

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**

**CASE NO. 26-CV-20973-JB**

**ADRIEL RAMON MESA RODRIGUEZ,**

**Petitioner,**

**vs.**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,**

**Defendant.**

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**RESPONDENTS' RESPONSE TO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE**

Pamela Bondi, in her official capacity as Attorney General of the United States, et. al., (Respondents) respectfully file this Response to the Court's Order to Show Cause. (ECF No. 17)<sup>1</sup>

The pending habeas petition was filed in the Southern District of Florida after Petitioner was taken into custody at the Florida Soft Side Facility on or about February 5, 2026. (ECF No. 1). Petitioner was located at this facility when, through Counsel, filed a Petition for Habeas Corpus on February 12, 2026. (*See* A ECF No. 1) On February 13, 2026, this Court issued an Order to Show Cause requiring the undersigned counsel, in part, to “notify the Court of receipt of this Order and the name of the Assistant United States Attorney to whom the case is assigned” and ordered “Respondent shall refrain from transferring Petitioner out of the jurisdiction of this Court during the pendency of this proceeding.” (ECF No. 3) The United States Attorney's Office provided a copy of the Complaint to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on February 13, 2026;

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<sup>1</sup> The government respectfully moves the Court to accept this pleading out-of-time and 35 minutes late. The undersigned has been working with her counterparts at ICE and related DHS components to ensure the representations included in this filing are accurate. The undersigned reached out to Ms. Arletty Pinero, who filed the Emergency Motion for Stay of Removal on Petitioner's behalf to confer on this subject. Ms. Pinero advised that the Petitioner does object to the late filing.

however, the Court's Order to Show Cause was not provided to ICE. The undersigned counsel entered her appearance on February 17, 2026 (ECF 4). Due to a clerical oversight, undersigned counsel's office did not provide Respondents with a copy of this court's is order prohibiting Petitioner's transfer outside the court's jurisdiction.

Because the Florida Soft Side Facility South (FSSFS) is located in the jurisdiction of the Middle District of Florida, Respondents filed a Motion to Change Venue to the Middle District of Florida. (ECF 7)

With the Petitioner's habeas petition and the Respondents' Motion to Change Venue were both pending, Respondents advised Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) on February 18, 2026, that the Habeas Petition had been filed and a motion to change venue was to be filed. However, being unaware of the prohibition on transfer of Petitioner outside the jurisdiction, ERO transferred Petitioner to the Port Isabel Processing Center in Texas on February 22, 2026. The Petitioner's relocation came to the Respondents' agency counsel's attention on the evening of February 24, 2026, at which time Respondent's counsel informed ERO that the Petitioner must be returned to FSSFS immediately.

The Respondents hereby respectfully advise that the failure to comply with the Court's order was entirely unintentional and was due to an inadvertent error. This being the case, the Respondents are working to facilitate the Petitioner's expeditious return to FSSFS.

Respectfully submitted,

**JASON A. REDING QUIÑONES**  
**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

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