IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO
Chief Judge Regina M. Rodriguez

Civil Action No. 26-cv-05932-RMR

KEVIN JHOVANY MEDRANO MEDRANO,

Petitioner,

v.

JUAN BALTAZAR, Warden, Denver Contract Detention Facility, Aurora, Colorado,
NATHAN RASPER1, Acting Field Office Director, Denver Field Office Immigration and Customs Enforcement,
DAVID J. VENTURELLA, Acting Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement,
MARKWAYNE MULLIN, Secretary, United States Department of Homeland Security, and
TODD BLANCHE, United States Attorney General,

Respondents.

ORDER

Petitioner Kevin Jhovany Medrano Medrano ("Petitioner") is a 21-year-old native of El Salvador who entered the United States as an unaccompanied child on November 25, 2022. ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 5, 11. On July 5, 2026, Petitioner was arrested in Garfield County. *Id.* ¶ 17. The Garfield County court set a $100 personal-recognizance bond on July 6, 2026, and the bond was posted the same day. *Id.* Also on July 6, 2026, Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") took Petitioner into custody as he walked out of Garfield County Jail. *Id.* He has been detained in the Denver Contract Detention Facility since then. *Id.*

Petitioner filed the instant Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus ("Petition") on November 6, 2026. ECF No. 1. Respondents filed a response on November 16, 2026. ECF No. 5. Petitioner contends he is improperly detained and seeks immediate release. ECF No. 1 at 17. The relief requested by Petitioner and the legal claims and arguments upon which it's premised, are familiar to the Court and the parties. Respondents "are not submitting a brief in opposition to the Petition detailing the facts and circumstances of this case." ECF No. 5 at 2. Respondent submits that if the Court grants the Petition, "the appropriate relief would be an Order directing that Respondents, within seven days of this Order, release Petitioner from detention." *Id.* at 1-2 (emphasis in original).

Given this response, the Petition is granted. With respect to the appropriate relief, this Court has previously granted similar petitions and ordered Respondents to provide those petitioners with a bond hearing where the "Government shall bear the burden of proving, by clear and convincing evidence, that Petitioner is a flight risk or danger to the community such that his physical custody is legally justified." *See Tzompa Garcia v. Baltazar*, No. 26-CV-2713-RMR, 2026 WL 2240137, at *1 (D. Colo. Aug. 4, 2026); *see also A.A.G.R. v. Baltazar*, No. 26-CV-02344-RMR, 2026 WL 2110577, at *2 (D. Colo. July 22, 2026). Several of these bond hearings were not compliant with the Court's orders, specifically with respect to applying the "clear and convincing" standard. *Tzompa Garcia*, 2026 WL 2240137, at *3; *A.A.G.R.*, 2026 WL 2110577, at *3. Other courts in this District have also expressed "concern[] that the immigration courts are not affording immigrants fair bond hearings," as "the mounting evidence that bond determination hearings conducted in Immigration Court under § 1226(a) have preordained outcomes has become

impossible to ignore." *Pal v. Lyons,* 2026 WL 937962, at *4 (D. Colo. Apr. 7, 2025); *see also Quiroz Zacarias v. Mullin,* 2026 WL 1092162, at *4-*5 (D. Colo. Apr. 22, 2026); *see also Asfir v. Blanche*, No. 26-cv-01435-GPG (D. Colo. July 2, 2026). Given this reality, the Court finds Petitioner's immediate release is the appropriate remedy. *See Santillan Quiroz*, 2026 WL 1876709, at *17 n.13 (contemplating the district court should "order the Government to, within seven days of such order, either provide [the petitioner] with a bond hearing or else release him.").

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus (ECF No. 1) is **GRANTED**;
2. Respondents shall **IMMEDIATELY RELEASE** Petitioner on his own recognizance, along with all his personal belongings, without onerous conditions of release, including, without limitation, GPS monitoring, mandatory reporting, or other restrictions on his movement. Respondents shall facilitate Petitioner's transportation from the detention facility by providing all necessary identity and travel documents to return to his primary address;
3. Respondents are **ENJOINED** from re-arresting or re-detaining Petitioner unless they demonstrate, by clear and convincing evidence at a pre-deprivation bond hearing before a neutral decisionmaker, that he is a flight risk or danger to the community such that his physical custody is legally justified pursuant to 8 U.S.C § 1226(a). At any such bond hearing, Respondents shall bear the burden of proof, and Petitioner shall be allowed to have counsel present. This injunction shall

remain in effect until such time as this Court, or the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, vacates this Order;

4. During such periods of time as Petitioner remains in Respondents' custody, Respondents shall continue to be **ENJOINED** from removing, transferring, or causing the removal or transfer of Petitioner from the District of Colorado until such time as this Court, or the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, vacates this Order;
5. On or before **November 23, 2026**, Respondents shall file a status report certifying compliance with this Order.

DATED: November 16, 2026

BY THE COURT:

REGINA M. RODRIGUEZ
Chief Judge, U.S. District Court