



1 merit because he has received all the benefits of due process to which he is entitled. Specifically,  
2 under the Supreme Court’s recent decision in *Jennings v. Rodriguez*, 138 S.Ct. 830, 842 (2018),  
3 detention is mandatory for arriving aliens such as Petitioner, pending “further consideration of the  
4 application for asylum.” Because Petitioner’s asylum and removal proceedings are not yet  
5 complete, and because he has been afforded all the benefit of due process entitled to him, his  
6 continued detention is statutorily authorized and required. Accordingly, his habeas petition should  
7 be dismissed.

## 8 II. FACTS

9 Petitioner is a native and citizen of Malawi. Declaration of Deportation Officer (“DO”)  
10 Gerardo T. Carranza (“Decl. of Carranza”), at ¶ 3, submitted herewith. On September 14, 2017,  
11 Petitioner submitted a nonimmigrant visa application (“DS160”) to the Department of State,  
12 written in English. *Id.* at ¶ 4. In response to a list of languages spoken, Petitioner listed only  
13 English. *Id.* Petitioner indicated his purpose for travel to the United States was for tourism and  
14 that he planned to stay at an address in Parkway, Minnesota with a contact listed as Calla Brown.  
15 *Id.* On or about September 20, 2017, Petitioner was interviewed in connection with his  
16 nonimmigrant visa at the United States Embassy in Lilongwe, Malawi. *Id.* at ¶ 5. The interview  
17 was conducted in English, which is the official language of Malawi. *Id.* According to the  
18 interviewing officer’s recorded remarks, Petitioner indicated his intent to visit Ms. Brown in  
19 Minnesota for two weeks and that he met her when she worked at a local Malawian hospital where  
20 Petitioner supplied food. *Id.* Petitioner’s visa was thereupon approved and he was issued a B1/B2  
21 nonimmigrant visa on September 21, 2017. *Id.*

22 On November 8, 2017, Petitioner attempted to enter the United States at the Seattle-  
23 Tacoma International Airport port of entry. *Id.* at ¶ 6; *see also* I-213 Deportable/Inadmissible  
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1 Alien, attached as Exhibit B of the Chan Decl. Petitioner presented his Malawi passport containing  
2 the B1/B2 visa to the Inspecting Officer from Customs and Border Protection (“CBPO”) along  
3 with a Customs Form 6059B, which had been completed in English. Carranza Decl. at ¶ 6.  
4 Petitioner told the CBPO that he wanted to travel to the United States to see his friend, Calla  
5 Brown, in Minnesota. *Id.* Petitioner presented the CBPO with an invitation letter, written in  
6 English, purportedly written by Calla Brown, along with a copy of the facepage of Ms. Brown’s  
7 United States passport. *Id.*, *see also* Letter from Calla Brown, attached as Exhibit C of the Chan  
8 Decl. CBPO determined that Petitioner warranted further inspection and referred him to passport  
9 control secondary accordingly. Carranza Decl. at ¶ 6.

10 While subject to immigration inspection, Petitioner was given instructions in English and  
11 indicated his understanding of what was said to him and swore an oath to tell the truth during that  
12 interview. Record of Sworn Statement, attached as Ex. D of the Chan Decl; Carranza Decl. at ¶ 7.  
13 During that interview, Petitioner repeated the claim that he knew Ms. Brown; that he had met her  
14 in Malawi; and that she had sent him the invitation letter that he used to obtain his nonimmigrant  
15 visa. *Id.* at ¶ 7. However, when CBPO officials contacted Ms. Brown to verify Petitioner’s story,  
16 she denied ever having written the letter, meeting Petitioner or inviting him to visit. *Id.* Ms. Brown  
17 did acknowledge that she had previously been an aid worker in Malawi, but did not know  
18 Petitioner, had not invited him to visit her in the United States, and had not provided him with a  
19 copy of her passport. *Id.* When confronted with this information, Petitioner continued to maintain  
20 to the CBPO that Calla Brown had sent the invitation letter. *Id.* At the conclusion of the interview,  
21 Petitioner claimed fear of return to Malawi. *Id.* Based on the totality of the evidence, CBP  
22 determined that Petitioner was inadmissible into the United States pursuant to Section  
23 212(a)(7)(A)(i)(I) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (“INA”), as amended, as an immigrant

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1 | who is not in possession of valid unexpired immigrant visa at the time of application for admission.

2 | *Id.* As Petitioner had expressed fear of returning to Malawi, Petitioner was transferred to ICE  
3 | custody at the Northwest Detention Center (“NWDC”) the same day. *Id.*

4 | ICE referred Petitioner’s credible fear claim to the United States Citizenship and  
5 | Immigration Services (“USCIS”). *Id.* at ¶ 8. By regulation, credible fear interviews are conducted  
6 | by Asylum Officers from USCIS. *Id.* USCIS is the sole agency responsible for scheduling and  
7 | conducting credible fear interviews. *Id.* As part of this process, USCIS contracts with various  
8 | professional language interpretation services to provide telephonic interpretation for credible fear  
9 | interviews. *Id.* USCIS conducts credible fear interviews at the NWDC for detainees housed at the  
10 | facility. *Id.* With the exception of forwarding credible fear claims to USCIS for scheduling, ICE  
11 | is not involved in the credible fear process. *Id.*

12 | On November 8, 2017, Petitioner was placed in ICE’s custody. Ex. E of the Chan Decl.  
13 | He was also provided English instructions about requesting parole from detention and indicated  
14 | he understood those instructions. Ex. F of the Chan Decl. ICE then served him with an expedited  
15 | removal order and later, a Notice to Appear (“NTA”), charging him with removability under  
16 | Section 212(a)(7)(A)(i)(I) of the INA as an immigrant who, at the time of admission, was not in  
17 | possession of a valid unexpired entry document. Exs. G and H of the Chan Decl.

18 | On or about November 22, 2017, Petitioner was scheduled for a credible fear interview  
19 | with USCIS. Carranza Decl. at ¶ 9. Although the record does not reflect that Petitioner requested  
20 | Chichewan interpreter services at that time, an immigration official noted in a file memo that for  
21 | Petitioner’s benefit, the credible fear interview would need to be conducted in Chichewan. Ex. I  
22 | of the Chan Decl. However, according to the officer, “[t]he primary, secondary, and tertiary  
23 | language services, Transperfect, Language Line and Lionbridge . . . informed the asylum office that

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1 they did not have a Chichewan interpreter.” *Id.* For that reason, ICE issued an NTA to avoid “an  
2 undue delay in the processing of the case and to afford the applicant all possible avenues to have  
3 his claim of fear heard.” *Id.*; Carranza Decl. at ¶ 10.

4 On January 9, 2018, Petitioner appeared for his master calendar hearing (“MCH”). Ex. J  
5 of the Chan Decl.; Carranza Decl. at ¶ 11. The purpose of the MCH was to set the matter for trial  
6 on the individual calendar so that admissibility and removability could be decided. The  
7 Immigration Judge (“IJ”) continued the MCH to February 20, 2018, in order to secure Chichewa  
8 interpretation services for Petitioner.<sup>1</sup> Carranza Decl. at ¶ 11.

9 On February 20, 2018, a Nyanja<sup>2</sup> interpreter was present telephonically to provide  
10 translation services for Petitioner’s master calendar hearing. *Id.* at ¶ 13. However, Petitioner had  
11 difficulty understanding the interpreter and the Immigration Court ordered a continuance to April  
12 9, 2018, to secure a different interpreter. *Id.*

13 On March 7, 2018, Petitioner was scheduled for a bond hearing, which was conducted in  
14 English. The IJ concluded Petitioner was ineligible for a bond hearing as an arriving alien. *Id.* at  
15 ¶¶ 14-15. Exs. K and L of the Chan Decl. Petitioner had until April 6, 2018 to file an appeal. *Id.*  
16 Petitioner waived appeal. *Id.*

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19 <sup>1</sup> The Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review (“EOIR”) is the sole agency responsible for  
20 arranging interpretation services for Immigration Court hearings. To this end, EOIR contracts with various  
21 professional interpretation services to provide both telephonic and in-person interpretation services. Each  
22 Immigration Court arranges for the scheduling of interpreters. The record does not therefore reflect the specific  
23 availability, procedures, or efforts made by EOIR to secure a Chichewa interpreter for Petitioner’s case. Carranza  
24 Decl. at ¶ 12.

<sup>2</sup> As explained by the Immigration Judge at the October 31, 2018 hearing and confirmed by the Department’s  
research, Chichewa is a Bantu language spoken in parts of Malawi. It is also spoken in Zimbabwe, where the  
language is known as Nyanja or Chinyanja. Chichewa and Nyanja are considered the same language, however,  
there can be some local variants that differ. See <https://www.omniglot.com/writing/chichewa.php>;  
<https://www.ethnologue.com/language/nya>. Review of the recordings indicates that the Immigration Judge has  
referred to the language of Petitioner’s case as Nyanja with the understanding that it is the same language as  
Chichewa.

1 At the master calendar hearing on April 9, 2018, Petitioner entered pleadings through a  
2 Nyanja interpreter. Carranza Decl. at ¶ 16. Petitioner denied the allegation contained in the NTA,  
3 alleging that he did not possess or present a valid immigrant visa, reentry permit, border crossing  
4 card or other valid entry docket, and denied the charge of inadmissibility. *Id.* The case was  
5 continued to April 24, 2018, at ICE's request to determine if it wished to amend the NTA, provide  
6 additional evidence, or set for a contested removal hearing. *Id.*

7 At the master calendar hearing on April 24, 2018, a Nyanja interpreter was provided by the  
8 Immigration Court. At that time, the Department informed the Immigration Court that it would  
9 not be amending the charge and the case was set to a contested removal hearing on May 29, 2018  
10 for the sole purpose of addressing the charge of inadmissibility. *Id.* at ¶ 17.

11 On or about May 4, 2018, Petitioner requested voluntary departure or expedited removal,  
12 stating that he was "unwilling to prosecute [his] case." Ex. M of the Chan Decl.; *see also* Carranza  
13 Decl. at ¶ 18. If voluntary departure was denied, Petitioner desired to waive his rights to an  
14 attorney or to call witnesses. Ex. K. He also sought to have an order of removal entered deporting  
15 him to Malawi. *Id.*

16 On May 21, 2018, Petitioner filed an application for asylum. Carranza Decl. at ¶ 19.

17 On May 29, 2018, Petitioner was scheduled for a contested removal hearing, however, a  
18 Chichewa interpreter was not available. *Id.* at ¶ 20. The Immigration Judge had a discussion with  
19 Petitioner in English about the possibility of proceeding in English, but Petitioner chose to continue  
20 to proceed in Chichewa. *Id.* The case was therefore reset to October 31, 2018, for a Chichewa  
21 interpreter. *Id.*

22 At the October 31, 2018 hearing, EOIR secured and scheduled a telephonic Nyanja  
23 interpreter. However, for unknown reasons outside the control of EOIR, the scheduled interpreter

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1 failed to answer the phone after repeated attempts to contact her. Carranza Decl. at ¶ 21. An  
2 alternate interpreter was not available on that date. *Id.* The case was therefore reset to February  
3 25, 2019. *Id.*

4 In light of the current litigation, ICE inquired from EOIR as to whether a Chichewa/Nyanja  
5 interpreter has been secured for the upcoming hearing. *Id.* at ¶ 22. EOIR confirmed that it has  
6 secured an in-person Chichewa/Nyanja interpreter, who will be flown in for a hearing on the  
7 afternoon of either February 26, 2019 or February 27, 2019. *Id.*

### 8 III. ANALYSIS

#### 9 A. ICE Has Authority to Detain Arriving Aliens Pursuant to Section 235(b) of the INA.

##### 10 1. Arriving Aliens under Section 235(b) of the INA.

11 Section 235(b) governs the detention of “aliens arriving in the United States,” and  
12 mandates the detention of “arriving aliens” who, like Petitioner, do not possess valid entry or travel  
13 documents when they arrive. Section 235(b) provides that arriving aliens are inspected  
14 immediately upon arriving in the United States by an immigration officer, and that if the officer  
15 determines that the alien is inadmissible because the alien cannot produce valid entry documents,  
16 *see* 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(7), “the officer shall order the alien removed from the United States without  
17 further hearing or review.” 8 C.F.R. § 1235.3(b)(1)(i), (b)(2)(ii) (providing that arriving aliens  
18 subject to expedited removal are not entitled to a hearing or appeal of this decision).

19 If, however, the alien “indicates an intention to apply for asylum . . . or a fear of persecution,  
20 the officer shall refer the alien for an interview by an asylum officer.” INA § 235(b)(1)(A)(ii), 8  
21 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)(A)(ii); *see* 8 C.F.R. § 235.3(b)(4) (“If an alien subject to the expedited  
22 removal provisions indicates an intention to apply for asylum, or expresses a fear of persecution  
23 or torture, or a fear of return to his or her country, the inspecting officer shall not proceed further

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1 with removal of the alien until the alien has been referred for an interview by an asylum officer.”).  
2 Should the asylum officer determine that the alien has a credible fear of persecution, the alien  
3 “shall be detained for further consideration of the application for asylum.” INA § 235(b)(1)(B)(ii),  
4 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)(B)(ii). If the alien receives a positive credible fear determination, the alien  
5 will be placed in removal proceedings. 8 C.F.R. § 235.6(a)(1)(ii). The alien, however, remains  
6 detained pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b) during the pendency of these proceedings.

7 Parole from detention is the only status which permits an alien’s release from Section  
8 235(b) custody. Specifically, Section 212(d)(5)(A) of the INA provides that:

9 The Attorney General may in his discretion, parole into the United States  
10 temporarily under such conditions as he may prescribe only on a case-by-case basis  
11 for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit any alien applying for  
12 admission to the United States, but such parole of such alien shall not be regarded  
13 as an admission of the alien and when the purposes of such parole shall, in the  
14 opinion of the Attorney General, have been served the alien shall forthwith return  
15 or be returned to the custody from which he was paroled and thereafter his case  
16 shall continue to be dealt with in the same manner as that of any other applicant for  
17 admission to the United States.

18 INA § 212(d)(5)(A), 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5)(A)(emphasis added). Decisions under section 212 are  
19 purely discretionary and the regulations prevent an immigration judge from “redetermin[ing]  
20 conditions of custody” with respect to certain classes of aliens, including “[a]rriving aliens in  
21 removal proceedings, including aliens paroled after arrival pursuant to section 212(d)(5) of the  
22 Act.” 8 C.F.R. § 1003.19(h)(2)(i)(B).

23 Here, Petitioner entered the United States on November 8, 2017, without valid, unexpired  
24 entry documents, and was declared inadmissible on that basis. Carranza Decl. at ¶ 7; Exs. G and  
H of the Chan Decl. ICE has authority to detain Petitioner because he is arriving alien detained  
pending a determination on his credible fear claim. *Id.* at ¶ 8; Exs. E and F of the Chan Decl.

1 Furthermore, because parole from detention falls solely within the discretion of ICE, an  
2 immigration court lacks jurisdiction over custody determinations.

3 **B. Petitioner’s Continued Detention is Lawful Pursuant to *Jennings v. Rodriguez*.**

- 4 1. Under *Jennings*, there is no implicit limit to the length of detention and no  
5 entitlement to periodic bond hearings.

6 The Ninth Circuit previously held in *Rodriguez v. Robbins*, 804 F.3d 1060 (9th Cir. 2015),  
7 that Section 235(b) contained an implicit six-month limitation on the length of detention which  
8 entitled aliens detained under that provision to periodic bond hearings. *Id.* However, the Supreme  
9 Court in *Jennings* overruled *Rodriguez*, holding instead that “nothing in the statutory text imposes  
10 any limit on the length of detention. And neither § 1225(b)(1) nor § 1225(b)(2) says anything  
11 whatsoever about bond hearings.” *Jennings*, 138 S.Ct. at 842. *Jennings* also explicitly held that,  
12 with respect to arriving aliens like Petitioner, detained pending removal proceedings and  
13 consideration of their asylum claims, “Section 1225(b)(1) mandates detention ‘for further  
14 consideration of the application for asylum,’ § 1225(b)(1)(B)(ii) and § 1225(b)(2) requires  
15 detention ‘for [removal proceeding,’ § 1225(b)(2)(A).” *Id.* at 844. The Court found that the “plain  
16 meaning of those phrases is that detention must continue until immigration officers have finished  
17 ‘consider[ing]’ the application for asylum . . . or until removal proceedings have concluded . . . .”  
18 *Id.*

19 Here, ICE has continued authority to detain Petitioner because his removal proceedings are  
20 ongoing and have not yet concluded. Specifically, his individual calendar hearing is scheduled for  
21 February 26 or 27, 2019 (depending on the availability of the Chichewa/Nyanja interpreter), at  
22 which time the IJ will consider the charges of inadmissibility and removal. Carranza Decl. at ¶ 22.  
23 Although denied for lack of jurisdiction under section 235(b)(1) of the INA, Petitioner did receive  
24 a bond hearing before an IJ on March 7, 2018. Pursuant to *Jennings*, Petitioner is not entitled to

1 multiple periodic automatic bond hearings thereafter. *Jennings*, 138 S.Ct. at 842. Petitioner could  
2 have appealed the bond determination but chose to waive his appeal instead, thus failing to exhaust  
3 his administrative remedies as available under 8 C.F.R. § 1003.19(e). *See also Leonardo v.*  
4 *Crawford*, 646 F.3d 1157, 1160 (9th Cir. 2011) (requirement of exhaustion); *but see Liang v.*  
5 *Ashcroft*, 370 F.3d 994, 1000 (9th Cir. 2004) (futility is grounds for waiver). For these reasons,  
6 the Court should dismiss Petitioner's claim that his continued detention is unlawful pending  
7 removal proceedings.

8 2. Petitioner has been afforded all the benefits of due process to which he is entitled.

9 The Court should also dismiss Petitioner's claim that his due process rights have been  
10 violated on the basis of prolonged detention. Respondents acknowledge that Petitioner's detention  
11 has been lengthy; however the length of his detention, alone, does not violate due process. Under  
12 the Supreme Court's *Mathews* analysis, "[d]ue process is flexible and calls for procedural  
13 protections as the particular situation demands." *Mathews v. Eldridge*, 424 U.S. 319, 334 (1976).  
14 The three-part test articulated in *Mathews* requires considering (1) the private interest affected, (2)  
15 the government's interest, and (3) the value added by alternative procedural safeguards to what  
16 has already been provided in the particular situation before the court. *Id.* at 334-335; *see also Soto*  
17 *v. Sessions*, 2018 WL 3619727 at \*3-4 (N.D. Cal. Jul. 30, 2018) (applying *Mathews v. Eldridge*).

18 a. Petitioner's interest.

19 Applying the *Mathews* test, Petitioner's right of due process has not been violated.  
20 Petitioner presented what ICE concluded were fraudulent documents in order to gain entry into the  
21 country. Carranza Decl. at ¶ 7. He expressed a credible fear of returning to Malawi and was  
22 served with an NTA which promptly placed him in removal proceedings. *Id.* at ¶¶ 8-10. The  
23 record reflects that Petitioner has been afforded many opportunities to be heard. Specifically,

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1 | Petitioner has been provided notices and has appeared in approximately nine master calendar,  
2 | individual calendar and bond hearings. *Id.* at ¶¶ 11-21. Petitioner chose not to appeal the denial  
3 | of bond.

4 |         In regards to Petitioner's ability to understand his proceedings, English is an official  
5 | language of Malawi, as evidenced by Petitioner's election to proceed in English at times,  
6 | specifically during his interview with CBPO during immigration inspection on November 8, 2017,  
7 | at his March 7, 2018 bond hearing, in papers filed on May 4, 2018 requesting voluntary departure  
8 | and in his application for asylum filed on May 21, 2018. *See Carranza Decl.* at ¶¶ 6-18.

9 |         Even so and although fairly proficient in English, as evidenced during hearings, interviews  
10 | and in submitted documents, a Chichewa/Nyanja interpreter was present in person or  
11 | telephonically during about three of the six hearings in which Petitioner requested interpreter  
12 | services. *Id.* Unfortunately, due to factors outside of ICE's control, some hearings had to be  
13 | postponed because a Chichewa/Nyanja interpreter was unavailable or failed to appear. For that  
14 | reason, ICE has asked EOIR about ensuring that such services will be provided at Petitioner's next  
15 | hearing. *Id.* at ¶ 22. EOIR has confirmed that a Chichewa/Nyanja interpreter will be flown in for  
16 | a hearing on February 26 or 27, 2019. *Id.*

17 |         Although lengthy, Petitioner's detention is also not indefinite. Once a decision is made on  
18 | Petitioner's asylum and removal order, he will either be granted asylum or subject to a final  
19 | removal order. Furthermore, courts have declined to recognize an implicit limit on the duration of  
20 | detention for arriving aliens detained pending removal proceedings, contrary to what was afforded  
21 | to aliens detained under Section 241 of the INA under *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678 (2001).  
22 | Rather, courts have expressly held that there are no such limitations imposed on aliens detained  
23 | under Section 235(b)(1). *Jennings*, 138 S.Ct. at 842; *Soto*, 2018 WL 3619727 at \*3-4 (finding

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1 detention not indefinite); *see also Hurtado-Romero v. Sessions*, 2018 WL 2234500, at \*3 (N.D.  
2 Cal. May 16, 2018) (distinguishing implicit limit under Section 241(a)(6) with lack of express  
3 exemption for detention under Section 235(b)); *Sied v. Nielsen*, 2018 WL 1876907, at \*5 (N.D.  
4 Cal. Apr. 19, 2018)(same).

5 b. Respondents' interest and alternative procedural safeguards.

6 Respondents' interest in securing Petitioner's presence for removal is established by  
7 Section 235(b)(1) of the INA, the applicable regulations and most recently, in *Jennings*.  
8 Furthermore, the provision of an interpreter in the language of Chichewa/Nyenja is not entirely  
9 within Respondents' control especially in light of the scarcity of available and competent  
10 interpreters. To hold Respondents solely accountable for any delays of this kind would be unduly  
11 burdensome and prejudicial to Respondents. Even so, Respondents have inquired of EOIR and  
12 have confirmed that a Chichewa/Nyanja interpreter will be present at Petitioner's next scheduled  
13 hearing. There are no alternative procedural safeguards that are necessary other than what has  
14 already been provided in this case. *Mathews*, 424 U.S. at 334-335. For these reasons, Petitioner  
15 habeas petition should be dismissed because he has been afforded all the rights of due process to  
16 which he is entitled.

17 **IV. CONCLUSION**

18 Based on the foregoing, Respondents respectfully requests that the Court deny Petitioner's  
19 habeas petition and grant their motion to dismiss.

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1 DATED this 28th day of January, 2019.

2 Respectfully submitted,

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I am an employee in the Office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Washington and am a person of such age and discretion as to be competent to serve papers;

I hereby certify that on this date, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of Court using the CM/ECF system, which will send notification of such filing to the following CM/ECF participant(s):

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I hereby certify that on this date, I mailed the foregoing to the following non-CM/ECF participants via USPS mail, postage pre-paid:

-0-

Dated this 28th day of January, 2019.

s/ Caitlin Froelich  
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