

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

ABDOULAYE SAWADOGO,	:	1:17-cv-1598
Petitioner,	:	
	:	Hon. John E. Jones III
v.	:	
	:	
CRAIG A. LOWE,	:	
Respondent.	:	

**MEMORANDUM**

**September 18, 2017**

Abdoulaye Sawadogo (“Petitioner”), presently a detainee of the United States Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”), incarcerated at the Pike County Correctional Facility, Pennsylvania, filed the instant petition for writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §2241 on September 8, 2017. (Doc. 1). Preliminary review of the petition has been undertaken, *see* R. GOVERNING § 2254 CASES R. 4<sup>1</sup>, and, for the reasons set forth below, the petition will be referred to ICE as a request for review under 8 C.F.R. § 241.13.

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<sup>1</sup> **Error! Main Document Only.** Rule 4 provides that “[i]f it plainly appears from the petition and the attached exhibits that the petitioner is not entitled to relief in the district court, the judge must dismiss the petition and direct the clerk to notify the petitioner.” *See* R. GOVERNING § 2254 CASES R.4. These rules are applicable to petitions under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 in the discretion of the court. *See* R. GOVERNING § 2254 CASES R.1(b).

## **I. BACKGROUND**

Petitioner is a native of Ivory Coast and a citizen of Burkina Faso who entered the United States on or about February 5, 2017, as a stowaway. (Doc. 1, p. 3). He was immediately taken into ICE custody. (*Id.*) He indicates that he was denied application for relief and determined to be admissible pursuant to Section 212(a)(7)(A)(i)(I) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. (*Id.*) He was ordered removed on April 18, 2017. (*Id.*) He contends that to date, ICE has been unable to remove him to Burkina Faso or any other country. (*Id.*)

He indicates that his custody status was reviewed on July 3, 2017 and that he was served with a written decision to continuing his detention. (*Id.*) He is challenging his continued mandatory detention. (*Id.*)

## **II. DISCUSSION**

Detention, release, and removal of aliens ordered removed is governed by the provisions of 8 U.S.C. § 1231. Under § 1231(a), the Attorney General has ninety days to remove an alien from the United States after his order of removal, during which time detention is mandatory. Section 1231(a)(1)(B) provides the following:

The removal period begins to run on the latest of the following:

- (i) The date the order of removal becomes administratively final.

(ii) If the removal order is judicially reviewed and if the court orders a stay of the removal of the alien, the date of the court's final order.

(iii) If the alien is detained or confined (except under an immigration process), the date the alien is released from detention or confinement.

8 U.S.C. §1231. At the conclusion of the ninety-day period, the alien may be held in continued detention, or may be released under continued supervision. 8 U.S.C. §§ 1231(a)(3) & ( 6). The statute "limits an alien's post-removal-period detention to a period reasonably necessary to bring about the alien's removal from the United States. It does not permit indefinite detention." *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 689 (2001). "Once removal is no longer reasonably foreseeable, continued detention is no longer authorized by statute." *Id.* at 699. To establish uniformity in the federal courts, a period of six months was recognized as a "presumptively reasonable period of detention." *Id.* at 701.

Following *Zadvydas*, regulations were promulgated to meet the criteria established by the Supreme Court. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 241.4. Prior to the expiration of the mandatory ninety-day removal period, the district director shall conduct a custody review for an alien where the alien's removal cannot be accomplished during the prescribed period. 8 C.F.R. § 241.4(k)(1)(i). When release is denied pending the removal, the district director may retain responsibility for custody determinations for up to three months, or refer the alien to the Headquarters Post Order Detention Unit ("HQPDU") for further custody review. 8 C.F.R. §

241.4(k)(1)(ii). Once jurisdiction is transferred, an eligible alien may submit a written request for release to the HQPDU asserting the basis for the alien's belief that there is no significant likelihood that he will be removed in the reasonably foreseeable future. 8 C.F.R. § 241.13(d)(1).

If at the conclusion of the six-month period the alien provides good reason to believe that there is no significant likelihood of deportation in the reasonably foreseeable future, the burden shifts to the government to “respond with evidence sufficient to rebut that showing.” *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 701. Not every alien must be released after six months. An alien may still be detained beyond six months “until it has been determined that there is no significant likelihood of removal in the reasonably foreseeable future.” *Id.*

In the matter *sub judice*, it appears that Petitioner received a custody review at the conclusion of the initial ninety-day mandatory detention period. It appears that jurisdiction to make a determination concerning his custody would now lie with the HQPDU and there is no indication that Petitioner has submitted a written request for release asserting the basis for his belief that his detention is indefinite and there is no significant likelihood that he will be removed in the reasonably foreseeable future. 8 C.F.R. § 241.13(d)(1). Consequently, ICE will be ordered to treat this petition as a request for release under 8 C.F.R. §241.13.

The Court will enter an appropriate Order.