

ENTERED

February 13, 2026

Nathan Ochsner, Clerk

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
LAREDO DIVISION**

**RAMESH KHATRI,
Petitioner,**

V.

**MIGUEL VERGARA, et al.,
Respondents.**

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CIVIL ACTION NO. 5:26-CV-00189

ORDER

Before the Court is Petitioner’s Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus, Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241, (Dkt. No. 1). Petitioner challenges the constitutionality of his detention in federal immigration custody. Petitioner names Kristi Noem, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security; Patrick Lechleiter, Acting Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Field Office Director, ICE ERO South Texas; and Warden, La Salle County Regional Detention Center, as Respondents.

Based upon a review of the Petition, the Court **ORDERS** Respondents to file a response to the petition and serve their response on Petitioner **no later than February 20, 2026**. 28 U.S.C. § 2243. Should Petitioner wish to file a reply, they must do so **no later than February 25, 2026**.¹

The Clerk of Court is **DIRECTED** to serve the Petition, (Dkt. No. 1), on Federal Respondents by and through the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Texas and David Cole, Warden of the Rio Grande Processing Center, via certified mail pursuant to Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and include a copy of this Order with that service.

- The United States Attorney for the Southern District of Texas may be served at 1000 Louisiana St., Suite 2300, Houston, TX 77002.
- Respondent Warden or his designee may be served at La Salle County Detention Center, 832 East Texas Highway 44, Encinal, TX 780119.

The Court further **DIRECTS** the Clerk of Court to send the Petition, (Dkt. No. 1),

¹ Any deadlines set forth in a civil summons issued by the Clerk of Court are superseded by the deadlines set forth in this Order.

and this Order to the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Texas, Nicholas J. Ganjei, by electronic mail to USATXS.CivilNotice@usa.doj.gov to provide notice of this action to Respondents. Respondents will not be served further notice of activity on this docket automatically. Instead, they must arrange to monitor the docket themselves, either by automatic electronic service or otherwise.

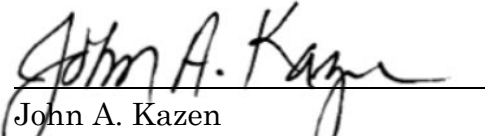
As Petitioner notes, on November 25, 2025, a district court in the Central District of California certified a nationwide class under Rule 23(b)(2). *Maldonado Bautista v. Santacruz, Jr.*, No. 5:25-CV-1873, 2025 WL 3288403, at *9 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 25, 2025) (certifying a class including “[a]ll noncitizens in the United States without lawful status who (1) have entered or will enter the United States without inspection; (2) were not or will not be apprehended upon arrival; and (3) are not or will not be subject to detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c), § 1225(b)(1), or § 1231 at the time the Department of Homeland Security makes an initial custody determination”). The court previously granted petitioners partial summary judgment and then “extend[ed] the same declaratory relief granted to Petitioners to the Bond Eligible Class as a whole.” *Id.*; *Maldonado Bautista v. Santacruz, Jr.*, No. 5:25-CV-1873, 2025 WL 3289861, at *11 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 20, 2025).

Accordingly, Respondents are further **ORDERED** to file an advisory or otherwise address in their responsive briefing whether Petitioner is a class member and the effect, if any, of the class certification and declaratory relief. Respondents should file their advisory or responsive briefing with the Court on this issue **by February 20, 2026**.

Additionally, Respondents are **ORDERED** to notify Petitioner and the Court of any anticipated or planned transfer or removal of Petitioner outside of the Southern District of Texas **at least five (5) days** before any such transfer.

It is so **ORDERED**.

SIGNED on February 13, 2026.


John A. Kazen
United States District Judge