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United States District Court  
For the Northern District of California

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JOSE PADILLA and ESTELA LEBRON,

No. C 08-00035 JSW

Plaintiffs,

v.

**ORDER DENYING IN PART AND  
GRANTING IN PART  
DEFENDANT’S MOTION TO  
DISMISS**

JOHN YOO,

Defendant.

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**INTRODUCTION**

Now before the Court is the motion to dismiss pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted filed by Defendant John Yoo (“Yoo”). Having carefully reviewed the parties’ papers and considered the relevant legal authority, and having had the benefit of oral argument, and good cause appearing, the Court hereby DENIES IN PART and GRANTS IN PART Yoo’s motion to dismiss.

[War] will compel nations the most attached to liberty to resort for repose and security to institutions which have a tendency to destroy their civil and political rights. To be more safe, they at length become willing to run the risk of being less free.

The Federalist No. 8, at 44 (Alexander Hamilton) (E.H. Scott ed., 1898).

The issues raised by this case embody that same tension – between the requirements of war and the defense of the very freedoms that war seeks to protect. After the brutal and unprecedented attacks on this nation on September 11, 2001, the United States government responded to protect its citizens from further terrorist activity. This lawsuit poses the question

1 addressed by our founding fathers about how to strike the proper balance of fighting a war  
2 *against* terror, at home and abroad, and fighting a war *using* tactics of terror. “Striking the  
3 proper constitutional balance here is of great importance to the Nation during this period of  
4 ongoing combat. But it is equally vital that our calculus not give short shrift to the values that  
5 this country holds dear or to the privilege that is American citizenship. It is during our most  
6 challenging and uncertain moments that our Nation’s commitment to due process is most  
7 severely tested; and it is in those times that we must preserve our commitment at home to the  
8 principles for which we fight abroad.” *Hamdi v. Ashcroft*, 542 U.S. 507, 532 (2004); *see also*  
9 *Kennedy v. Mendoza-Martinez*, 372 U.S. 144, 164-65 (1963) (“The imperative necessity for  
10 safeguarding these rights to procedural due process under the gravest of emergencies has  
11 existed throughout our constitutional history, for it is then, under the pressing exigencies of  
12 crisis, that there is the greatest temptation to dispense with fundamental constitutional  
13 guarantees which, it is feared, will inhibit government action.”).

14 This case also raises the tension of the appropriate roles of the separate branches of  
15 government during a crisis of national proportions. The Supreme Court has clearly held that a  
16 “state of war is not a blank check for the President when it comes to the rights of the Nation’s  
17 citizens.” *Id.* at 535. Although the courts should defer to the coordinate branches of  
18 government with respect to the “core strategic matters of warmaking ... [w]hatever power the  
19 United States Constitution envisions for the Executive in its exchanges with other nations or  
20 with enemy organizations in times of conflict, it most assuredly envisions a role for all three  
21 branches when individual liberties are at stake.” *Id.* at 535, 537.

## 22 BACKGROUND

23 Plaintiff Jose Padilla (“Padilla”) is a United States citizen who was designated an enemy  
24 combatant during the last administration’s “war on terror” and who was detained in a military  
25 brig in South Carolina for three years and eight months. Padilla alleges that he was imprisoned  
26 without charge, without the ability to defend himself, and without the ability to challenge the  
27 conditions of his confinement. Padilla also alleges that he has suffered gross physical and  
28 psychological abuse upon the orders of high-ranking government officials as part of a

1 systematic program of abusive interrogation which mirror the abuses committed at Guantanamo  
2 Bay.

3 For the purposes of the pending motion to dismiss, the Court accepts as true the  
4 following allegations made in the First Amended Complaint. On or about May 8, 2002, Padilla  
5 was arrested at the Chicago O'Hare International Airport pursuant to a material witness warrant  
6 issued by the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. (First  
7 Amended Complaint ("FAC") at ¶ 35.) Padilla was transported to New York where he was held  
8 in custody in a federal detention facility. (*Id.*) On June 9, 2002, while a motion was pending to  
9 vacate the material witness warrant, President George W. Bush ("President Bush") issued an  
10 order that declared Padilla an "enemy combatant" and directed Secretary of Defense Donald  
11 Rumsfeld ("Rumsfeld") to take him into protective custody. The President found that Padilla  
12 was closely associated with al Qaeda, was engaged in conduct that constituted hostile and war-  
13 like acts, and represented a "continuing, present and grave danger to the national security of the  
14 United States, and [therefore] that detention of Mr. Padilla is necessary to prevent him from  
15 aiding al Qaeda in its efforts to attack the United States or its armed forces, other governmental  
16 personnel, or citizens." (*See* Letter from President Bush to Rumsfeld (June 9, 2002), *reprinted*  
17 *in Padilla v. Hanft*, 423 F.3d 386, 389 (4th Cir. 2005), *cert. denied*, 547 U.S. 1062 (2006))  
18 ("*Padilla II*"); *see also* FAC, Ex. J (Executive Order dated June 9, 2002).) That same day,  
19 Padilla was taken into custody by Department of Defense officials and transported to the  
20 Consolidated Naval Brig in Charleston, South Carolina. *Padilla v. Hanft*, 389 F. Supp. 2d 678,  
21 680 (D.S.C. 2005), *rev'd*, 423 F.3d 386 (4th Cir. 2005), *cert. denied*, 547 U.S. 1062 (2006))  
22 ("*Padilla I*").

23 Padilla was thereafter detained without being charged, was subjected to extreme  
24 isolation, including isolation from both counsel and from his family, and was interrogated under  
25 threat of torture, deportation and even death. He was placed in solitary confinement in a tiny  
26 cell in an otherwise empty wing of the military brig. Padilla alleges that he was "subjected to a  
27 systematic program of unlawful interrogation methods and conditions of confinement, which  
28 proximately and foreseeably caused [him] to suffer extreme isolation, sensory deprivation,

1 severe physical pain, sleep deprivation, and profound disruption of his senses, all well beyond  
2 the physical and mental discomfort that normally accompanies incarceration.” (FAC at ¶ 45.)

3 While he was detained, government officials subjected Padilla to interrogation tactics and  
4 policies such as:

- 5 (a) extreme and prolonged isolation;
- 6 (b) deprivation of light and exposure to prolonged periods of artificial light,  
7 sometimes in excess of 24 hours;
- 8 (c) extreme and deliberate variations in the temperature of his cell;
- 9 (d) sleep adjustment;
- 10 (e) threats to subject him to physical abuse resulting in severe physical pain and  
11 suffering, or death, including threats to cut him with a knife and pour alcohol  
12 into the wounds;
- 13 (f) threats to kill him immediately;
- 14 (g) threats to transfer him to a location outside of the United States, to a foreign  
15 country or Guantanamo, where he was told he would be subjected to far worse  
16 treatment, including severe physical and mental pain and suffering;
- 17 (h) administering to him or making believe that he was being administered  
18 psychotropic drugs against his will;
- 19 (i) shackling and manacled for hours at a time;
- 20 (j) forcing him into markedly uncomfortable and painful (or “stress”) positions;
- 21 (k) requiring him to wear earphones and black-out goggles during movement to,  
22 from, and within the brig;
- 23 (l) introduction into his cell of noxious fumes that caused pain to the eyes and nose;
- 24 (m) lying to him about his location and the identity of his interrogators;
- 25 (n) loud noises at all hours of the night, caused by government agents banging on the  
26 walls and bars of his cell or opening and shutting the doors to nearby empty  
27 cells;
- 28

- 1 (o) withholding of a mattress, pillow, sheet or blanket, leaving him with nothing to  
2 sleep or rest on except a cold steel slab;
- 3 (p) forced grooming;
- 4 (q) sudden and unexplained suspension of showers;
- 5 (r) sudden and unexplained removal of religious items;
- 6 (s) constant surveillance, including during the use of toilet facilities and showers;
- 7 (t) blackening out of the interior and exterior windows of his cell;
- 8 (u) deprivation of access to any form of information about the outside world,  
9 including radio, television, and newspapers from the time of his imprisonment in  
10 the military brig until summer 2004, at which time he was allowed very limited  
11 access to such materials;
- 12 (v) denial of sufficient exercise and recreation and, when permitted intermittently,  
13 only in a concrete cage and often at night;
- 14 (w) denial of any mechanism to tell time in order to ascertain the time for prayer in  
15 keeping with the Muslim practice;
- 16 (x) denial of access to the Koran for most of his detention; and
- 17 (y) complete deprivation or inadequate medical care for serious and potentially life-  
18 threatening ailments.

19 (*Id.* at ¶ 55, 63-71.)

20 From June 9, 2002 until March 4, 2004, government officials also denied Padilla all  
21 contact with anyone outside the military brig, including his family and legal counsel. (*Id.* at ¶  
22 56.) For ten months after Padilla's transfer to military detention, the government denied  
23 Plaintiff Estela Lebron ("Lebron"), Padilla's mother, any information about her son. After  
24 almost a year of uncertainty, a Pentagon official brought Ms. Lebron a brief greeting card from  
25 her son letting her know that he was still alive. (*Id.* at ¶ 58.) Beginning on March 4, 2004,  
26 Padilla was permitted contact with his habeas attorney while his petition was pending before the  
27 U.S. Supreme Court. The permitted contact was sporadic and subject to severe restrictions,  
28

1 including recording of conversations and review by government officials of all legal  
2 correspondence. (*Id.* at ¶ 59.)

3 Yoo currently is a professor of law. At the time of Padilla’s detention, Yoo was a  
4 Deputy Attorney General in the Office of Legal Counsel (“OLC”) under the administration of  
5 George W. Bush and was “the *de facto* head of war-on-terrorism legal issues” and a “key  
6 member of a small, secretive, and highly-influential group of senior administration officials  
7 know as the ‘War Council.’” (FAC at ¶¶ 15, 19.) As such, Yoo admittedly “shaped  
8 government policy” in the “war on terrorism.” (*Id.* at ¶ 15, citing Yoo’s book “War By Other  
9 Means.”) Padilla alleges that Yoo personally was involved in the decision to designate him as  
10 an enemy combatant and that Yoo lay the groundwork for the treatment of enemy combatants  
11 under military detention. (*Id.* at ¶ 38.) As Yoo relates in his book, he “developed an extra-  
12 judicial, *ex parte* assessment of enemy combatant status followed by indefinite military  
13 detention, without notice of opportunity for a hearing of any sort ... completely preclud[ing]  
14 judicial review of the designation.” (*Id.* at ¶ 36.) Padilla also alleges that the policies Yoo  
15 drafted included “the decision to employ unlawfully harsh interrogation tactics” and “pressure  
16 techniques proposed by the CIA” against individuals designated as enemy combatants. (*Id.* at  
17 ¶¶ 27, 28.) Padilla further alleges that the policy of employing harsh interrogation tactics  
18 against enemy combatants “proximately and foreseeably led to the abuses suffered by Padilla.”  
19 (*Id.* at ¶ 46.)

20 According to Padilla, Yoo abused his position by formulating unlawful practices and  
21 policies for the designation, detention and interrogation of suspected enemy combatants, and by  
22 drafting memoranda designed to evade legal restraints and to immunize those who implemented  
23 them. Padilla asserts that Yoo has publicly acknowledged that he “stepped beyond his role as a  
24 lawyer to participate directly in developing policy in the war on terrorism. He shaped  
25 government policy” and in his role as “the *de facto* head of war-on-terrorism legal issues,  
26 [Yoo] wrote and promulgated a series of memoranda.” (*Id.* at ¶¶ 15, 19.) These memoranda  
27 include:  
28

1 (a) a memorandum dated October 23, 2001 from Yoo to White House Counsel Alberto  
2 R. Gonzales (“Gonzales”) and Department of Defense General Counsel William J. Haynes  
3 (“Haynes”) on the *Authority for Use of Military Force to Combat Terrorist Activities Within the*  
4 *United States*, which concluded, among other things, that “the Fourth Amendment does *not*  
5 apply to domestic military operations designed to deter and prevent further terrorist attacks,”  
6 and concluded that just as “wartime destruction of property does not involve a ‘taking’ under  
7 the Fifth Amendment, it seems safe to conclude that the Court would not apply the Fourth  
8 Amendment to domestic military operations against foreign terrorists ... In any event, both  
9 rights would give way before the Government’s compelling interest in responding to a direct,  
10 devastating attack on the United States, and in prosecuting a war successfully  
11 against international terrorists – whether they are operating abroad or within the United States.”  
12 (Defendant Yoo’s Response to Court’s Order dated March 3, 2009 (“Yoo Response”), Ex. 1 at  
13 25, 34) (emphasis in original);

14 (b) a memorandum dated December 21, 2001 from Yoo to Haynes on *Possible Criminal*  
15 *Charges Against American Citizen Who Was a Member of the al Qaeda Terrorist Organization*  
16 *of the Taliban Militia* (FAC ¶ 19(b));

17 (c) a draft memorandum dated January 9, 2002 from Yoo to Haynes on the *Application*  
18 *of Treaties and Laws to al Qaeda and Taliban Detainees*, which outlines Yoo’s analysis that  
19 treatment of al Qaeda and Taliban members are “not governed by the bulk of the Geneva  
20 Conventions, specifically those provisions concerning POWs.” (*Id.*, Ex. A at 11, 16, 42.) The  
21 complaint alleges that this memo “was designed to justify the Executive’s already concluded  
22 policy decision to employ unlawfully harsh interrogation tactics” (*id.* at ¶ 27);

23 (d) a memorandum dated January 22, 2002 to Gonzales on the *Application of Treaties*  
24 *and Laws to al Qaeda and Taliban Detainees*, signed by former Assistant Attorney General Jay  
25 Bybee (“Bybee”) but drafted by Yoo, which concluded that certain international treaties do not  
26 protect members of the al Qaeda and Taliban organizations (*id.*, Ex. B);

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1 (e) a memorandum dated February 26, 2002 to Haynes on *Potential Legal Constraints*  
2 *Applicable to Interrogations of Persons Captured by U.S. Armed Forces in Afghanistan*, signed  
3 by Bybee, which Padilla alleges, upon information and belief, was authored by Yoo (*id.*, Ex. C);

4 (f) an OLC memorandum drafted in or about May 2002, regarding access to counsel and  
5 legal mail of detainees held at the naval brigs in Norfolk and Charleston (*Id.* at ¶ 19(f));

6 (g) a memorandum dated June 27, 2002 from Yoo to Assistant Attorney General Daniel  
7 J. Bryant of the Office of Legislative Affairs on the *Applicability of 18 U.S.C. Sec. 4001(a) to*  
8 *Military Detention of United States Citizens*, which specifically addressed the transfer of Padilla  
9 into military detention (Yoo Response, Ex. 2);

10 (h) a memorandum dated August 1, 2002 to Gonzales on *Standards of Conduct for*  
11 *Interrogation under 18 U.S.C. §§ 2340-2340A*, signed by Bybee but authored by Yoo, which  
12 concluded, among other things, that “for an act to constitute torture, ... it must inflict pain that is  
13 difficult to endure. Physical pain amounting to torture must be equivalent in intensity to the  
14 pain accompanying serious physical injury, such as organ failure, impairment of bodily  
15 function, or even death. For purely mental pain or suffering to amount to torture ..., it must  
16 result in significant psychological harm of significant duration, e.g., lasting for months or even  
17 years.” (FAC, Ex. D at 1.) The complaint alleges that this memo “was designed to remove  
18 legal restraints on interrogators so as to justify the Executive’s already concluded policy  
19 decision.” (*Id.* at ¶ 29.) The complaint also alleges that this memorandum was crafted “with the  
20 specific intent of immunizing government officials from criminal liability for participating in  
21 practices that Defendant Yoo knew to be unlawful” (*id.* at ¶ 31);

22 (i) a second memorandum written in August 2002, which addressed the legality of  
23 particular interrogation techniques that the CIA wished to employ (*id.* at ¶ 19(i)); and

24 (j) an opinion dated March 14, 2003, from Yoo to Haynes on *Military Interrogation of*  
25 *Alien Unlawful Combatants Held Outside the United States*, extending authority to use harsh  
26 interrogation techniques against high-level prisoners held at Guantanamo Bay and other  
27 facilities under Department of Defense control, and approving the use of mind-altering drugs  
28 during interrogations. (*Id.*, Ex. E.) This memorandum indicates that Yoo “had received

1 assurances from the Criminal Division of the Justice Department that prosecutions would not be  
 2 brought against interrogators, reinforcing the point that even federal officials who committed  
 3 war crimes or torture under federal criminal statutes would escape responsibility for their  
 4 crimes.” (*Id.* at ¶ 33.)

5 The complaint also alleges the Yoo reviewed and approved a memorandum dated  
 6 November 27, 2002 by Haynes which recommended that Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld  
 7 approve for use by the military a range of aggressive interrogation techniques not permitted by  
 8 the military interrogation field manual. (*Id.* at ¶ 20, Ex. F.)

9 Based on the factual contentions in the complaint, Padilla alleges that Yoo

10 proximately and foreseeably injured Mr. Padilla by violating numerous clearly  
 11 established constitutional and statutory rights including, but not limited to, the  
 following:

- 12 (a) **Denial of Access to Counsel.** Acting under color of law and  
 13 his authority as a federal officer, Defendant caused Mr. Padilla  
 14 to be deprived of his right of access to legal counsel protected  
 by the First, Fifth, and Sixth Amendments to the U.S.  
 Constitution.
- 15 (b) **Denial of access to Court.** Acting under color of law and his  
 16 authority as a federal officer, Defendant caused Mr. Padilla to  
 17 be deprived of his right of access to court protected by the First  
 and Fifth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, Article II of the  
 U.S. Constitution, and the Habeas Suspension Clause of the  
 U.S. Constitution.
- 18 (c) **Unconstitutional Conditions of Confinement.** Acting under  
 19 color of law and his authority as a federal officer, Defendant  
 20 caused Mr. Padilla to be subjected to illegal conditions of  
 21 confinement and treatment that shocks the conscience in  
 violation of Mr. Padilla’s Fifth Amendment rights to procedural  
 and substantive due process, as well as his Eighth Amendment  
 right to be free of cruel and unusual punishment, including  
 torture, outrages on personal dignity, and humiliating and  
 degrading treatment.
- 22 (d) **Unconstitutional Interrogations.** Acting under color of law  
 23 and his authority as a federal officer, Defendant caused Mr.  
 24 Padilla to be subjected to coercive and involuntary illegal  
 interrogations, both directly and through unlawful conditions of  
 25 confinement designed to aid the interrogations, all in violation  
 of Mr. Padilla’s Fifth Amendment rights to procedural due  
 process, freedom from treatment that shocks the conscience,  
 26 and freedom from self-incrimination, as well as his Eighth  
 Amendment right to be free from cruel and unusual  
 punishment, including torture, outrages on personal dignity, and  
 humiliating and degrading treatment.
- 27 (e) **Denial of Freedom of Religion.** Acting under color of law and  
 28 his authority as a federal officer, Defendant caused Mr. Padilla  
 to be deprived of his right to the free exercise of religion

- 1 guaranteed under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution,  
 2 as well as the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, 42 U.S.C. §  
 3 2000bb.
- 4 (f) **Denial of the Right of Information.** Acting under color of  
 5 law and his authority as a federal officer, Defendant caused Mr.  
 6 Padilla to be deprived of his right to information guaranteed  
 7 under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
- 8 (g) **Denial of Right to Association.** Acting under color of law and  
 9 his authority as a federal officer, Defendant caused Mr. Padilla  
 10 to be deprived of his right to association with family and others  
 11 guaranteed under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
- 12 (h) **Unconstitutional Military Detention.** Acting under color of  
 13 law and his authority as a federal officer, Defendant violated  
 14 Mr. Padilla's right to be free from military detention guaranteed  
 15 by the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the Due  
 16 Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the U.S.  
 17 Constitution.
- 18 (i) **Denial of the Right to Be Free from Unreasonable Seizures.**  
 19 Acting under color of law and his authority as a federal officer,  
 20 Defendant violated Mr. Padilla's right to be free from  
 21 unreasonable seizures guaranteed by the Fourth Amendment to  
 22 the U.S. Constitution.
- 23 (j) **Denial of Due Process.** Acting under color of law and his  
 24 authority as a federal officer, Defendant violated Mr. Padilla's  
 25 Fifth Amendment right not to be detained or subjected to the  
 26 collateral effects of designation as an "enemy combatant"  
 27 without due process of law.

28 (*Id.* at ¶ 82.) The complaint also sets forth a claim on behalf of Lebron, by alleging that  
 "Defendant, acting under color of law and his authority as a federal officer, also proximately  
 and foreseeably injured Ms. Lebron by causing her to be denied of virtually all contact with her  
 son in violation of her clearly established rights to association and communication under the  
 First and Fifth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution." (*Id.* at ¶ 83.)

The Court will address additional facts as necessary in the remainder of this Order.

## ANALYSIS

### A. Legal Standard on Motion to Dismiss.

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a)(2) requires only that a complaint contain "a short  
 and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief," in order to give  
 the defendant fair notice of what the ... claim is and the grounds upon which it rests." *Bell*  
*Atlantic v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 555 (2007) (alteration in original) (citation omitted).  
 Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6), a defendant may seek dismissal of a  
 complaint for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted. To survive a motion to

1 dismiss, a complaint need not provide detailed factual allegations. *Id.* at 555-56. However, it  
2 must contain “more than labels and conclusions” or “a formulaic recitation of the elements of a  
3 cause of action.” *Id.* at 555. In considering a motion to dismiss, the Court must accept as true  
4 all the factual allegations in the complaint. *Id.* “The court is not required to accept legal  
5 conclusions cast in the form of factual allegations if those conclusions cannot reasonably be  
6 drawn from the facts alleged.” *Clegg v. Cult Awareness Network*, 18 F.3d 752, 754-55 (9th  
7 Cir. 1994). A complaint must proffer “enough facts to state a claim for relief that is plausible  
8 on its face.” *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 570. “A claim has facial plausibility when the plaintiff  
9 pleads factual content that allows the court to draw the reasonable inference that the defendant  
10 is liable for the misconduct alleged.” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 129 S. Ct. 1937, 1949 (2009) (citing  
11 *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 556). “The plausibility standard is not akin to a ‘probability  
12 requirement,’ but it asks for more than a sheer possibility that a defendant has acted  
13 unlawfully.” *Id.* “Where a complaint pleads facts that are ‘merely consistent with’ a  
14 defendant’s liability, it ‘stops short of the line between possibility and plausibility of  
15 entitlement to relief.’” *Id.* (citing *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 557 (brackets omitted)).

16 Two principles support the Supreme Court’s decision in *Twombly*. First, “the tenet that  
17 a court must accept as true all of the allegations contained in the complaint is inapplicable to  
18 legal conclusions. Threadbare recitals of the elements of a cause of action, supported by mere  
19 conclusory statements, do not suffice.” *Iqbal*, 129 S. Ct. at 1949. Second, “only a complaint  
20 that states a plausible claim for relief survives a motion to dismiss.” *Id.* at 1949-1950 (citing  
21 *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 556.) In accordance with these principles, a court may not bestow the  
22 assumption of truth on the assertion of no more than legal conclusions. “While legal  
23 conclusions can provide the framework of a complaint, they must be supported by factual  
24 allegations. When there are well-pleaded factual allegations, a court should assume their  
25 veracity and then determine whether they plausibly give rise to an entitlement to relief.” *Iqbal*,  
26 129 S. Ct. at 1950.

27 When the district court reviews the sufficiency of a complaint at the procedural stage of  
28 a motion to dismiss, “before the reception of any evidence either by affidavit or admissions, its

1 task is necessarily a limited one. The issue is not whether a plaintiff will ultimately prevail but  
2 whether the claimant is entitled to offer evidence to support the claims. Indeed it may appear  
3 on the face of the pleadings that a recovery is very remote and unlikely but that is not the test.”  
4 *Scheuer v. Rhodes*, 416 U.S. 232, 236 (1974). Therefore, to survive a motion to dismiss, a  
5 plaintiff’s burden is limited to setting forth factual allegations sufficient to “raise the right to  
6 relief above the speculative level.” *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 545. A plaintiff need only plead  
7 “enough facts to raise a reasonable expectation that discovery will reveal evidence.” *Twombly*,  
8 550 U.S. at 556. That is, a plaintiff must allege facts that, taken as true, are “suggestive of  
9 illegal conduct.” *Id.* at 564 n.8.

10 On a motion to dismiss, “a court may properly look beyond the complaint to matters of  
11 public record and doing so does not convert a Rule 12(b)(6) motion to one for summary  
12 judgment.” *Mack v. South Bay Beer Distributors, Inc.*, 798 F.2d 1279, 1282 (9th Cir. 1986).  
13 The court may consider matters of public record, including pleadings, orders, and other papers  
14 filed with the court. *Id.*

15 **B. The *Bivens* Remedy is Available Under the Circumstances Presented.**

16 **1. Threshold Question of Federal Remedy.**

17 Padilla pleads that this Court recognize a cause of action under the circumstances  
18 presented in the complaint. The federal courts’ power to grant relief not expressly authorized  
19 by Congress is firmly established. Under 28 U.S.C. § 1331, the federal courts have jurisdiction  
20 to decide all cases “aris[ing] under the Constitution, laws, or treaties of the United States.”  
21 The “jurisdictional grant provides not only the authority to decide whether a cause of action is  
22 stated by a plaintiff’s claim that he has been injured by a violation of the Constitution, but also  
23 the authority to choose among available judicial remedies in order to vindicate constitutional  
24 rights.” *Bush v. Lucas*, 462 U.S. 367, 374 (1983).

25 The Supreme Court in *Bivens v. Six Unknown Named Agents of Federal Bureau of*  
26 *Narcotics* established that victims of a constitutional violation by a federal agent have a right  
27 to recover damages against the official in federal court despite the absence of a statute  
28 conferring such a right. 403 U.S. 388, 396. In *Bivens*, the Court held that it is “well settled

1 that where legal rights have been invaded, and a federal statute provides for a general right to  
2 sue for such invasion, federal courts may use any available remedy to make good the wrong  
3 done.” *Id.* (citing *Bell v. Hood*, 327 U.S. 678, 684 (1946)). “*Bivens* from its inception has  
4 been based ... on the deterrence of individual officers who commit unconstitutional acts.”  
5 *Correctional Services Corp. v. Malesko*, 534 U.S. 61, 71 (2001). The secondary purpose of  
6 extending a *Bivens* remedy to a person who has been subjected to the deprivation of  
7 constitutionally-guaranteed rights by an individual officer is to “provide a cause of action for a  
8 plaintiff who lack[s] any alternative remedy for harms caused by an individual officer’s  
9 unconstitutional conduct.” *Id.* at 70.

10 However, the Supreme Court has held that “any freestanding damages remedy for a  
11 claimed constitutional violation has to represent a judgment about the best way to implement a  
12 constitutional guarantee, it is not an automatic entitlement no matter what other means there  
13 may be to vindicate a protected interest.” *Wilkie v. Robbins*, 127 S. Ct. 2588, 2597 (2007).  
14 “[O]n the assumption that a constitutionally recognized interest is adversely affected by the  
15 actions of federal employees, the decision whether to recognize a *Bivens* remedy may require  
16 two steps.” *Id.* at 2698. First, “there is the question whether any alternative, existing process  
17 for protecting the interest amounts to a convincing reason for the Judicial Branch to refrain  
18 from providing a new and freestanding remedy in damages.” *Id.* (citing *Bush*, 462 U.S. at  
19 378); *see also Carlson v. Green*, 446 U.S. 14, 18-19 (1980) (citing *Bivens*, 403 U.S. at 397;  
20 *Davis v. Passman*, 442 U.S. 228, 245-47 (1979)) (holding that courts should refrain from  
21 finding a cause of action where Congress has provided an alternative remedy which it  
22 explicitly declared to be a substitute for recovery directly under the Constitution and viewed as  
23 equally effective).

24 Second, even in “the absence of such a congressional directive, the federal courts must  
25 make the kind of remedial determination that is appropriate for a common-law tribunal, paying  
26 particular heed, however, to any special factors counseling hesitation before authorizing a new  
27 kind of federal litigation.” *Bush*, 462 U.S. at 378; *see also Bivens*, 403 U.S. at 396 (holding  
28 that the right to such a cause of action may be defeated where there are “special factors

1 counseling hesitation in the absence of affirmative action by Congress.”). The Supreme  
2 Court’s “prior precedents reveal a reluctance to create *Bivens* remedies where a coordinate  
3 branch of government is ‘in a far better position than a court’ to ‘decide whether ... a remedy  
4 should be provided,’ and if a remedy is to be provided, to decide what form this remedy should  
5 take.” *Arar v. Ashcroft*, 532 F.3d 157, 178 (2d Cir. 2008) (citing *Bush*, 462 U.S. at 389, 380).

6 **a. There Is No Alternative Remedy.**

7 The first step in making the determination whether a *Bivens* remedy should be found is  
8 to ascertain whether there is an alternative remedy available. There is no claim that Congress  
9 has provided an alternative remedy in this context and the Court has found none. The Court  
10 finds that Padilla has no other means of redress for the alleged injuries he sustained as a result  
11 of his detention and interrogation. For instance, the Military Commissions Act of 2006 is only  
12 applicable to alien, or non-citizen, unlawful enemy combatants. Pub. L. No. 109-366, § 3, 120  
13 Stat. 2600, 2692 (codified at 10 U.S.C. § 948r(c) (2006)). The Detainee Treatment Act of  
14 2005, by its own terms, does not “affect the rights under the United States Constitution of any  
15 person in the custody ... of the United States.” Pub. L. No. 109-163, § 1402, 119 Stat. 3136,  
16 3475 codified at 10 U.S.C. § 801 note (2006)); *see also Rasul v. Myers*, 563 F.3d 527, 531  
17 (D.C. Cir. 2009) (distinguishing constitutional protections for American citizens abroad and  
18 aliens abroad). There is no evidence in the record proffered by either party that either  
19 coordinate branch of government or alternate remedial system addresses the alleged  
20 constitutional deprivations suffered by Padilla.

21 Although the Court does not rely on the state of current events to support its decision, it  
22 is aware that other branches of government and professional forums have not acted to provide  
23 an alternative remedy for the constitutional violations alleged in this case. *See, e.g., John*  
24 *Schwartz, Judge Weighs Dismissing Case Involving Torture Memorandums*, N.Y. Times, Mar.  
25 7, 2009, at A13 (indicating that “President Obama has shown little interest in prosecuting  
26 officials of the previous administration, and it is not clear whether there will be a government-  
27 sponsored investigation of Bush administration policies.”); Charlie Savage, *Any Indictment of*  
28 *Interrogation Policy Makers Would Face Several Hurdles*, N.Y. Times, Apr. 23, 2009, at A16

1 (“The release of four Bush administration memorandums approving the use of waterboarding  
2 and other harsh interrogation techniques has increased momentum for an investigation into the  
3 architects of the program, but the prospect of indicting any of them remains unlikely.”); Josh  
4 Meyer and Julian E. Barnes, *Charges Unlikely for Interrogation Memos*, Los Angeles Times,  
5 May 6, 2009, at A1 (“Justice Department investigators have concluded that three Bush  
6 administration lawyers who wrote controversial interrogation memos should not face criminal  
7 charges, but that conduct by two of them was problematic enough to merit possible state  
8 disbarment or other disciplinary action”); Andrew C. McCarthy, *The Justice Department’s*  
9 *Torture Hypocrisy*, National Review, May 6, 2009 (indicating that the Office of Professional  
10 Responsibility “will recommend that Attorney General Eric Holder refer former Bush  
11 administration lawyers to their state bar disciplinary committees over purported lapses in the  
12 legal analysis those lawyers drafted to justify harsh interrogation techniques that critics –  
13 including President Obama himself – have labeled “torture”); Carrie Johnson, *Experts Say*  
14 *Authors of Memos May Avoid Professional Sanctions*, The Washington Post, May 7, 2009 at  
15 A3 (“Efforts to impose professional sanctions on Bush administration lawyers who drafted  
16 memos supporting harsh interrogations of terrorism suspects face steep hurdles.”)

17 Yoo suggests that Padilla had a remedy in his pursuit of a habeas petition and argues  
18 that access to habeas relief is a bar to relief in this forum. The complaint here is against the  
19 alleged architect of the government policy regarding the designation and treatment of persons  
20 labeled as enemy combatants. Padilla’s habeas petition, regardless of its scope, would have  
21 been filed against the military commander in charge of the brig, not against the former Deputy  
22 Attorney General who allegedly scripted legal cover for the military rank and file. Therefore, a  
23 habeas proceeding would not have provided an adequate alternative remedy.

24 In addition, Yoo contends that the actual habeas petition filed by Padilla provided not  
25 only a forum for alternative relief, but the Fourth Circuit’s findings preclude this Court from  
26 examining the constitutional violations alleged here. Collateral estoppel, or issue preclusion,  
27 bars “relitigation of issues actually litigated and necessarily decided, after a full and fair  
28 opportunity for litigation, in a prior proceeding.” *Shaw v. Hahn*, 56 F.3d 1128, 1131 (9th Cir.

1 1995). Although the claim of collateral estoppel usually is alleged as an affirmative defense, a  
2 court may entertain the defense on a motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim when all  
3 relevant facts are shown by the court's own record. *Day v. Moscow*, 955 F.2d 807, 811 (2d  
4 Cir. 1992). A federal court decision has preclusive effect where "(1) there was a full and fair  
5 opportunity to litigate the issue in the previous action; (2) the issue was actually litigated in  
6 that action; (3) the issue was lost as a result of a final judgment in that action; and (4) the  
7 person against whom collateral estoppel is asserted in the present action was a party or in  
8 privity with a party in the previous action." *Kendall v. Visa U.S.A., Inc.*, 518 F.3d 1042, 1050  
9 (9th Cir. 2008) (citation omitted). The burden is on the party seeking to rely upon issue  
10 preclusion to prove that each of the elements have been met. *Id.* at 1050-51. "The party  
11 asserting preclusion bears the burden of showing with clarity and certainty what was  
12 determined by the prior judgment." *Hydranautics v. FilmTec Corp.*, 204 F.3d 880, 885 (9th  
13 Cir. 2000) (citing *Offshore Sportwear, Inc. v. Vuarnet International, B.V.*, 114 F.3d 848, 858  
14 (9th Cir. 1997)).

15 The Court is unconvinced that Padilla's habeas petition creates an inference of  
16 estoppel. First, the Fourth Circuit merely reversed a grant of summary judgment and remanded  
17 to the district court for a factual hearing. *See Padilla v. Hanft*, 423 F.3d 386, 390 n.1 (4th Cir.  
18 2005) ("*Padilla V*"). A reversal of a grant of summary judgment does not qualify as a final  
19 judgment for collateral estoppel purposes. *Ornellas v. Oakley*, 618 F.2d 1351, 1356 (9th Cir.  
20 1980) (holding that a "reversed or dismissed judgment cannot serve as the basis for a  
21 disposition on the ground of res judicata or collateral estoppel"). Second, from the history of  
22 Padilla's habeas petition, it is clear that the facts presented to this Court were not actually  
23 litigated in that proceeding. Both parties agree that the habeas appeal was taken solely on the  
24 issue of the President's authority to detain Padilla and was decided on a stipulated set of facts.  
25 Although Yoo argues that Padilla's stipulation was voluntary and strategic, there is no  
26 indication that Padilla had an opportunity to present facts and have the matters submitted  
27 before this Court addressed in his petition for habeas corpus. Therefore, the elements of  
28 collateral estoppel are not met: there has not been a full and fair opportunity to litigate the

1 issues in the previous action, there is no showing that the issues were actually litigated in the  
2 habeas proceedings, and there is no final judgment from the previous action. *See Kendall*, 518  
3 F.3d at 1050.

4 **b. No Special Factors Counsel Hesitation.**

5 Because the Court has found there is no alternative forum for seeking a remedy, the  
6 Court must examine step two of the *Bivens* analysis, which requires determining whether  
7 special factors counsel hesitation and “weighing reasons for and against the creation of a new  
8 cause of action, the way common law judges have always done.” *Wilkie*, 127 S. Ct. at 2600  
9 (citing *Bush*, 462 U.S. at 378.) Yoo contends that special factors counsel hesitation precluding  
10 the Court from finding a non-statutory damages remedy in this context.

11 Special factors counseling hesitation “relate not to the merits of the particular remedy,  
12 but to the question of who should decide whether such a remedy should be provided.”  
13 *Sanchez-Espinosa v. Reagan*, 770 F.2d 202, 208 (D.C. Cir. 1985) (quoting *Bush*, 462 U.S. at  
14 380). According to this reasoning, “courts should avoid creating a new, nonstatutory remedy  
15 when doing so would be ‘plainly inconsistent’ with authority constitutionally reserved for the  
16 political branches.” *In re Iraq and Afghanistan Detainees Litigation*, 479 F. Supp. 2d 85, 103  
17 (D.C. Cir. 2007) (quoting *Chappell v. Wallace*, 462 U.S. 296, 304 (1983)). Moreover, “even  
18 when authority is not constitutionally reserved for the political branches, there nevertheless  
19 might be reasons that favor allowing Congress, rather than the judiciary, to prescribe the scope  
20 of relief available to the plaintiffs.” *Id.* (citing *Bush*, 462 U.S. at 380-390). Where, for  
21 example, the issue involves a “host of considerations that must be weighed and appraised, its  
22 resolution is more appropriately for those who write laws, rather than for those who interpret  
23 them.” *Id.* at 103-04 (quoting *Sanchez-Espinoza*, 770 F.2d at 208); *see also Schweiker v.*  
24 *Chilicky*, 487 U.S. 412, 421 (1988) (holding that Supreme Court “decisions have responded  
25 cautiously to suggestions that *Bivens* remedies be extended into new contexts”). Additionally,  
26 the idea that special factors may counsel hesitation in the absence of affirmative action by  
27 Congress also applies to compel appropriate judicial deference where congressional inaction  
28 has not been inadvertent. *Id.*; *see also Chilicky*, 487 U.S. at 423.

1           There have been instances in which courts have found that special factors counsel  
2 hesitation and have declined to extend a *Bivens*-type remedy. However, the Court finds these  
3 cases readily distinguishable. In the cases in which courts have determined to refrain from  
4 finding a cause action under *Bivens*, the presence of an alternate scheme has provided both an  
5 avenue for redress for the claimant and has evidenced an intention by an alternate branch of  
6 government to occupy the field.

7           In *Bush v. Lucas*, an aerospace engineer sued the director of a federal space flight  
8 center to recover for defamation and retaliatory demotion, allegedly in violation of his First  
9 Amendment rights. 463 U.S. at 367. The Supreme Court refused to recognize a *Bivens*  
10 remedy for a violation of First Amendment rights arising out of federal personnel decisions for  
11 fear that the claim might interfere with a statutory scheme regulating the federal workplace.  
12 463 U.S. at 389-390. The issue, as stated by the Court, was “whether an elaborate remedial  
13 scheme that has been constructed step by step, with careful attention to conflicting policy  
14 considerations, should be augmented by the creation of a new judicial remedy for the  
15 constitutional violation at issue.” *Id.* at 389. The Court determined, based on the existence of  
16 the elaborate civil service scheme developed over a lengthy history, that

17           Congress is in a far better position than a court to evaluate the impact of a new  
18 species of litigation between federal employees on the efficiency of the civil  
19 service. Not only has Congress developed considerable familiarity with  
20 balancing governmental efficiency and the rights of employees, but it also may  
21 inform itself through factfinding procedures such as hearings that are not  
22 available to the courts.

23           *Id.* The Court declined to extend *Bivens* in this context because Congress had occupied the  
24 field by creating a complex system to redress civil service grievances.

25           Likewise, the Court determined not to extend a *Bivens*-type remedy in *Chappell v.*  
26 *Wallace*, where enlisted men brought a race discrimination action against superior officers.  
27 462 U.S. at 302. The Supreme Court held that in the peculiar and special relationship between  
28 a soldier and his superior officer, the “training, equipping, and control of a military force are  
essentially professional military judgments, subject *always* to civilian control of the Legislative  
and Executive Branches.” *Id.* (emphasis in original) (citing *Gilligan v. Morgan*, 413 U.S. 1, 10  
(1973)). In *Chappell*, the Court held that the unique disciplinary structure of the military

1 establishment and Congress' activity in the field constituted "special factors" which dictated  
2 that military officers cannot seek a *Bivens*-type remedy against their superior officers. *Id.* The  
3 Court reasoned that "no military organization can function without strict discipline and  
4 regulation that would be unacceptable in a civilian setting" and further, that the "inescapable  
5 demands of military discipline and obedience to orders cannot be taught on battlefields; the  
6 habit of immediate compliance with military procedures and orders must be virtually reflex  
7 with no time for debate or reflection." *Id.* Lastly, the Court found that the Constitution  
8 specifically contemplated that the Legislative Branch was to have "plenary power over rights,  
9 duties, and responsibilities in the framework of the military establishment, including  
10 regulations, procedures and remedies related to military discipline; and Congress and the court  
11 have acted in conformity with that view." *Id.* at 301. The particular relationship between a  
12 military officer and his superior is relegated to the auspices of the coordinate branches of  
13 government.

14         Again, in *United States v. Stanley*, the Supreme Court declined to find a *Bivens* remedy  
15 in the military context and found that the holding in *Chappell* was not restricted only to those  
16 cases arising out of disputes between an officer and his superior. 483 U.S. 669, 681-84 (1987).  
17 In *Stanley*, the plaintiff, a military officer, alleged that he suffered a constitutional injury as a  
18 result of secret administration of LSD to him as part of an Army experiment. The *Stanley*  
19 Court held that the "special factors counseling hesitation" were "the unique disciplinary  
20 structure of the Military Establishment and Congress' activity in the field" and held that such  
21 factors which counsel hesitation were not limited to the adjudication within an officer-  
22 subordinate relationship. Rather, "no *Bivens* remedy is available for injuries that 'arise out of  
23 or are in the course of activity incident to service.'" *Id.* at 684 (citing *Feres v. United States*,  
24 340 U.S. 135, 146 (1950)). The Court found that the special factor counseling hesitation is the  
25 specific grant of power in the Constitution to the political branches of government over  
26 military discipline and behavior. *Stanley*, 483 U.S. at 682. The majority stated that it  
27 disagreed with the dissent's characterization that all matters within congressional power are  
28 exempt from *Bivens* and, instead, held merely that the Constitutional provisions and the

1 specific grant of power over the militia counsels hesitation in the courts' creation of damages  
2 remedies in this field. *Id.*

3 Similarly, in *Schweiker v. Chilicky*, relying on *Bush* and *Chappell*, the Supreme Court  
4 declined to create a non-statutory damages remedy against government officials alleged to  
5 have wrongfully terminated the plaintiff's Social Security benefits. The Court held that there  
6 was no *Bivens* remedy for the denial of Social Security benefits because a mandatory  
7 procedure already existed to challenge adverse eligibility determinations. 487 U.S. at 425-29.  
8 The Court found that Congress had created "elaborate administrative remedies" for dissatisfied  
9 Social Security claimants to recover benefits, thereby occupying the field. In keeping with its  
10 prior precedent, the *Schweiker* Court refused to find a *Bivens* remedy where the design of the  
11 government program already provided adequate remedial mechanisms for alleged  
12 constitutional violations that may occur in the course of its administration. The Court therefore  
13 found these circumstances established "special factors counseling hesitation." *Id.* at 423.

14 In *In re Iraq and Afghanistan Detainees Litigation*, the D.C. Circuit held that, where  
15 foreign citizens detained abroad sued for deprivation of their constitutional rights, the federal  
16 courts should not imply a cause of action under *Bivens*. 479 F. Supp. 2d at 103. The court  
17 held that a judicially-created remedy authorizing damages against military officials engaged in  
18 active war "would invite enemies to use our own federal courts to obstruct the Armed Forces'  
19 ability to act decisively and without hesitation in defense of our liberty and national interests."  
20 *Id.* at 105. The discovery process alone would risk "aiding our enemies by affording them a  
21 mechanism to obtain what information they could about military affairs and disrupt command  
22 missions by wresting officials from the battlefield to answer compelled deposition and other  
23 discovery inquiries about the military's interrogation and detention policies, practices, and  
24 procedures." *Id.* The court held that "[e]xecutive power over enemy aliens, undelayed and  
25 unhampered by litigation, has been deemed, throughout our history, essential to wartime  
26 security." *Id.* at 105-06 (quoting *Johnson v. Eisentrager*, 339 U.S. 763, 774 (1950)).

27 In contrast, the circumstances presented in this case do not dictate restraint in the  
28 extension of a *Bivens*-type remedy. The circumstances presented to this Court do not concern

1 federal personnel decisions, military discipline or justice, the denial of social security benefits,  
2 or the detention and interrogation of aliens abroad. In the cases cited above in which a  
3 constitutional injury has been alleged, the claimants have confronted a system of recourse,  
4 created by an alternative branch of government, which provided an effective alternative  
5 remedial structure for adjudication of their constitutional entitlements. These are the  
6 circumstances that have been found to counsel hesitation by the federal courts. In contrast to  
7 the holdings in *Stanley* and *Chappell*, here, there is no danger of intrusion upon the unique  
8 disciplinary structure of the military establishment. In those instances, servicemen were  
9 provided with a “comprehensive internal system of justice to regulate military life,” one that  
10 “not only permits aggrieved military personnel to raise constitutional challenges in  
11 administrative proceedings, it authorizes recovery of significant consequential damages.”  
12 *Schweiker*, 487 U.S. at 436 (citing *Chappell*, 462 U.S. at 302-03). The holding in *In re Iraq*  
13 demonstrates that the courts are not willing to extend a *Bivens* remedy to a non-citizen detained  
14 abroad who engages in acts of war against this country. 479 F. Supp. 2d at 103-05. The  
15 holding in *Schweiker*, a case decided not in the military context but in the Social Security  
16 benefits administrative process, demonstrates that where Congress has established an alternate  
17 system of recourse, courts are not to infer a cause of action under *Bivens* for alleged  
18 constitutional deprivations. 487 U.S. at 525-29.

19 Here, the Court does not find that special factors counsel hesitation where there is no  
20 authority evidencing a remedial scheme for designation or treatment of an American citizen  
21 residing in America as an enemy combatant. Indeed, Yoo does not proffer an alternative  
22 remedy or demonstrate that an alternative branch of government has occupied the field.  
23 Therefore, the Court finds that Padilla can seek redress from his alleged constitutional injury in  
24 this forum.

25 **c. Substantive Areas of Law Do Not Counsel Hesitation.**

26 Yoo also advocates that this Court should abstain from adjudication because the Court  
27 should leave review of his legal memoranda and the conduct which followed to the coordinate  
28 branches of government based on substantive areas of law raised by the memoranda. The

1 Court notes the irony of this position: essentially, the allegations of the complaint are that Yoo  
2 drafted legal cover to shield review of the conduct of federal officials who allegedly deprived  
3 Padilla of his constitutional rights. Now, Yoo argues that the very drafting itself should be  
4 shielded from judicial review. Padilla's allegations here are that the creation of such legal  
5 cover was itself an unconstitutional exercise of power. Thus, the question posed by the present  
6 motion is whether an alternative branch of government, under the circumstances, should be  
7 tasked with prescribing the scope of relief available to Padilla.

8 Yoo argues that special factors counsel hesitation due to the specific substantive areas  
9 of law involved in this matter. First, Yoo contends that the courts should not review the  
10 designation of Padilla as an enemy combatant because Congress passed the Authorization for  
11 Use of Military Force Joint Resolution, authorizing the President to make such a designation,  
12 and thereby relegated the issue of designation specifically to the legislative and the executive  
13 branches of government. Second, Yoo contends that the Court should show the proper  
14 deference to executive discretion in times of war. Next, Yoo contends that the Court should  
15 abstain from reviewing the alleged constitutional violations presented in this matter because  
16 the claims necessarily would uncover government secrets, thereby threatening national  
17 security. Lastly, Yoo argues the courts should deny review of this matter because the  
18 allegations involve issues relating to foreign affairs and foreign relations, matters specifically  
19 designated to control by the coordinate branches of government.

20 **i. Effect of Congressional Joint Resolution.**

21 Just days after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 in which the al Qaeda  
22 terrorist network used hijacked commercial airliners to attack prominent targets in the United  
23 States, Congress passed the Authorization for Use of Military Force Joint Resolution  
24 ("AUMF"). The resolution authorized the President to

25 use all necessary and appropriate force against those nations, organizations, or  
26 persons he determines planned, authorized, committed, or aided the terrorist  
27 attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, or harbored such organizations or  
28 persons, in order to prevent any future acts of international terrorism against the  
United States by such nations, organizations or persons.

Pub. L. No. 107-40, § 2(a), 115 Stat. 224 (2001).



1 government. *See* U.S. Const. Art. I, § 8 (Congress has power to provide for the common  
2 defense, to organize the militia, and to declare war); U.S. Const. Art. II, § 2 (President shall be  
3 commander in chief of the armed forces). For this reason, Yoo argues, the Supreme Court  
4 repeatedly has recognized that courts should refrain from interfering in the core functions of  
5 the political branches, especially during wartime. *See Hamdi*, 542 U.S. at 535 (plurality  
6 opinion) (“We accord the greatest respect and consideration to the judgments of military  
7 authorities in matters relating to the actual prosecution of a war, and recognize that the scope  
8 of that discretion necessarily is wide.”) Undoubtedly, the “Constitution recognizes that core  
9 strategic matters of warmaking belong in the hands of those who are best positioned and most  
10 politically accountable for making them.” *Id.* at 531 (citing *Department of Navy v. Egan*, 484  
11 U.S. 518, 530 (1988) (noting the reluctance of the courts “to intrude upon the authority of the  
12 Executive in military and national security affairs”) and *Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v.*  
13 *Sawyer*, 343 U.S. 579, 587 (1952) (acknowledging “broad powers in military commanders  
14 engaged in day-to-day fighting in a theater of war”)). Yoo argues that the decision to  
15 designate, detain, and interrogate Padilla as an enemy combatant was a military decision made  
16 pursuant to the AUMF’s explicit grant of authority to the President from Congress. On this  
17 basis, Yoo argues, it follows that “courts should take great care when asked to create a cause of  
18 action that would intrude upon the judgment and discretion of military authorities by targeting  
19 the government attorneys to whom those authorities go for candid legal analyses or advice in  
20 matters related to the prosecution of war.” (Motion at 14.)

21 Padilla was designated and detained as an enemy combatant pursuant to the authority  
22 vested in the President by the AUMF. Indeed, there is “no bar to this Nation’s holding one of  
23 its own citizens as an enemy combatant.” *Hamdi*, 542 U.S. at 519. Although the AUMF does  
24 not use specific language of detention, the *Hamdi* Court found that “detention to prevent a  
25 combatant’s return to the battlefield is a fundamental incident of war.” *Id.* However, there is  
26 no allegation in the complaint, which the Court must accept as true at this procedural stage,  
27 that Padilla was detained in order to prevent his return to the battlefield. There is no allegation  
28 that Padilla was engaged in armed conflict with the United States at the time of his capture or

1 that he was detained as “a simple war measure” to prevent him from actively serving the  
2 enemy. *See id.* at 518 (citations omitted). There has been no adjudication as to the legality of  
3 his designation, and Padilla continues to maintain that he was inappropriately designated an  
4 enemy combatant and rejects the designation as failing to comport with due process. (FAC at ¶  
5 43.)

6 Because a “state of war is not a blank check for the President when it comes to the  
7 rights of the Nation’s citizens,” “[i]t does not infringe on the core role of the military for the  
8 courts to exercise their own time-honored and constitutionally mandated roles of reviewing  
9 and resolving claims like those presented here.” *Hamdi*, 542 U.S. at 535. Courts should defer  
10 to the coordinate branches of government with respect to the “core strategic matters of  
11 warmaking.” *Id.* However, here, Padilla’s allegations concern the possible constitutional  
12 trespass on a detained individual citizen’s liberties where the detention was not a necessary  
13 removal from the battlefield. The Court is not persuaded that such conduct constitutes a core  
14 strategic warmaking power. *See id.* at 535. As the Court in *Hamdi* reaffirmed, “[w]hatever  
15 power the United States Constitution envisions for the Executive in its exchanges with other  
16 nations or with enemy organizations in times of conflict, it most assuredly envisions a role for  
17 all three branches when individual liberties are at stake.” *Id.* at 537. The war power “is a  
18 power to wage war successfully, and thus it permits the harnessing of the entire energies of the  
19 people in a supreme cooperative effort to preserve the nation. But even the war power does  
20 not remove constitutional limitations safeguarding essential liberties.” *Home Building & Loan*  
21 *Ass’n v. Blaisdell*, 290 U.S. 398, 426 (1934).

### 22 **iii. Effect on National Security.**

23 Next, Yoo contends that failure to restrict judicial review of candid advice to the  
24 Executive regarding national security issues would jeopardize national security. Essentially,  
25 by his argument, Yoo contends that national security should be considered a “special factor  
26 counseling hesitation” in the *Bivens* context because the discovery sought in this matter would  
27 likely uncover material information potentially damaging to national security. The Court  
28 disagrees. First, during the course of this case, all of the documents drafted by Yoo mentioned

1 in the complaint have become public record. Second, although it “exacts heavy costs in terms  
 2 of efficiency and expenditure of valuable time and resources that might otherwise be directed  
 3 to the proper execution of the work of the Government, ... [I]tigation [may be] be necessary to  
 4 ensure that officials comply with the law.” *Iqbal*, 129 S. Ct. at 1953; *see also id.* at 1961  
 5 (finding that while it is important to prevent unwarranted litigation from interfering with the  
 6 proper functioning of the government, “the law provides other legal weapons designed to  
 7 prevent unwarranted interference” such as beginning discovery with lower level government  
 8 officials before determining whether a case can proceed to allow discovery related to higher  
 9 level government officials) (Breyer, J. dissenting). Third, although impossible to assert on  
 10 behalf of a non-governmental party, Yoo’s argument amounts to an assertion of the state  
 11 secrets privilege. Should a privilege surface on behalf of the government, the Court can and  
 12 will address those concerns in due time in the management of this case.<sup>1</sup>

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14 <sup>1</sup> Yoo argues that the judicial review of such claims would themselves subject the  
 15 nation to breaches of national security and, even if the assertion of state secret privilege  
 16 would fail, the “bar to litigation set by the special factors doctrine [] is much lower than the  
 17 bar set by the state-secrets privilege.” (Reply at 6.) The Court finds the parallel to the state  
 18 secrets privilege to be unpersuasive, especially in light of the Ninth Circuit’s recent reversal  
 19 of this district’s dismissal of a complaint on the basis of the state secret privilege.

20 In *Jeppesen*, plaintiffs, who were foreign nationals, alleged that the United States  
 21 Central Intelligence Agency (“CIA”), working in concert with other government agencies  
 22 and officials of foreign governments, operated an “extraordinary rendition program” to  
 23 gather intelligence by apprehending foreign nationals suspected of involvement in terrorist  
 24 activities and transferring them in secret to foreign countries for detention and interrogation  
 25 by United States or foreign officials. *Mohamed v. Jeppesen Dataplan, Inc.*, 563 F.3d 992,  
 26 997 (9th Cir. 2009). The United States intervened and asserted that state secrets formed the  
 27 subject matter of the lawsuit and argued that any suit that contains allegations, “the truth or  
 28 falsity of which has been classified as secret by a government official,” must be dismissed.  
*Id.* at 1003. The district court agreed and dismissed the case exclusively because it  
 “involve[d] ‘allegations’ about [secret] conduct by the CIA.” *Id.*

On appeal, the Ninth Circuit rejected this argument and reversed and remanded on  
 the basis that the “sweeping characterization of the ‘very subject matter’ bar has no logical  
 limit – it would apply equally to suits by U.S. citizens, not just foreign nationals; and to  
 secret conduct committed on U.S. soil, not just abroad. According to the government’s  
 theory, the Judiciary should effectively cordon off all secret government actions from  
 judicial scrutiny, immunizing the CIA and its partners from the demands and limits of the  
 law.” *Id.* The court rejected the dismissal of the action on the basis that it involved subject  
 matter that may qualify as state secrets and the litigation may, therefore, impinge on national  
 security. The judiciary, as always, is tasked with the difficult task of balancing the need for  
 information in a judicial proceeding and the coordinate branches of government’s  
 prerogative in guarding state secrets, which may ultimately affect national security. *See id.*  
 Courts must balance in each instance, recognizing that “the Executive’s national security  
 prerogatives are not the only weighty constitutional values at stake: while ‘[s]ecurity depends

1 **iv. Effect on Foreign Affairs and Foreign Relations.**

2 Lastly, Yoo argues that concerns about foreign relations should bar the creation of a  
3 *Bivens* remedy under the present circumstances, citing *Sanchez-Espinoza v. Reagan*, 770 F.2d  
4 202, 209 (D.C. Cir. 1985) and *Arar v. Ashcroft*, 532 F.3d at 177-78. The plaintiffs in *Sanchez-*  
5 *Espinoza* were Nicaraguans who alleged constitutional claims against federal officials for  
6 claims arising out of the United States' actions in Nicaragua in supporting forces bearing arms  
7 against the Nicaraguan government. 770 F.2d at 204. "Just as the special needs of the armed  
8 forces require the court to leave to Congress the creation of damage remedies against military  
9 officers for allegedly unconstitutional treatment of soldiers, *see Chappell v. Wallace, supra*, so  
10 also the special needs of foreign affairs must stay our hand in the creation of damages remedies  
11 against military and foreign policy officials for allegedly unconstitutional treatment of foreign  
12 subjects causing injury abroad." *Id.* at 208-09. The court determined that "as a general matter  
13 the danger of foreign citizens' using the courts in situations such as this to obstruct the foreign  
14 policy of our government is sufficiently acute that we must leave to Congress the judgment  
15 whether a damage remedy should exist." *Id.* at 209; *see also Rasul v. Myers*, 563 F.3d at 532  
16 n.5 (finding that the special needs of foreign affairs must stay the court's hand in the creation  
17 of damage remedies against military and foreign policy officials for allegedly unconstitutional  
18 treatment of foreign subjects causing injury abroad.)

19 Similarly, the plaintiff in *Arar* was an alien who was allegedly mistreated abroad. *Arar*  
20 was a dual Syrian-Canadian citizen, alleged to be affiliated with al Qaeda, who claimed that he

21 \_\_\_\_\_  
22 upon a sophisticated intelligence apparatus,' it 'subsists, too, in fidelity to freedom's first  
23 principles [including] freedom from arbitrary and unlawful restraint and the personal liberty  
24 that is secured by adherence to the separation of powers." *Id.* at 1003-04 (quoting  
25 *Boumediene v. Bush*, 128 S. Ct. 2229, 2277 (2008)).

26 The separation of powers undergirding Yoo's argument that the judiciary should  
27 refrain from review where issues of national security are present, takes on an "especially  
28 important role in the context of secret Executive conduct." *Id.* Yoo contends that discovery  
to uncover the secret nature of his advice to the President should counsel hesitation by this  
Court when contemplating whether to grant review. The Ninth Circuit's pronouncement in  
*Jeppesen*, however, counsels against dismissal of this action merely based upon the assertion  
that the underlying evidence potentially to be discovered may affect national security. The  
Court is, therefore, unpersuaded by Yoo's contention that the secret nature of his advice,  
because it may affect national security, constitutes a "special factor counseling hesitation"  
precluding judicial review.

1 was detained and removed to Syria so that he could be interrogated under torture by Syrian  
2 authorities. *Arar*, 532 U.S. at 181. The Second Circuit found that the core of the suit was  
3 whether Arar’s removal to Syria was appropriate in light of the United States diplomatic and  
4 national security concerns. The court determined that, in order for Arar’s claims to proceed,  
5 “he must probe deeply into the inner workings of the national security apparatus of at least  
6 three foreign countries, as well as that of the United States, in order to determine the basis for  
7 his alleged designation as an Al Qaeda affiliate and his removal to Syria via Jordan despite his  
8 request to be removed to Canada.” *Id.* The court found that “litigation of Arar’s claims would  
9 necessarily require an exploration of the intelligence relied upon by the officials charged with  
10 implementing our foreign and national security policies, the confidential communications  
11 between the United States and foreign powers, and other classified or confidential aspects of  
12 those policies, perhaps, whether or not such policies exist. There can be no doubt that  
13 litigation of this sort would interfere with the management of our country’s relations with  
14 foreign powers and affect our government’s ability to ensure national security.” *Id.* at 182.<sup>2</sup>

15 These cases do not support the position Yoo advances. By contrast, this case involves  
16 claims about American officials’ treatment of an American citizen within its own boundaries.  
17 The treatment of an American citizen on American soil does not raise the same specter of  
18 issues relating to foreign relations. The Court is not persuaded by the decisions not to find a  
19 *Bivens* remedy in instances in which foreign nationals are allegedly subjected to  
20 unconstitutional treatment abroad. The courts’ concerns about the creation of remedies for  
21 foreign nationals and the courts’ intrusion into the affairs of foreign governments finds no  
22 application in the particular circumstances raised by the case of allegations of unconstitutional  
23 treatment of an American citizen on American soil. *See, e.g., Rasul v. Myers*, 563 F.3d at 531.

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24  
25  
26 <sup>2</sup> The panel of the Second Circuit in *Arar* was divided and approximately six weeks  
27 after the panel issued its decision, acting *sua sponte*, the full circuit elected to rehear the case  
28 *en banc*. Notably, the court did not say that the panel opinion had been vacated or withdrawn  
nor did it indicate which of the many issues raised in the decision had prompted the court’s  
rehearing decision. Accordingly, the precedential status of the *Arar* decision is ambiguous.  
*See El Badrawi v. Department of Homeland Security*, 579 F. Supp. 2d 249, 263 n.15 (D.  
Conn. 2008).

1           Therefore, the Court finds that Padilla has stated a claim upon which relief can be  
2 granted under *Bivens*.

3       **C.     Qualified Immunity.**

4           **1.     Legal Standard for a Finding of Qualified Immunity.**

5           Yoo also argues that he is entitled to qualified immunity on all claims. The doctrine of  
6 qualified immunity protects government officials “from liability for civil damages insofar as  
7 their conduct does not violate any clearly established statutory or constitutional rights of which  
8 a reasonable person would have known.” *Harlow v. Fitzgerald*, 457 U.S. 800, 818 (1982).  
9 “Qualified immunity balances two important interests – the need to hold public officials  
10 accountable when they exercise power irresponsibly and the need to shield officials from  
11 harassment, distraction, and liability when they perform their duties reasonably.” *Pearson v.*  
12 *Callahan*, 129 S. Ct. 808, 815 (2009).

13           Qualified immunity is “an entitlement not to stand trial or face the other burdens of  
14 litigation.” *Mitchell v. Forsyth*, 472 U.S. 511, 526 (1985). The privilege is an immunity from  
15 suit rather than a mere defense to liability. *Id.* Accordingly, courts have repeatedly stressed  
16 “the importance of resolving immunity questions at the earliest possible stage in litigation.”  
17 *Hunter v. Bryant*, 502 U.S. 224, 227 (1991) (*per curiam*). Because qualified immunity is an  
18 affirmative defense, the burden of proof initially lies with the official asserting the defense.  
19 *Harlow*, 457 U.S. at 812.

20           The Ninth Circuit has recognized that “a motion to dismiss on qualified immunity  
21 grounds puts the court in the difficult position of deciding far-reaching constitutional questions  
22 on a non-existent factual record.” *Hydrick v. Hunter*, 500 F.3d 978, 985 (9th Cir. 2007) (citing  
23 *Kwai Fun Wong v. United States*, 373 F.3d 952, 957 (9th Cir. 2004)). Courts therefore must be  
24 “cautious not to eviscerate the notice pleading standard in suits where qualified immunity is at  
25 issue.” *Id.* at 985-86, 986 n.5 (holding that the aim of a motion to dismiss is not to evaluate the  
26 veracity of the plaintiff’s allegations or to speculate as to the defendant’s justifications for their  
27 actions).

28

1 In *Saucier v. Katz*, the Supreme Court stated that a court called upon to rule on the  
2 issue of qualified immunity must ask the following threshold question: “Taken in the light  
3 most favorable to the party asserting the injury, do the facts alleged show the officer’s conduct  
4 violated a constitutional right?” 533 U.S. 194, 201 (2001) (citing *Siegert v. Gilley*, 500 U.S.  
5 226, 232 (1991)). “If no constitutional right would have been violated were the allegations  
6 established, there is no necessity for further inquiries concerning qualified immunity.” *Id.*  
7 However, if the Court finds that the facts would show the violation of a constitutional right, the  
8 next inquiry is to determine “whether the right was clearly established.” *Id.* Thus, a court  
9 “must determine whether the law governing the official’s conduct was clearly established at  
10 the time the challenged conduct occurred.” *Mendoza v. Block*, 27 F.3d 1357, 1360 (9th Cir.  
11 1994) (citing *Hallstrom v. Garden City*, 991 F.2d 1473, 1482 (9th Cir. 1993)); *see also*  
12 *Blueford v. Prunty*, 108 F.3d 251, 255 (9th Cir. 1997) (holding that the issue whether an aspect  
13 of law was clearly established must be determined as of the time of the alleged conduct at  
14 issue). The Supreme Court in *Pearson v. Callahan* determined that the specific order of the  
15 qualified immunity inquiry is not required and held that “judges of the district court and the  
16 courts of appeals should be permitted to exercise their sound discretion in deciding which of  
17 the two prongs of the qualified immunity analysis should be addressed first in light of the  
18 circumstances in the particular case at hand.” 129 S. Ct. at 818.

19 A constitutional right is clearly established for purposes of qualified immunity if “[t]he  
20 contours of the right [are] sufficiently clear that [at the time the alleged unlawful action is  
21 taken] a reasonable official would understand that what he is doing violates that right.”  
22 *Saucier*, 533 U.S. at 202 (citing *Anderson v. Creighton*, 483 U.S. 635, 640 (1987)). “This is  
23 not to say that an official action is protected by qualified immunity unless the very action in  
24 question has previously been held unlawful ...; but it is to say that in the light of pre-existing  
25 law the unlawfulness must be apparent.” *Anderson*, 483 U.S. at 640. However, government  
26 officials are not “charged with predicting the future course of constitutional law.” *Ostlund v.*  
27 *Bobb*, 849 F.2d 365, 371 (9th Cir. 1988).

28

1 A court should then address the question “whether, under that clearly established law, a  
2 reasonable [official] could have believed the conduct was lawful.” *Id.* This inquiry must be  
3 undertaken in the light of the specific context of the case. *Saucier*, 533 U.S. at 194. In  
4 deciding whether the plaintiff’s rights were clearly established, “[t]he proper inquiry focuses  
5 on whether ‘it would be clear to a reasonable officer that his conduct was unlawful in the  
6 situation he confronted’ ... or whether the state of the law [at the time] gave ‘fair warning’ to  
7 the officials that their conduct was unconstitutional.” *Clement v. Gomez*, 298 F.3d 898, 906  
8 (9th Cir. 2002) (quoting *Saucier*, 533 U.S. at 202). Although the inquiry is undertaken in the  
9 specific context of the case, the fact that no case has found a constitutional violation under the  
10 exact facts alleged does not imply that the law is not clearly established. *Phillips v. Hust*, 477  
11 F.3d 1070, 1079-1080 (9th Cir. 2007). When there is no specific, binding precedent on the  
12 exact question, the Ninth Circuit looks “to all available decisional law, including the law of  
13 other circuits and district courts.” *Inouye v. Kemna*, 504 F.3d 705, 714 (9th Cir. 2007).

14 **2. Padilla States Claims for Violations of Constitutional Rights.**

15 **a. Causation.**

16 Yoo argues that Padilla fails to set forth a constitutional violation on the basis that there  
17 is nothing in the complaint that establishes that Yoo personally participated in or caused any  
18 violation of Padilla’s constitutional rights. Yoo argues that the personal participation inquiry  
19 “must be individualized and focus on the duties and responsibilities of each individual  
20 defendant whose acts or omissions are alleged to have caused a constitutional deprivation.”  
21 *See Leer v. Murphy*, 844 F.2d 628, 633 (9th Cir. 1988). Yoo contends that the complaint fails  
22 to make such allegations because: (1) the legal memoranda drafted by Yoo were merely one  
23 step in a complex mechanism employed by the President in his designation and subsequent  
24 treatment of Padilla as an enemy combatant; (2) the memoranda explicitly indicate that Yoo  
25 was not expressing any view on the policy decisions that the President might make with  
26 respect to the legal issues analyzed in the opinions; (3) the legal opinions, with the exception  
27 of one specifically referring to Padilla, apply to the detention and interrogation of persons  
28 captured or detained by the U.S. Armed Forces outside of the United States; and (4) with

1 respect to the treatment while detained, Yoo argues that Padilla fails to point to any facts that  
2 would affirmatively link Yoo to the constitutional injuries Padilla allegedly suffered.

3 At the procedural stage of a motion to dismiss, the Court must take as true all  
4 allegations made in the complaint. Like all other facts on a motion to dismiss, facts alleging  
5 causation are presumed to be true. *See Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 556. “A person deprives another  
6 of a constitutional right where that person ‘does an affirmative act, participates in another’s  
7 affirmative acts, or omits to perform an act which [that person] is legally required to do that  
8 causes the deprivation of which the complaint is made.’” *Hydrick*, 500 F.3d at 988 (quoting  
9 *Johnson v. Duffy*, 588 F.2d 740, 743 (9th Cir. 1978)). Indeed the “requisite causal connection  
10 can be established not only by some kind of direct personal participation in the deprivation, but  
11 also by setting in motion a series of acts by others which the actor knows or reasonably should  
12 know would cause others to inflict the constitutional injury.” *Johnson*, 588 F.2d at 743-44; *see*  
13 *also Kwai*, 373 F.3d at 966 (same).

14 Like any other government official, government lawyers are responsible for the  
15 foreseeable consequences of their conduct. For example, in *Lippoldt v. Cole*, the court found  
16 an assistant city attorney liable where she researched the law and drafted a letter denying a  
17 protest group’s application for a parade permit based on the content of their speech. 468 F.3d  
18 1204, 1210 (10th Cir. 2006). Although senior city officials revised the letter, and others  
19 approved and eventually signed the denial of the permit, the court rejected the theory that  
20 intervening factors cut off causation and instead found that the drafting of a legal opinion  
21 justifying unconstitutional conduct was “a substantial factor” in the decision to deny the parade  
22 permits and violated plaintiffs’ First Amendment rights. *Id.* at 1220. Similarly, in  
23 *Anoushiravani v. Fishel*, the court denied a motion to dismiss against two Department of  
24 Homeland Security attorneys who advised customs agents that they could constitutionally  
25 refuse to release seized property. 2004 WL 1630240, \*5 (D. Or. July 19, 2004). The district  
26 court held that the attorneys could be liable for their personal participation in the deprivation of  
27 constitutional rights because the seizures were a foreseeable result of their legal advice. *Id.*;  
28 *see also United States Securities and Exchange Commission v. Fehn*, 97 F.3d 1276, 1281-82,

1 1294 (9th Cir. 1996) (holding that a lawyer may be held liable for substantially assisting in the  
2 violation of the law by issuing advice in violation of the law).

3 Here, Padilla alleges that in Yoo's highly-influential position, he participated directly  
4 in developing policy on the war on terror. (FAC at ¶¶ 15, 19.) The complaint specifies that in  
5 Yoo's role as an advisor in the President's War Council, he drafted legal opinions which lay  
6 out the legal groundwork for assessing the designation of individual enemy combatants and  
7 legitimized the unconstitutional treatment of those individuals once detained. According to the  
8 complaint, Yoo admits that he "personally reviewed the material on Padilla to determine  
9 whether he could qualify, legally, as an enemy combatant, and issued an opinion to that  
10 effect." (*Id.* at ¶ 38, citing Yoo's book "War By Other Means.") According to the complaint,  
11 Attorney General John Ashcroft relied on Yoo's opinion in recommending to the President that  
12 Padilla be taken into military custody. (*Id.* at ¶ 39.) Again, based on Yoo's legal opinion and  
13 Ashcroft's recommendation, the complaint alleges that President Bush issued an order dated  
14 June 9, 2002 declaring Padilla an enemy combatant and directing Rumsfeld to take Padilla into  
15 military custody, and the President stated that these actions were "consistent with U.S. law and  
16 the laws of war." (*Id.* at ¶ 40.) Yoo allegedly has represented that "he had security clearance  
17 to, and in fact did, 'read the intelligence reports' on Mr. Padilla before purporting to provide  
18 legal authority for Mr. Padilla's designation and detention." (*Id.* at ¶ 42.) Yoo also advised  
19 executive officials that military detention of an American citizen seized on American soil was  
20 lawful because, he claimed, the Fourth Amendment had no application to domestic military  
21 operations in this context. (*Id.* at ¶¶ 19(a), 21.) Following a meeting of the War Council in  
22 July 2002 in which Yoo and fellow Council members "'discussed in great detail how to legally  
23 justify' 'pressure techniques proposed by the CIA,' including waterboarding, mock burial, and  
24 open-handed slapping of suspects, [Yoo] wrote his August 1, 2002 memo, which stated that  
25 acts of interrogation would not constitute torture unless they caused pain 'equivalent in  
26 intensity to the pain accompanying serious physical injury, such as organ failure, impairment  
27 of bodily function, or even death.'" (*Id.* at ¶ 28.) Padilla alleges, on information and belief,  
28 that Yoo

1 intended or was deliberately indifferent to the fact that Mr. Padilla would be  
 2 subjected to the illegal policies [Yoo] set in motion and to the substantial risk  
 3 that Mr. Padilla would suffer harm as a result. [Yoo] personally recommended  
 4 Mr. Padilla's unlawful military detention as a suspected enemy combatant and  
 5 then wrote opinions to justify the use of unlawful interrogation methods against  
 6 persons suspected of being enemy combatants. It was foreseeable that the illegal  
 7 interrogation policies would be applied to Mr. Padilla, who was under the  
 8 effective control of the U.S. Southern Command – the same military authority  
 9 that controlled Guantanamo – and was one of only two suspected enemy  
 10 combatants held at the Brig.

11 (*Id.* at ¶ 53.)

12 In light of these allegations, the Court finds Padilla has alleged sufficient facts to satisfy  
 13 the requirement that Yoo set in motion a series of events that resulted in the deprivation of  
 14 Padilla's constitutional rights. *Compare Iqbal*, 129 S. Ct. at 1951 (Court rejected that “bare  
 15 assertions” in a complaint that high-ranking government officials knew about unconstitutional  
 16 treatment and therefore caused it are not entitled to “the assumption of truth”). Here, in  
 17 contrast, Padilla alleges with specificity that Yoo was involved in the decision to detain him  
 18 and created a legal construct designed to justify the use of interrogation methods that Padilla  
 19 alleges were unlawful.<sup>3</sup>

20 **b. Substantive Constitutional Rights.**

21 In addition to his contention that Padilla has failed to plead Yoo's personal  
 22 participation in the alleged constitutional wrongs, Yoo argues that Padilla has failed to state a  
 23 cause of action for three of the substantive constitutional claims: (1) the right of access to  
 24 courts because there was no court claim Padilla was unable to bring due to Yoo's conduct; (2)  
 25 any rights under the Eighth Amendment because the Amendment does not apply unless there is  
 26 a criminal conviction; and (3) the right against compelled self-incrimination under the Fifth  
 27 Amendment because Padilla does not allege that he made any incriminating statements that  
 28 were used against him in a criminal case.

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<sup>3</sup> Yoo also contends that in resolving Padilla's habeas petition, the Fourth Circuit's rejection of the petition necessarily included a determination that eight of the constitutional rights Padilla claims were violated in this case were not infringed. (*See* Motion at 35-39.) Again, this Court finds the argument that these issues are barred by virtue of collateral estoppel to be unpersuasive. *See supra* at B(1)(a).

1 **i. Right of Access to the Court.**

2 Prisoners have a constitutional right of access to the courts. *Lewis v. Casey*, 518 U.S.  
3 343, 350 (1996); *Bounds v. Smith*, 430 U.S. 817, 821 (1977). A prisoner's right of access to  
4 the courts includes contact visitation with counsel. *Ching v. Lewis*, 895 F.2d 608, 609-610 (9th  
5 Cir. 1990); *see also Procnier v. Martinez*, 416 U.S. 396, 419-420 (1974), *rev'd in part on*  
6 *other grounds, Thornburgh v. Abbott*, 490 U.S. 401, 413 (1989) (holding that the opportunity  
7 to communicate privately with own's attorney is an important part of meaningful access to  
8 courts). The right of access to the courts is violated not only when a plaintiff is prevented from  
9 bringing a claim, but when he is "hindered [in] his efforts to pursue a legal claim" or when a  
10 "nonfrivolous legal claim ha[s] been frustrated or [is] being impeded." *Lewis*, 518 U.S. at 351,  
11 353. Padilla alleges he was detained incommunicado for nearly two years with no access to  
12 counsel and thereafter with very restricted and closely-monitored access. (FAC at ¶¶ 56, 59,  
13 61.) Padilla claims that he was hindered from bringing his claims as a result of the conditions  
14 of his detention. *See Christopher v. Harbury*, 536 U.S. 403, 414-15 (2002) (holding that an  
15 access claim may turn on a litigating opportunity yet to be gained or already lost, and is  
16 recognized in order to provide some effective vindication for a separate and distinct right to  
17 seek judicial relief for a wrong). Even an enemy combatant is entitled to access to counsel.  
18 *Hamdi*, 542 U.S. at 539. The allegation that Padilla was denied any access to counsel for  
19 nearly two years is sufficient to state a claim for violation of his right to access to courts.

20 **ii. Eighth Amended Prohibition Against Cruel and Unusual**  
21 **Punishment.**

22 Yoo contends that because Padilla was not convicted of a criminal offense at the time  
23 of his military detention, the Eighth Amendment prohibition against cruel and unusual  
24 punishment does not apply to him. However, "[p]ersons who have been involuntarily  
25 committed are entitled to more considerate treatment and conditions of confinement than  
26 criminals whose conditions are designed to punish." *Youngberg v. Romeo*, 457 U.S. 307, 321-  
27 22 (1982). "[C]onstitutional questions regarding the conditions and circumstances of [the]  
28 confinement [of detained persons not convicted of a crime] are properly addressed under the  
due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, rather than the Eighth Amendment's

1 protection against cruel and unusual punishment.” *City of Revere v. Massachusetts General*  
2 *Hospital*, 463 U.S. 239, 244 (1983). However, “[i]n light of the Supreme Court’s observation  
3 that the due process rights of pretrial detainees are ‘at least as great as the Eighth Amendment  
4 protections available to a convicted prisoner,’ we have recognized that, even though the  
5 pretrial detainees’ rights arise under the Due Process Clause, the guarantees of the Eighth  
6 Amendment provide a *minimum standard of care* for determining their rights.” *Oregon*  
7 *Advocacy Center v. Mink*, 322 F.3d 1101, 1120 (9th Cir. 2003) (internal citations omitted)  
8 (emphasis in original).

9 Padilla alleges that while detained, he suffered prolonged shackling in painful  
10 positions, relentless periods of illumination and intentional interference with sleep by means of  
11 loud noises at all hours. (FAC at ¶ 55.) Padilla further alleges that he was subjected to  
12 extreme psychological stress and impermissibly denied medical care. (*Id.* at ¶¶ 71, 72.)  
13 Lastly, Padilla asserts that these restrictions and conditions were not justified by a legitimate  
14 penological interest, but rather that they were intended to intensify the coerciveness of the  
15 interrogations. (*Id.* at ¶¶ 41, 45, 55, 72.) Padilla alleges that Yoo bears responsibility for the  
16 conditions of his confinement due to his drafting opinions that purported to create legal  
17 legitimacy for such treatment. Therefore, although Padilla’s claim must be analyzed under the  
18 Due Process provision of the Fourteenth Amendment and not pursuant to the Eighth  
19 Amendment, the Eighth Amendment sets the bar below which the treatment of detainees  
20 should not fall.

21 **iii. Fifth Amendment Right Against Self-Incrimination.**

22 Lastly, Defendant argues that Padilla cannot state a claim for violation of his Fifth  
23 Amendment right against compelled self-incrimination because Padilla does not allege that he  
24 made any incriminating statements. The Fifth Amendment guarantees protection of the right  
25 against self incrimination and “applies only when the accused is compelled to make a  
26 Testimonial Communication that is incriminating.” *Fisher v. United States*, 425 U.S. 391, 408  
27 (1976). “The privilege against self-incrimination guaranteed by the Fifth Amendment is a  
28 fundamental trial right of criminal defendants. Although conduct by law enforcement officials

1 prior to trial may ultimately impair that right, a constitutional violation occurs only at trial.”  
2 *United States v. Verdugo-Urquidez*, 494 U.S. 259 264 (1990). The mere use of compulsive  
3 questioning, without more, does not violate the text of the Self-Incrimination Clause. *Chavez*  
4 *v. Martinez*, 538 U.S. 760, 767 (2003). Because there is no allegation in the complaint before  
5 this Court that Padilla was ever made to be a witness against himself or that his statements  
6 were admitted as testimony against him in his criminal case, he has not stated a claim for  
7 violation of the Self-Incrimination Clause of the Fifth Amendment. Accordingly, the sections  
8 of the First Amended Complaint making a claim for violation of the Fifth Amendment right  
9 against compelled self-incrimination are dismissed with leave to amend. (*See* FAC at ¶¶ 5,  
10 82(d).)

### 11 **3. Basic Constitutional Protections Alleged Are Clearly Established.**

12 Once the Court finds that the facts would show the violation of a constitutional right,  
13 the next inquiry is to determine “whether the right was clearly established.” *Saucier*, 533 U.S.  
14 at 202. Yoo argues that because no federal court has afforded an enemy combatant the kind of  
15 constitutional protections Padilla seeks in this case, there was no violation of Padilla’s clearly  
16 established constitutional rights. The Court finds this argument unpersuasive.

17 First, the basic facts alleged in the complaint clearly violate the rights afforded to  
18 citizens held in the prison context. The complaint alleges that military agents entered a civilian  
19 jail, seized a citizen from the civilian justice system, transported him to a military brig,  
20 detained him there indefinitely without criminal charge or conviction, deprived him of contact  
21 with anyone, including attorneys or family, removed the basic ability to practice his religion,  
22 and subjected him to a program of extreme interrogations, sensory deprivation and punishment  
23 over a period of three years and eight months. The specific designation as an enemy  
24 combatant does not automatically eviscerate all of the constitutional protections afforded to a  
25 citizen of the United States. *See Hope v. Pelzer*, 536 U.S. 730, 741 (2002) (“officials can still  
26 be on notice that their conduct violates established law even in novel factual circumstances”);  
27 *Phillips*, 477 F.3d at 1079-1080 (holding that the fact that no case has found a constitutional  
28 violation under the exact facts alleged does not imply that the law is not clearly established);

1 *Giebel v. Sylvester*, 244 F.3d 1182, 1189 (9th Cir. 2001) (holding that a right can be clearly  
2 established on the basis of common sense in the absence of precedent directly on point).

3 Second, Yoo argues that the status of enemy combatant is not itself novel, but that  
4 courts have never attributed the level of constitutional rights sought in this action to this unique  
5 type of detainee. The Court finds this argument similarly unpersuasive. The fact that a unique  
6 type or designation of a detainee has come into being does not obliterate the clearly established  
7 minimum protections for those held in detention. To defeat qualified immunity, “the right  
8 allegedly violated must be defined at the appropriate level of specificity before a court can  
9 determine if it was clearly established.” *Wilson v. Layne*, 526 U.S. 603, 615 (1999). But, a  
10 plaintiff must not have to establish that the defendants’ “behavior had been previously declared  
11 unconstitutional.” *Blueford*, 108 F.3d at 254. Rather, “if binding authority indicates that ‘the  
12 disputed right existed, even if no case had specifically so declared,’ the Defendants would be  
13 on notice of the right.” *Hydrick*, 500 F.3d at 989 (citing *Blueford*, 108 F.3d at 355). In  
14 *Hydrick*, the Ninth Circuit addressed whether there was clearly established precedent  
15 governing the treatment of sexual offenders who were civilly confined in a state psychiatric  
16 hospital under California’s Sexually Violent Predators Act (SVP) and who challenged the  
17 conditions of their confinement under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. 500 F.3d at 978. The Ninth Circuit  
18 held that even though “the law applicable to [sexual violent predators] is still evolving,” “the  
19 rights afforded [convicted] prisoners set a floor for those that must be afforded SVPs.” 500  
20 F.3d at 989. The court stated that although

21 [i]t may not be clear exactly what due process rights are to be afforded SVPs, ...  
22 surely it is clear that certain actions – forcing SVPs to live in squalid conditions,  
23 turning a blind eye to physical attacks against SVPs, and forcing SVPs to take  
24 medication as punishment or in retaliation for filing a lawsuit or for refusing to  
speak during treatment sessions – transgress the boundary. Surely, it would not  
require ‘law train[ing]’ or clairvoyance to recognize that these actions, as alleged  
by the Plaintiffs, do not comport with due process.

25 *Id.* at 990 n.8. The court held that the defendants could not have been “so completely unaware  
26 of the standards that would apply to their conduct as it related to SVPs. ... [T]he Plaintiffs’  
27 complaint alleges practices that would be unconstitutional if directed at any prisoner.  
28

1 Accordingly, Defendants cannot escape liability based on a ‘reasonable but mistaken’ belief  
2 about the constitutionality of their conduct.” *Id.* at 1001.

3 Similarly, this Court finds that although the legal framework relating to the designation  
4 of a citizen as an enemy combatant was developing at the time of the conduct alleged in the  
5 complaint, federal officials were cognizant of the basic fundamental civil rights afforded to  
6 detainees under the United States Constitution. *See, e.g., Estelle v. Gamble*, 429 U.S. 97, 103-  
7 04 (1976) (holding that denial of medical attention may result in the infliction of unnecessary  
8 suffering which is “inconsistent with contemporary standards of decency as manifested in  
9 modern legislation codifying the common law view that ‘(i)t is but just that the public be  
10 required to care for the prisoner, who cannot by reason of the deprivation of his liberty, care  
11 for himself.”); *Youngberg*, 457 U.S. at 321-22 (holding that “persons who have been  
12 involuntarily committed are entitled to more considerate treatment and conditions of  
13 confinement than criminals whose conditions are designed to punish”).<sup>4</sup> The Court finds that  
14 the complaint alleges conduct that would be unconstitutional if directed at any detainee, and  
15 therefore finds that the rights allegedly violated were clearly established at the time of the  
16 alleged conduct. *Hydrick*, 500 F.3d at 1001; *see also United States v. Lanier*, 520 U.S. 259,

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17  
18 <sup>4</sup> Yoo argues that the *Hamdi* decision cannot be evaluated to demonstrate that enemy  
19 combatants possess basic constitutional rights because the decision post-dates the conduct  
20 alleged in this matter. However, Yoo relies on *Padilla II* to demonstrate that such rights  
21 were not clearly established. Although the *Hamdi* Court determined even foreign nationals  
22 held by the United States possess the basic constitutional right of due process, the case was  
23 decided in 2007 and not clearly established precedent at the time of the conduct alleged in  
24 this case. 542 U.S. at 521, 531 (finding that “[c]ertainly, ... indefinite detention for the  
25 purpose of interrogation is not authorized” and “reaffirm[ing] ... the fundamental nature of a  
26 citizen’s right to be free from involuntary confinement by his own government without due  
27 process of law.”) However, the Fourth Circuit’s holding in *Padilla II*, 423 F.3d at 386, was  
28 decided in 2005, does not bear on the issue as it was decided post-conduct as well. *See*  
*Blueford*, 108 F.3d at 255 (holding that the issue whether an aspect of law was clearly  
established must be determined as of the time of the alleged conduct at issue). Further, as  
discussed, the Court finds the Fourth Circuit opinion lacks estoppel force. Lastly, the Court  
notes that the government, in an apparent effort to avoid consideration of the Fourth Circuit’s  
decision in light of *Hamdi*, 542 U.S. at 507, suddenly removed Padilla from military custody  
and criminally indicted him in Florida for offenses considerably different from and far less  
serious than those acts upon which the President designated him as an enemy combatant.  
The government removed Padilla from military custody only two days before the  
government’s brief was due to be filed in the Supreme Court. *See Padilla v. Hanft*, 432 F.3d  
582, 584 (4th Cir. 2005). Although the *Padilla II* opinion is still good law, it is questionable  
whether, should an appeal before the Supreme Court have not been mooted by Padilla’s  
sudden transfer out of military custody, the decision would have been affirmed.

1 271 (1997) (“There has never been a ... case accusing welfare officials of selling foster  
2 children into slavery; it does not follow that if such a case arose, the officials would be  
3 immune from damages.”) (internal citation and quotation marks omitted).

4 The Court finds that Padilla alleges a violation of his constitutional rights which were  
5 clearly established at the time of the conduct. Further, based on the fact that the allegations  
6 involve conduct that would be unconstitutional if directed at any detainee, a reasonable federal  
7 officer could have believed the conduct was lawful. *See Mendoza*, 27 F.3d at 1360. Therefore,  
8 Yoo is not entitled to qualified immunity.

9 **D. The Religious Freedom Reformation Act Claims.**

10 Padilla alleges that he was deprived of his right to the free exercise of religion  
11 guaranteed under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, 42 U.S.C. § 2000bb. (FAC at ¶  
12 82(e).) The Religious Freedom Restoration Act (“RFRA”) “suspends generally applicable  
13 federal laws that ‘substantially burden a person’s exercise of religion’ unless the laws are ‘the  
14 least restrictive means of furthering [a] compelling government interest.’” *United States v.*  
15 *Antoine*, 318 F.3d 919, 920 (9th Cir. 2003) (quoting 42 U.S.C. § 2000bb-1(a)-(b)). RFRA  
16 provides that the “[g]overnment shall not substantially burden a person’s exercise of religion  
17 even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability, except as provided in subsection  
18 (b) of this section.” 42 U.S.C. § 2000bb-1. In turn, the statute defines “government” to  
19 include “a branch, department, agency, instrumentality, and official (or other person acting  
20 under color of law) of the United States.” 42 U.S.C. § 2000bb-2(1).

21 Although Padilla alleges that he was denied his right to the free exercise of religion,  
22 Yoo argues that Padilla has not stated a claim under RFRA. First, Yoo contends that Padilla  
23 fails to allege Yoo was personally involved in the acts that substantially burdened the free  
24 exercise of religion. This contention has been addressed in the causation argument attendant to  
25 the civil rights claim. (*See supra* section C(2)(a).) Second, Yoo argues that RFRA does not  
26 create a cause of action against Yoo in his individual capacity and, even if such a cause of  
27 action were allowed under RFRA, Yoo would be entitled to qualified immunity because the  
28 right would not be clearly established under federal law. The Court finds that authority

1 indicates that RFRA provides for a cause of action against a federal actor in his individual  
2 capacity and that this right was clearly established at the time of the conduct.

3 Yoo contends that the plain statutory text of RFRA does not provide for a cause of  
4 action against a government employee in his or her individual capacity. Yoo contends that the  
5 phrase “appropriate relief against a government” indicates that Congress authorized only suits  
6 against governmental entities, not individual government employees. However, the Court  
7 finds this argument unpersuasive as the statute defines “government” to include “official (or  
8 other person acting under color of law) of the United States.” 42 U.S.C. § 2000bb-2(1). In  
9 keeping with the analysis of the identical language in 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and the law of this  
10 district, the Court finds that the phrase “person acting under color of law” permits a claim  
11 against a federal officer in his individual capacity.

12 “That Congress did not waive sovereign immunity for [RFRA] damages suits does not  
13 necessarily mean that [a] plaintiff may not collect damages from [] individual defendants.”  
14 *Lepp v. Gonzales*, 2005 WL 1867723, \*8 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 2, 2005) (citing *Jama v. United*  
15 *States Immigration and Naturalization Service*, 343 F. Supp. 2d 338, 373 (D.N.J. 2004)).  
16 RFRA “‘allows for individual capacity suits for money damages’ against federal officers.”  
17 *Lepp*, 2005 WL 1867723 at \*8 (citing *Jama*, 343 F. Supp. 2d at 374-76). This Court adopts the  
18 finding set forth in the *Jama* opinion and explicitly adopted by this district in *Lepp*. Further,  
19 there is no authority to indicate that the language in RFRA – “acting under color of law” –  
20 which clearly tracks the same language in 42 U.S.C. § 1983, should not be interpreted to  
21 establish individual liability for violations. The same language as interpreted by courts under  
22 42 U.S.C. § 1983 provides liability for officials in their individual capacities. *See, e.g., Hafer*  
23 *v. Melo*, 502 U.S. 21, 31 (1991) (finding that the phrase “person acting under color of law” in  
24 Section 1983 includes officials in their individual capacities). “When a legislature borrows an  
25 already established individual phrase from an old statute to use it in a new statute, it is  
26 presumed that the legislature intends to adopt not merely the old phrase but the judicial  
27 construction of that phrase.” *Sutton v. Providence St. Joseph Medical Center*, 192 F.3d 826,  
28 834-35 (9th Cir. 1999) (citation omitted). Accordingly, the “judicial interpretation of the

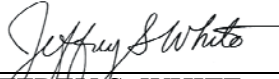
1 phrase 'acting under color of law,' as used in 42 U.S.C. § 1983, applies equally in ... RFRA  
2 action[s]." *Id.* at 835. The Court adopts the same reasoning to find that RFRA allows for  
3 individual capacity suits for money damages against federal officers and denies the motion to  
4 dismiss the claim under RFRA. In addition, the Court finds that the interpretation of the  
5 statute to permit individual liability is in keeping with clearly established law and, on this  
6 basis, Yoo is not entitled to qualified immunity on the RFRA cause of action.

### 7 CONCLUSION

8 For the foregoing reasons, the Court GRANTS IN PART and DENIES IN PART Yoo's  
9 motion to dismiss the First Amended Complaint. The motion is denied as to all claims with the  
10 exception of the claim for violation of Padilla's rights under the Fifth Amendment against  
11 compelled self-incrimination. The sections of the First Amended Complaint making a claim  
12 for violation of the Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination are dismissed with leave  
13 to amend. (*See* FAC at ¶¶ 5, 82d.) The remainder of the motion to dismiss is DENIED. The  
14 Court HEREBY provides Plaintiffs leave to amend to allege a factual basis for the dismissed  
15 claim. Plaintiffs shall file an amended complaint, if any, by July 10, 2009. Defendant Yoo  
16 shall have twenty days thereafter to file his responsive pleading.

17  
18 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

19  
20 Dated: June 12, 2009

  
21 \_\_\_\_\_  
22 JEFFREY S. WHITE  
23 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
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