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9
10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

11 ANTONIO SANCHEZ OCHOA,

12 Plaintiff,

13 vs.

14 ED W. CAMPBELL, Director of Yakima
15 County Department of Corrections;
SCOTT HIMES, Chief of the Yakima County
16 Department of Corrections; and
17 YAKIMA COUNTY,

18 Defendants.

JURY DEMANDED

No.

COMPLAINT

19 **PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

20 1. This suit challenges Defendants’ policy and practice of detaining
21 individuals, including the Plaintiff, prior to being released from Yakima County
22 custody based solely on Administrative Warrants issued by the U.S. Department of
23

1 Homeland Security (DHS), with no judicial warrant or independent finding of
2 probable cause that the person has committed a crime. The DHS Administrative
3 Warrants are directed to immigration officers, and do not provide state or local law
4 enforcement officers with any authority to arrest or detain individuals for
5 immigration violations. Defendants' policy and practice of placing an
6 "immigration hold" based on DHS Administrative Warrants has resulted in the
7 Plaintiff being unable to post bond and to be released pending the resolution of his
8 state charges. The Defendants' practices violate the federal constitutional rights of
9 the Plaintiff and countless others.
10

11
12 2. The lawsuit seeks declaratory and injunctive relief to require the
13 Defendants to immediately remove the unlawful immigration hold on Plaintiff, to
14 declare the practice unconstitutional, to enjoin the use of such holds and to thereby
15 allow the Plaintiff and others similarly situated to secure their release.

16 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

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18 3. This action arises under the Constitution and laws of the United
19 States, including 42 U.S.C. § 1983. This Court has jurisdiction over this action
20 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (Federal Question).
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1 10. Plaintiff has not been charged with a federal offense, or sentenced and
2 awaiting transport to a Bureau of Prisons facility.

3 11. Plaintiff remains in custody pursuant to the state criminal proceeding
4 and is thus not detained for purposes of awaiting hearing on his immigration status
5 or deportation.
6

7 **Immigration Holds are Unlawfully Based on Administrative Warrants**

8 12. An immigration official interviewed the Plaintiff while he was in
9 custody at the Yakima County Jail on or about May 3, 2017.
10

11 13. No Yakima County DOC staff person advised the Plaintiff as to
12 whether or not he could refuse to speak with immigration officials.

13 14. It is the policy of the Yakima County DOC not to advise individuals
14 in its custody that they have a right to refuse to speak to, or to refuse to be
15 presented for an interview with, immigration officials while in custody at the
16 Yakima County Jail.
17

18 15. Nonetheless, during the interview with the immigration official, the
19 Plaintiff exercised his right to remain silent by refusing to speak with the official.

20 16. On May 4, 2017, an immigration officer issued a DHS Warrant for
21 Arrest of an Alien on Form I-200 (Administrative Warrant) on the Plaintiff.
22
23

1 17. The Administrative Warrant is signed by immigration officer Michael
2 Gladish.

3 18. The Administrative Warrant states that the Plaintiff has been
4 determined to be removable from the United States and authorizes “any
5 immigration officer” to arrest the Plaintiff and take him into custody for removal
6 proceedings.
7

8 19. The Administrative Warrant does not authorize state or local officials
9 to take any action.

10 20. The Administrative Warrant does not direct or request state or local
11 officials to take any action.
12

13 21. Yet on the public Jail Roster maintained by the Yakima County DOC
14 pursuant to RCW 70.48.100, Defendants report that Plaintiff’s offenses include an
15 immigration hold and identify the Court as “FED”—presumably short for
16 “federal”—even though no federal court has issued a warrant for the Plaintiff’s
17 arrest or has sought to exercise jurisdiction over the Plaintiff.
18

19 22. There is no other basis, other than the Administrative Warrant, for the
20 immigration hold designation placed on the Plaintiff by the Yakima County DOC.

21 23. DHS has not even filed a detainer notice, Form I-247 (or Form I-
22 247A), requesting that Yakima County place an immigration hold on the Plaintiff.
23

1 24. Immigration detainers are requests by DHS to other federal, state, or
2 local law enforcement agencies asking that these agencies notify DHS before
3 releasing an individual subject to a detainer from their custody and maintain
4 custody over the individual for up to 48 hours so that DHS can make provisions to
5 take custody of that individual. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 287.7(a).
6

7 25. Defendant Chief Himes is the Yakima County DOC staff person
8 responsible for implementing, supervising and training related to Yakima County
9 DOC policies and practices related to immigration holds.
10

11 26. In May 2014, Defendant Chief Himes sent at least two email
12 messages to Yakima DOC staff advising them that Yakima DOC would not hold
13 inmates on DHS detainers and would not be accepting detainers to hold inmates.

14 27. Defendant Director Campbell is the Yakima County DOC official
15 responsible for setting policy for the Yakima County DOC, supervising all staff
16 and ensuring the lawful operation of the Yakima County Jail.
17

18 28. On March 16, 2017, Defendant Director Campbell confirmed by
19 email that the Yakima DOC no longer accepts “Ice Detainers” and that had been
20 the practice for the past two years.
21
22
23

1 29. On March 24, 2017, Defendants Campbell and Himes met with
2 Columbia Legal Services and other Yakima County staff to discuss Yakima DOC
3 policies and practices related to immigration holds.
4

5 30. During the meeting on March 24, 2017, Defendant Chief Himes
6 confirmed that as of May 2014, it was the policy of the Yakima County DOC to
7 refuse to honor immigration detainers (Form I-247) due to a federal court decision
8 in Oregon.

9 31. During the same meeting, Defendants Director Campbell and Chief
10 Himes also confirmed that the Yakima County DOC places immigration holds on
11 individuals based not on judicial warrants, but on administrative warrants, like the
12 one DHS served on the Plaintiff.
13

14 32. The Yakima County DOC does not have any written training
15 materials or protocols to provide DOC staff guidance on placing, maintaining or
16 removing immigration holds.
17

18 33. On information and belief, Defendants Director Campbell and Chief
19 Himes have failed to properly train or supervise Yakima County DOC staff and
20 failed to properly promulgate policies and standards to ensure that the Yakima
21 County Jail is operated in a constitutional manner.
22
23

1 **Immigration Holds Unlawfully Prevent Release From County Custody**

2 34. On July 5, 2017, Plaintiff through his attorneys at Columbia Legal
3 Services and the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project requested that Defendants
4 remove the immigration hold on Plaintiff, as the Administrative Warrant provided
5 no independent basis of probable cause and provided no legal authority for any
6 entity other than immigration officers to detain Plaintiff.
7

8 35. In a letter dated July 6, 2017, Defendant Director Campbell advised
9 Plaintiff's attorneys that Plaintiff "can bail on his ICE hold" but that the Yakima
10 County Jail "do[es] not accept the bail" that Plaintiff may post, because "[i]t must
11 be processed through the Federal courts." Ex. 1 - Letter from Campbell. Defendant
12 Director Campbell noted that the Yakima County DOC "has asked ICE officials to
13 explain this process" to Plaintiff.
14

15 36. Defendant Director Campbell's response confirms that the policy and
16 practice of the Yakima County DOC is to not accept bail where an individual has
17 an "ICE hold" and that release must be secured through the Federal Courts even
18 though the individual, like Plaintiff, is in Yakima County custody only.
19

20 37. Defendant Director Campbell and Yakima County DOC will not
21 release the Plaintiff from custody, even if the Plaintiff somehow manages to post
22 bond on his pending State charges.
23

1 38. Rather, on information and belief, Defendants would instead transfer
2 Plaintiff to DHS custody upon release from Yakima County custody, as they do
3 with others similarly situated.
4

5 39. Plaintiff is in Yakima County custody, therefore the only bail he is
6 required to post is that which is required by those charges.

7 40. Plaintiff's bond amount on the pending criminal charges is currently
8 set at \$50,000.
9

10 41. Plaintiff has been unable to secure services of a bail bondsperson to
11 post bond on his criminal changes because those entities understand the policy and
12 practice of the Yakima County DOC is that an immigration hold prevents an
13 individual from being released.

14 42. Plaintiff's family members otherwise have sufficient financial
15 resources to pay the amount necessary to meet the current bond amount.
16

17 43. Defendants' failure to remove the unlawful immigration hold as
18 requested is preventing Plaintiff from being released from Yakima County custody.

19 44. Defendants' policy and practice of placing immigration holds on
20 individuals also unlawfully prevents those persons from participating in pre-trial
21 release and diversion programs.
22
23

1 **CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **Detention in Violation of Civil Rights – 42 U.S.C. § 1983**

3 45. The policy and practice of Defendants and the individual acts of
4 Defendants Director Campbell and Chief Himes in placing and refusing to remove
5 immigration holds based solely on DHS Administrative Warrants has resulted in
6 Plaintiff’s continued detention without probable cause and without a judicial
7 warrant, injuring Plaintiff and violating his right under the Fourth Amendment to
8 the U.S. Constitution to be free from unreasonable seizures.
9

10 46. As a result of this deprivation of his rights, Plaintiff has suffered
11 damages, including emotional distress.
12

13 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

14 Plaintiff asks this Court to grant him the following relief:

15 1. Declare that the Yakima County DOC policy and practice of placing
16 immigration holds based solely on Administrative Warrants is unlawful and
17 violates the rights guaranteed by the Fourth Amendment;
18

19 2. Declare that the Yakima County DOC policy and practice of
20 preventing detainees the opportunity to post bail if they have an immigration hold
21 is unlawful and violates the rights guaranteed by the Fourth Amendment;
22
23

1 3. Enjoin Yakima County DOC, its Director, and Chief from placing
2 and/or maintaining immigration holds based solely on Administrative Warrants;

3 4. Enjoin Yakima County DOC, its Director, and Chief from refusing to
4 allow persons with immigration holds to post bail;

5 5. Order the immediate removal of the immigration hold against
6 Plaintiff;

7 6. Award Plaintiff damages arising from Defendants' unlawful detention
8 in an amount to be proven at trial;

9 7. Award attorney fees and costs under 42 U.S.C. § 1988, and under any
10 other basis justified under law; and

11 8. Grant other further relief as just and appropriate.

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1 DATED this 17th day of July, 2017.

2 COLUMBIA LEGAL SERVICES

NORTHWEST IMMIGRANT RIGHTS
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s/ Matt Adams

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