

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

WALTER RODRIGO I. M.,

Case No. 26-cv-698 (LMP/ECW)

Petitioner,

v.

ORDER

KRISTI NOEM, *Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security*; TODD M. LYONS, *Acting Director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement*; DAVID EASTERWOOD, *Acting Director of Enforcement and Removal Operations, St. Paul Field Office*; PAMELA BONDI, *U.S. Attorney General*; EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW; WARDEN, ERO ICE DETENTION, FT. SNELLING, MINNESOTA,

Respondents.

Petitioner Walter Rodrigo I. M. is a citizen of Ecuador who is currently detained by the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement. ECF No. 1 ¶ 25. He contradictorily asserts that he was: (1) apprehended on January 9, 2026, by Respondents (the “Government”) in Minneapolis, Minnesota and transferred to the “ERO Otero Detention Facility in Chapparral, New Mexico,” where he remains in custody, *id.* ¶ 1; or (2) apprehended on January 27, 2026, in Minneapolis and is currently in custody at the “ERO Fort Snelling, Minnesota detention facility,” *id.* ¶¶ 10, 18.¹

¹ At the time of this Order, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s online detainee locator only listed Walter Rodrigo I. M. as “[i]n ICE Custody.”

Walter Rodrigo I. M. brings this petition for a writ of habeas corpus, *see generally id.*, alleging that his continued detention is illegal, *id.* ¶¶ 32–49.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. The Government is directed to file an answer to Petitioner Walter Rodrigo I. M.’s Verified Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus (ECF No. 1 (“Petition”)) on or before Friday, January 30, 2026, certifying the true cause and proper duration of Walter Rodrigo I. M.’s confinement and showing cause why the writ should not issue in this case;
2. The Government’s answer must include:
 - a. Such affidavits and exhibits as are needed to establish the lawfulness and correct duration of Walter Rodrigo I. M.’s detention in light of the issues raised in his Petition;
 - b. A reasoned memorandum of law and fact explaining Respondents’ legal position on Walter Rodrigo I. M.’s claims, including whether this Court has jurisdiction to hear his claims; and
 - c. Respondents’ recommendation on whether an evidentiary hearing should be conducted;
3. Walter Rodrigo I. M. may file a reply to Respondents’ answer on or before Tuesday, February 3, 2026;
4. No further submissions from either party will be permitted except as authorized by Court order; and

5. If Walter Rodrigo I. M. is in the District of Minnesota, the Government is **ENJOINED** from moving Walter Rodrigo I. M. outside of the District of Minnesota during the pendency of these proceedings, so that he may consult with his counsel and participate in this litigation while the Court considers his Petition. Walter Rodrigo I. M. is similarly restricted from moving outside the District of Minnesota during the pendency of these proceedings.

Dated: January 27, 2026
Time: 2:28 p.m.

s/Laura M. Provinzino

Laura M. Provinzino
United States District Judge