

ICE doesn’t plan to detain Kilmar Abrego Garcia again as long as judge’s order banning it stands

TRAVIS LOLLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — U.S. immigration officials do not plan to detain Kilmar Abrego Garcia again as long as a judge’s order banning it stands, according to a Tuesday court filing.

The plans by President Donald Trump’s administration are the latest in the saga over the Salvadoran citizen’s case that has become a lightning rod for both sides of the immigration debate as he fights to remain in the U.S. after a mistaken deportation to his home country, where he was imprisoned.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement did make clear they would detain Abrego Garcia if the order was lifted, Liana J. Castano, assistant director for field operations, wrote in the filing.

Trump officials have accused Abrego Garcia of being a member of the MS-13 gang, but he has vehe-

mently denied the accusations and has no criminal record. The administration brought him back to the U.S. in June under a court order, but only after issuing an arrest warrant on human smuggling charges in Tennessee.

U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis earlier this month questioned whether government officials could be trusted to follow orders barring them from taking Abrego Garcia back into immigration custody or deporting him.

A JUSTICE DEPARTMENT PUSH TO INDICT

Earlier Tuesday, a newly unsealed order in the criminal case against Abrego Garcia revealed that high-level Justice Department officials pushed for his indictment, calling it a “top priority,” only after he was mistakenly deported and then ordered returned to the U.S.

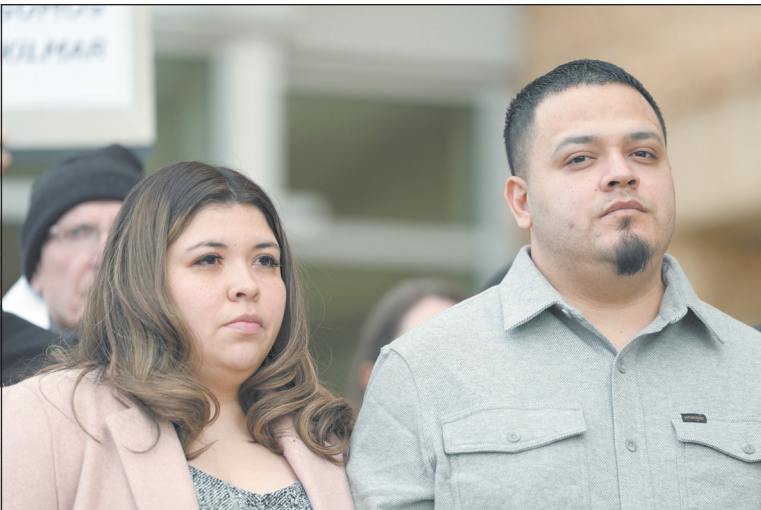
Abrego Garcia has pleaded not guilty in federal court to the human smuggling charges. He is seek-

ing to have the case dismissed on the grounds that the prosecution is vindictive, arguing the Trump administration is targeting him as punishment for the embarrassment of his mistaken deportation.

To support that argument, he has asked the government to turn over documents that reveal how the decision was made to prosecute him in 2025 for an incident that occurred in 2022.

Abrego Garcia had recently been in immigration custody for three months before Xinis ordered his release on Dec. 11. In that time, the government said it planned to deport him to Uganda, Eswatini, Ghana and, most recently, Liberia.

In her Dec. 11 order, Xinis found that immigration officials had no viable plan to remove Abrego Garcia from the U.S. and said he could not be held indefinitely. She issued a separate order barring ICE from re-detaining him, at least for the time being. After a hearing on the issue,



Associated Press

Kilmar Abrego Garcia and his wife Jennifer Vasquez Sura leave the United States District Court District of Maryland on Dec. 22, in Greenbelt, Md.

Xinis ordered the government to file the brief they released Tuesday outlining whether they planned to detain Abrego Garcia again.

Abrego Garcia’s human smuggling case stems from a 2022 traffic stop in Tennessee where he was pulled over for speeding with nine passengers in the car. State troopers discussed the possibility of human smuggling among themselves. However, he was ultimately allowed to leave with only

a warning. The case was turned over to Homeland Security Investigations, but there is no record of any effort to charge him until April 2025, according to court records.

The newly unsealed Dec. 3 order from U.S. District Judge Waverly Crenshaw compelled the government to provide some documents to Abrego Garcia and his attorneys, although it does not give a lot of detail on their contents.

Flu is rising rapidly, driven by a new variant. Here’s what to know

LAURAN NEERGAARD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Flu is rising rapidly across the U.S., driven by a new variant of the virus — and cases are expected to keep growing with holiday travel.

That variant, known as “subclade K,” led to early outbreaks in the United Kingdom, Japan and Canada. In the U.S., flu typically begins its winter march in December. On Tuesday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported high or very high levels of illness in more than half the states.

The CDC estimated there have been at least 7.5 million

illnesses, 81,000 hospitalizations and 3,100 deaths from flu so far this season. That includes at least eight child deaths — and is based on data as of Dec. 20, before major holiday gatherings.

Some states are particularly hard-hit. New York’s health department said the week ending Dec. 20 marked the most flu cases the state had recorded in a single week since 2004: 71,000.

It’s far too soon to know if this flu season will be as severe as last winter’s.

But it’s not too late to get a flu shot, which health experts say can still prevent severe illness even if someone gets infected. While this year’s

vaccine isn’t a perfect match to the subclade K strain, a preliminary analysis from the U.K. found it offered at least partial protection, lowering people’s risk of hospitalization.

According to the CDC, only about 42% of adults and children have gotten a flu vaccination so far this year.

WHAT IS SUBCLADE K FLU?

The flu virus is a shape-shifter, constantly mutating, and it comes in multiple forms. There are two subtypes of Type A flu, and subclade K is a mutated version of one of them, named H3N2. That H3N2 strain is always harsh,

especially for older adults.

Subclade K’s mutations aren’t enough of a change to be considered an entirely new kind of flu.

But they’re different enough to evade some of the protection from this year’s vaccine, said Andrew Pekosz, a virus expert at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

WILL SUBCLADE K MAKE PEOPLE SICKER?

The CDC said it’s too soon to know how severe this season will be.

Flu seasons dominated by any version of H3N2 tend to be bad, with more infec-

tions overall and more people becoming seriously ill. But Hopkins’ Pekosz cautioned it will take time to tease apart whether this subclade K version simply spreads more easily or also is more dangerous.

That question aside, the CDC notes there are some prescription medicines to treat flu — usually recommended for people at high risk of complications. But they generally need to be started a day or two after symptoms begin.

WHO NEEDS A FLU VACCINE?

The CDC and major medical societies all recommend a flu

vaccine for just about everyone age 6 months and older. Despite lots of recent misinformation and confusion about vaccines, the flu recommendations haven’t changed.

Flu is particularly dangerous for people 65 and older, pregnant women, young children and people of any age who have chronic health problems, including asthma, diabetes, heart disease and weak immune systems.

The vaccines are brewed to protect against three influenza strains. Despite concern over that new H3N2 variant, they appear to be a good match against H1N1 and Type B flu that may also circulate this year, Pekosz said.

Land Postings							
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BAKER, Phillip No Trespassing 241 Cumberland Ave Somerset Ky 42503 No hunting no four wheeling not responsible for any accidents or injuries that may occur on property in Pulaski County 4/26 Blake, Angie and Burton, Timothy No trespassing. No hunting, guns or ammo. No tree stands, or blinds. No Bow and Arrow hunting. No cameras or drones, this also goes for those tending land. Reserved for family members only! Not responsible for accidents or injuries that may occur on any properties located in Russell Co. 09-26	Burnett Farms- No trespassing, no camping, no cutting of timber, no ATVs, no hunting. Not responsible for any accidents or injuries on properties located in Pulaski and Wayne Counties. 1/26	Cook, Sheila - Any and all properties in Pulaski County. No hunting, No fishin, no 4-wheeling, no illegal dumping of trash, no cutting of timber, no unleashed dogs, no trespassing, no horseback riding, not responsible for accidents or injuries that may occur. 1/26	Cummins, Mary No trespassing for any reason. No hunting, no trapping, no pursuit of game of any kind. No dumping of waste, no dumping of cattle carcasses, no tree cutting, No atvs, dirt bikes or 4wheelers, ect. No camping, walking or loitering and no placement of cameras. No free range chickens, no unleashed dogs and no cats that are neglected by owners. Not responsible for any accidents or any injury on property. All violators will be prosecuted.	Dixon, Jonathan B. & Angela - No trespassing, no hunting, no fishing, no 4-wheeling, no cutting of timber, no illegal dumping. Not responsible for any accidents or injuries on properties located in Pulaski Co. 04/26	Estes, Beverly and Campbell, Pamela No trespassing on property known as the Lewis and Peggy Ruckel Farm. No illegal dumping, no hunting, no fishing, no cutting of timber without permission. No 4-wheeling no drones. Not responsible for accidents or injuries on any property located in Pulaski County. 08-26	FRYE, Roy W. & Norma - 13641 W. Hwy 80. Nancy, KY. No trespassing, no hunting, no 4-wheeling, no fishing. Not responsible for any accidents or injuries that may occur on all properties located in Pulaski County. 06/26	Hill Joshua & Katie, Burnside, KY ~ No trespassing for any reason. No illegal dumping, no hunting, no ATV's, no dirt-bikes, no lawnmowers, no horseback riding, no hiking, no cutting of timber, ginsing or other plant, no mushroom hunting, no heavy equipment, no menacing, loitering, or soliciting. Not responsible for accidents or injuries that occur on owned property in Pulaski County. Violators will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. 10-26
Blevins, Deborah, - No trespassing, no hunting and no bicycles. Not responsible for any accident or injuries that may occur on any or all properties located in Pulaski Co.05-26	Burnett Farms- No trespassing, no camping, no cutting of timber, no ATVs, no hunting. Not responsible for any accidents or injuries on properties located in Pulaski and Wayne Counties. 4/26	COOMER, Bernice & SMITH, Sunda POA - No trespassing, no hunting, no fishing, no 4-wheeling, no cutting of timber, no illegal dumping. Not responsible for any accidents or injuries that may occur on properties located in Pulaski County. 1/26	Denney Family Farm No trespassing. No hunting, guns or ammo, No tree stands, or blinds. No Bow and Arrow hunting. No cameras or drones, this also goes for those tending land. Reserved for family members only! Not responsible for accidents or injuries that may occur on any properties located in Russell Co. 09-26	Dowell, Volie; Dowell, Pam; and Dowell, Jentonda - No trespassing, no dumping, no fishing, no hunting, no 4-wheeling. Not responsible for any accidents or injuries that may occur on any and all properties located in Pulaski County. 6-26	Farms for Steve Foster & Sandy Frye - Faubush 1256 Cundiff Rd & 240 Barnes Knob Rd. No trespassing, no hunting, no fishing, no 4-wheeling. Not responsible for accidents or injuries that may occur on properties located in Pulaski County. 06/26	GOSSER, D. Mildred and Blackburn, Patricia- No trespassing, no hunting, no illegal dumping, no cutting of timber, no 4-wheeling, no horseback riding, no loitering, no fishing. Not responsible for any accidents or injuries that may occur on properties located in Pulaski Co. 04/26	HINES, EDDIE- 47 Valley Station Dr, Somerset. No trespassing, no hunting and no 4-wheelers. Not responsible for accidents or injuries on properties in Pulaski Co 08-26
BOWLING William & Anissa - No hunting, no 4-wheeling, no cutting of timber, no trespassing. Not responsible for any injuries or accidents that may occur on properties located in Pulaski County- & Creekside Dr. Somerset, KY. 7/26	BURTON, Doren, Lisa, Lee Alice & Mike Hill- 999 Dry Branch Rd. 2398 Cedar Grove rd, & 140 Richardson In No trespassing, no hunting. no drones. Violators will be prosecuted Not responsible for accidents or injuries that may occur on properties located in Pulaski Co. 03/26	Cooper, Hobie & Jessica- No trespassing, no hunting, no game or livestock retrieval, no dumping, no cutting of timber. No ATV's, no horseback riding, no camping. Not responsible for accidents or injuries located on any property in Pulaski Co 10/26	Denney Family No trespassing. No hunting, guns or ammo, No tree stands, or blinds. No Bow and Arrow hunting. No cameras or drones, this also goes for those tending land. Reserved for family members only! Not responsible for accidents or injuries that may occur on any properties located in Russell Co. 09-26	Dykes, Maureen- No trespassing, no hunting, no ATV's, no houseback riding, no cutting timber. Not responsible for accidents or injuries on properties located in Pulaski, Co 6/26	Faw Family Trust - 5280 Hwy 328 E. Eubank, KY. No trespassing, no hunting, no fishing, no 4-wheeling. Not responsible for any accidents or injuries that may occur on properties located in Pulaski Co. 11/26	Gossett, Kenneth, Warner Rd, Nancy . No hunting, no trespassing, no fishing, absolutely no 4-wheeling. Not responsible for injuries or accidents that may occur on property located in Pulaski Co 05-26	Howell, Vicky; ~ No Trespassing, No hunting, no fishing, no dumping, no 4-wheeling, no horseback riding, no hiking, no pursuit of game by an means, including dogs. Violators will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Not responsible for accidents or injuries on this and all owned properties in Pulaski County.04/26
Bruce Denny 675 Floyd Rd Eubank KY. No Trespassing, no hunting no 4-wheeling. Not responsible for accidents or injuries on any property located in Pulaski Co 6/26.	Calhoun, Curtins M and Julie Duvall, No trespassing, no hunting, no fishing, no 4-wheelers, no atvs, no cutting of timber, no hiking or camping. Not responsible for injuries or accidents that may occur on any property in Pulaski Co. 10/26	Cox, Robert& Theresa Absolute no trespassing, no drones, no 4 wheeling, no hunting, no fishing, no illegal dumping, no unauthorized vehicles. Not responsible for any accidents on any property located in Pulaski Co 04/26	DENNEY, Anita & Dylan- No trespassing, no hunting, no fishing, no camping, no 4-wheeling. Not responsible for accidents or injuries that may occur on any or all property located in Pulaski Co. 06-26	DYKES, Sammie - No trespassing, no hunting, no fishing, no 4-wheeling, no camping. Not responsible for any accidents or injuries that may occur on properties located in Pulaski County. 07/26	Fleming, Rebecca-Amos Moses In, Nancy, No trespassing No ATV's, no dumping. Not responsible for accidents or injuries on property located in Russell/ Pulaski Co. 05/26	Harlow, Bruce. No trespassing, no hunting, no illegal dumping, no cutting of timber, no 4-wheeling, no horseback riding, no loitering, no fishing. Not responsible for any accidents or injuries that may occur on properties located in Pulaski Co 06-26	HURLEY, Greg & Wanda - 3566 & 3486 Beachgrove Rd. Science Hill, KY. No trespassing, No hunting, No 4-wheeling. Not responsible for any accidents or injuries that may occur on properties located in Pulaski County. 8/26
Buis, Douglas & Dianna Absolute no trespassing, no fishing, no 4 wheeling, no horseback riding, No illegal dumping Not responsible for any injuries or accidents located in PulaskiCo, Lincoln Co or Casey Co 10/26	CHANEY, Roger & Bonnie R. 665 Mounce Rd Somerset,Ky. No trespassing, No hunting, No fishing, No ATV's of any kind, No swimming. Not responsible for an accidents or injuries that may occur on properties in Pulaski Co. 02/25	Cummins, Bret No trespassing for any reason. No hunting, no trapping, no pursuit of game of any kind. No dumping of waste, no dumping of cattle carcasses, no tree cutting, No atvs, dirt bikes or 4wheelers, ect. No camping, walking or loitering and no placement of cameras. No free range chickens, no unleashed dogs and no cats that are neglected by owners. Not responsible for any accidents or any injury on property. All violators will be prosecuted.	Dye, Sharon ~ No Trespassing, No illegal dumping, no 4-wheeling. Not responsible for accidents or injuries that may occur on any or all property located in Pulaski Co. 3/26	EDWARDS, Gary & Linda - Hwy 769 No trespassing, no hunting, no fishing, no 4-wheeling. Not responsible for any accidents or injuries that may occur on properties located in Pulaski County. Violators will be prosecuted. 5/26	FLYNN, David W. & Petrosky, Susan - No trespassing, no hunting, no fishing, no 4-wheeling. Not responsible for any accidents or injuries that may occur on property located in Pulaski County. 3/26	Newell, Ruby ~ Property located on Coal Pit Road - No trespassing, no hunting, no 4-wheeling. Not responsible for accidents or injuries that may occur on properties located in Pulaski Co. 10/26	MURPHY, Morris G, Eva P, MORRIS D., Laura, Martie, & Patty - No trespassing, no hunting. No 4-wheeling, no horses allowed, no dumping. Not responsible for any accidents or injuries that may occur on properties located in Pulaski County. (Morris Murphy Rd / Ferrell Stewart Rd Area) 12/26
Denney, Wendell B- No trespassing, no cutting of timber, no ATV's no camping, no horseback riding. Not responsible for accidents or injuries on any property located in Pulaski Co. 6/26	Coffey, Bonnie- No Trespassing, no hunting, no 4 wheeling, no drones, no illegal dumping, not responsible for accidents or injuries on properties located in Pulaski Co. 07/26			EGGERS, Doug & Betty, Josh & Mitch - No trespassing, no hunting, no fishing, no 4-wheeling, no cutting of timber, no illegal dumping. Not responsible for any accidents or injuries on properties located in Pulaski County.12/26	FOSTER, Larry J. - No trespassing, no hunting. Not responsible for accidents or injuries that may occur on any properties located in Pulaski County. Violators will be prosecuted. 11/25		