

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

JORDY STEVEN C. J.,

Case No. 26-cv-632 (LMP/LIB)

Petitioner,

v.

ORDER

PAMELA BONDI, *Attorney General*;
KRISTI NOEM, *Secretary, U.S.*
Department of Homeland Security;
TODD M. LYONS, *Acting Director of*
Immigration and Customs Enforcement;
and DAVID EASTERWOOD, *Acting*
Director, St. Paul Field Office,
Immigration and Customs Enforcement,

Respondents.

Petitioner Jordy Steven C. J. is a citizen of Ecuador who entered the United States without inspection in September 2023. *See* ECF No. 1 ¶ 13. He has a pending asylum application and is authorized to work in the United States. *Id.* ¶¶ 14–15.

Jordy Steven C. J. was arrested by immigration officials on January 24, 2026, and remains in the custody of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”). *Id.* ¶ 16. He asserts that Respondents (the “Government”) have detained him pursuant to the mandatory detention provisions of 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2). *Id.* ¶ 31. Jordy Steven C. J. contends that he is not subject to detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2) but instead is subject to detention, if at all, under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), and that the Government has not presented a warrant that justifies his detention. *Id.* Jordy Steven C. J. brings a verified petition for writ of habeas corpus, ECF No. 1, and a motion to show cause, ECF No. 2. He

seeks expedited handling, contending that ICE may be on the verge of transporting him outside of the District of Minnesota. ECF No. 2 at 1-2.

This Court has concluded that the mandatory detention provisions of 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2) do not apply to noncitizens similarly situated to Jordy Steven C. J. *See Roberto M. F. v. Olson*, No. 25-cv-4456 (LMP/ECW), 2025 WL 3524455, at *4 (D. Minn. Dec. 9, 2025); *Victor Hugo D. P. v. Olson*, No. 25-cv-4593 (LMP/DTS), 2025 WL 3688074, at *2–3 (D. Minn. Dec. 19, 2025). This Court has further held that to the extent such noncitizens are detained pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), the Government must present an administrative warrant to justify their detention. *See Joaquin Q. L. v. Bondi*, No. 26-cv-233, 2026 WL 161333, at *2–3 (D. Minn. Jan. 21, 2026); *see also* 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) (stating that a noncitizen “may be arrested and detained” pending removal “[o]n a warrant issued by the Attorney General”). Jordy Steven C. J. raises the same legal issues and largely requests the same relief granted in those cases, namely: (1) an order requiring his immediate release from custody if the Government fails to present an administrative warrant justifying his arrest and detention; or (2) if a warrant is presented, an order requiring the Government to conduct a bond hearing. *See* ECF No. 1 at 15–16.

This Court will not depart from its reasoning in its prior decisions. Accordingly, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that:

1. Jordy Steven C. J.’s Emergency Motion for Order to Show Cause (ECF No. 2) is **GRANTED**;
2. The Government is directed to file an answer to Jordy Steven C. J.’s Verified Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus (ECF No. 1 (“Petition”)) on or before

Tuesday, January 27, 2026, certifying the true cause and proper duration of Jordy Steven C. J.'s confinement and showing cause why the writ should not issue in this case;

3. The Government's answer must include:
 - a. Such affidavits and exhibits as are needed to establish the lawfulness and correct duration of Jordy Steven C. J.'s detention in light of the issues raised in his Petition;
 - b. A reasoned memorandum of law and fact explaining the Government's legal position on Jordy Steven C. J.'s claims;
 - c. A good-faith argument as to whether—and if so, why—this matter is materially distinguishable, either factually or legally, from *Joaquin Q. L.*, *Roberto M. F.*, and *Victor Hugo D. P.*; and
 - d. The Government's recommendation on whether an evidentiary hearing should be conducted;
4. If Jordy Steven C. J. intends to file a reply to the Government's answer, he must do so on or before Thursday, January 29, 2026;¹
5. No further submissions from the parties will be permitted except as authorized by Court order;

¹ The Court reserves the right to grant the Petition before Jordy Steven C. J. files his reply brief if the Government's answer plainly demonstrates that Jordy Steven C. J. is entitled to relief.

6. The Government is **ENJOINED** from moving Jordy Steven C. J. outside of the District of Minnesota during the pendency of these proceedings, so that Jordy Steven C. J. may consult with his counsel and participate in this litigation while the Court considers his Petition; and
7. If Jordy Steven C. J. has been removed from Minnesota, the Government is **ORDERED** to immediately return Jordy Steven C. J. to Minnesota.

Dated: January 25, 2026
Time: 10:28 a.m.

s/Laura M. Provinzino

Laura M. Provinzino
United States District Judge