

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

---

ALEXIS CRUZ MELCHOR,  
Petitioner,

vs.

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.

**0:26-cv-01234-SHL-LIB**

**ORDER**

---

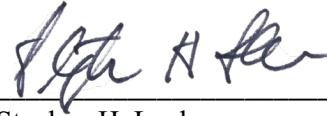
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Respondents are directed to file an answer to Petitioner's petition for a writ of habeas corpus by no later than February 12, 2026, certifying the true cause and proper duration of Petitioner's confinement and showing cause why the writ should not be granted in this case.
2. Respondents' answer should include:
  - a. Such affidavits and exhibits as are needed to establish the lawfulness and correct duration of Petitioner's detention in light of the issues raised in the habeas petition;
  - b. A reasoned memorandum of law and fact explaining Respondents' legal position on Petitioner's claims;
  - c. Respondents' recommendation on whether an evidentiary hearing should be conducted; and
  - d. Whether Petitioner was arrested pursuant to a warrant and, if so, a copy of such warrant.
3. If Petitioner intends to file a reply to Respondents' answer, Petitioner must do so by no later than February 17, 2026. The Court may rule on the petition before the reply if it is clear Petitioner is entitled to relief.
4. Respondents are ENJOINED from moving Petitioner outside of Minnesota until further order of the Court so that Petitioner may consult with counsel while the Court is

considering the petition and to avoid any risk that removal of Petitioner from Minnesota will deprive this Court of jurisdiction.

5. The parties are directed to immediately notify the Court of any change to Petitioner's custodial status during the pendency of these proceedings.

Dated: February 9, 2026



---

Stephen H. Locher  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE