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Subject: Activity in Case 3:26-cv-01091-MAJ Paula et al v. Gonzalez et al Order on Motion for TRO
Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 2:33:21 PM

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United States District Court

District of Puerto Rico

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Case Name: Paula et al v. Gonzalez et al

Case Number: [3:26-cv-01091-MAJ](#)

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Docket Text:

ORDER granting: [2] "Motion for Temporary Restraining Order." As this district has repeatedly held in recent cases, non-citizens who are detained under Section 1226(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act are entitled to a bond hearing before a neutral decisionmaker. See *Cruz-Santana v. Gonzalez-Ramos et al.*, Civ. No. 26-1028 (GMM) (D.P.R. Jan. 22 2026) ("Where removal and detention of a noncitizen is discretionary, rather than mandatory, Section 1226(a) entitled a noncitizen to an initial bond hearing before a neutral decisionmaker[.]"); *Lora-Salazar v. Ripa*, Civ. No. 26-01014 (MAJ) (D.P.R. Jan. 13, 2026) (collecting cases and noting that, in other cases where "the Government argued that there is no right to a bond hearing for individuals detained [under Section 1226(a)] their arguments have been rejected again and again by various district courts"); *Cruz et al. v. Gonzalez et al.*, 26-cv-1036 (PAD) (D.P.R. Jan. 23, 2026) (granting request for a temporary restraining order and ordering the respondents to "provide petition a bond hearing before an immigration judge"); *Alvarez-Felix v. Gonzalez-Ramos*, 26-1041 (RAM) (Jan. 23, 2026); *Gonzalez-Rucci et al. v. Gonzalez-Ramos et al.*, 26-1045 (SCC) (Jan. 29, 2026). The Court thus finds that Petitioner is likely to succeed on the merits. See *Charlesbank Equity Fund II v. Blinds To Go, Inc.*, 370 F.3d 151, 161-162 (1st

Cir. 2004). The Court also finds that, in the absence of relief, Petitioner faces irreparable harm; that the balance of hardships weighs in the favor of Petitioner; and that the issuance of this temporary restraining order is in the public interest. See *Id.* The Court hereby **ORDERS** that Respondents shall not transfer Petitioner outside of Puerto Rico and that he be granted a bond hearing before an Immigration Judge, no later than 2/25/2026. If Respondents fail to provide such hearing by this deadline, they shall immediately release petitioner. Not later than 2/27/2026, Respondents shall: a) file an informative motion confirming whether petitioner has either been granted a bond hearing in compliance with this Order or released from custody; b) show cause as to why the remaining requests made in petitioner's habeas petition should not be granted, and (c) show cause why sanctions should not be imposed against Respondents, in light of the numerous recent cases from this district in which Respondents have repeatedly attempted to conduct discretionary removals without affording a bail hearing under Section 1226(a). Petitioner shall immediately serve process on Respondents and provide them with a copy of this Order. Signed by Judge Maria Antongiorgi-Jordan on 2/17/2026. (ao)

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