16/2025)

31 Dec. 18, 2025 Request Letter from the United States Attorney's Office: Update on Petitioner's Return to New Jersey. (STINSON, JOHN) (Entered: 12/18/2025)

32 Dec. 23, 2025 Request NOTICE by ZENGHUI GU of Noncompliance with Court Order (GIBBS, STEPHANIE) (Entered: 12/23/2025)

33 Dec. 26, 2025 Request Letter from the United States Attorney's Office: Bond Hearing Status Update re 29 Order..... (STINSON, JOHN) (Entered: 12/26/2025)

34 Dec. 29, 2025 Request TEXT ORDER This matter comes before the Court upon Petitioner's letter request, Dkt. No. 32, for release or other relief based on Respondents' noncompliance with the Court's deadline for providing habeas corpus relief in the form of a bond hearing pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) and 8 C.F.R. § 236.1(c)(8) and (d)(1). See Order, Dkt. No. 29. Respondents seek an extension for the bond hearing's deadline, and further request that if the Court orders Petitioner's release, that they may impose conditions, including ongoing monitoring. Dkt. No. 33. IT IS ORDERED that, within 24 hours, Respondents shall release Petitioner pending his bond hearing. Respondents may impose reasonable conditions of release. So Ordered by Chief Judge Renee Marie Bumb on 12/29/2025. (Costigan, Roberta) (Entered: 12/29/2025)

35 Feb. 23, 2026 Request TEXT ORDER granting 23 Motion for Leave to Appear Pro Hac Vice This matter comes before the Court upon the Amended Motion for Admission Pro Hac Vice by Stephanie Elizabeth Gibbs, Esq., on behalf of Jed S. Wasserman, Esq. in this matter. Am. Mot. Pro Hac Vice, Dkt. No. 23. Pursuant to Local Civ. Rule 101.1(c), the motion, Dkt. No. 23, is GRANTED. On December 13, 2025, this Court granted Petitioner Zenghui Gu's Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 and ordered Respondents to provide Petitioner with a bond hearing within 10 days. Text Order, Dkt. No. 29. On December 29, 2025, in response to Respondents' noncompliance with the bond hearing deadline, this Court granted Petitioner's release. Text Order, Dkt. No. 34. Therefore, the Clerk shall CLOSE this matter. SO ORDERED by Chief Judge Renee Marie Bumb on 02/23/2026. (Costigan, Roberta) (Entered: 02/23/2026)

Feb. 23, 2026 ***Civil Case Terminated. (dmw) (Entered: 02/23/2026)

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GENERAL INFO

Current As Of Mar. 13, 2026 12:15 AM EDT

Update Docket

What Does This Mean?

Date Filed Nov. 19, 2025

Resolution Administrative / Judicial Dismissal

Length Of Case (Closed) 96 Days

Document ID X1Q6TF02402

Docket Number 1:25-cv-17746

Court United States District Court for the District of New Jersey

Status Closed

Nature Of Suit Habeas Corpus - Alien Detainee

