

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MAINE

ELDER BENJAMIN ORTIZ SINTUJ,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
v.	)	No. 2:26-cv-00027-JAW
	)	
DERRICK STRAMPER, <i>in his</i>	)	
<i>official capacity Chief Patrol Agent,</i>	)	
<i>U.S. Border Patrol, et al.,</i>	)	
	)	
Respondents.	)	

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE**

On January 18, 2026 Elder Benjamin Ortiz Sintuj filed a verified petition for writ of habeas corpus and an emergency motion seeking a temporary restraining order (TRO) against his removal from the District of Maine. *Pet. for Writ of Habeas Corpus* (ECF No. 1) (*Pet.*); *Emer. Mot. for TRO* (ECF No. 3) (*Mot. for TRO*). Mr. Sintuj, a resident of Middlesex County, Massachusetts who works in construction, is Guatemalan citizen who arrived in the United States without inspection in March 2023. *Id.* ¶¶ 13-16. On January 15, 2026, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrested and detained Mr. Sintuj while he was working at a construction site in Bethel, Maine. *Id.* ¶¶ 17-18.

Mr. Sintuj alleges his detention violates the Immigration Nationality Act and his due process rights under the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution. *Id.* ¶¶ 29-38. He seeks a TRO enjoining his transfer pending his habeas proceedings against the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Customs and Border

Protection (CBP) Office of Field Operations, ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations, the U.S. Department of Justice Executive Office of Immigrations Review, Derrick Stamper, in his official capacity as Chief Patrol Agent for the Houlton Sector of U.S. Border Patrol, Rodney Scott in his official capacity as Commissioner of CBP, David Wesling, in his official capacity as Director for the Boston ICE Field Office, Todd Lyons, in his official capacity as Acting Director of ICE, Kristi Noem, in her official capacity as Secretary of DHS, and Pamela J. Bondi, in her official capacity as U.S. Attorney General. *Id.* ¶¶ 2-12; *Mot. for TRO* at 1-4. He also seeks, inter alia, an order requiring an Immigration Judge to provide him with a bond hearing as soon as possible, or in the alternative, a writ of habeas corpus ordering his immediate release during his habeas proceedings. *Id.* 10-11.

On January 18, 2026, after Mr. Sintuj filed his habeas petition but prior to the Court issuing its emergency order blocking Mr. Sintuj's transfer from the District of Maine, Respondents moved Mr. Sintuj to a holding facility in Louisiana. At the January 20, 2026 teleconference of counsel, the parties agreed to brief the Court on whether the Court may order Mr. Sintuj's return to the District of Maine. *Min. Entry* (ECF No. 7).

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 2243, the Court ORDERS Respondents to SHOW CAUSE by January 21, 2026 why this petition for a writ of habeas corpus should not be granted, including whether the Court can and should order Elder Benjamin Ortiz Sintuj's return to the District of Maine. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2243. The

Court further ORDERS Elder Benjamin Ortiz Sintuj to file their reply no later than twenty-four hours after Respondents file their answer to this order to show cause.

SO ORDERED.

/s/ John A. Woodcock, Jr.  
JOHN A. WOODCOCK, JR.  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Dated this 21st day of January, 2026