

No. _____

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

VALENTIN AGUILAR-LOPEZ,
ALSO KNOWN AS TOMAS AGUILAR-LOPEZ,
Petitioner

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Respondent

Petition for Writ of Certiorari
to the United States Court of Appeals
for the Fifth Circuit

APPENDIX

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Federal Public Defender
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

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APPENDIX A

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT**

United States Court of Appeals
Fifth Circuit

FILED

March 21, 2019

Lyle W. Cayce
Clerk

No. 18-11055
Summary Calendar

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff-Appellee

v.

VALENTIN AGUILAR-LOPEZ, also known as Tomas Aguilar-Lopez,

Defendant-Appellant

Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Northern District of Texas
USDC No. 6:17-CR-62-1

Before DAVIS, HAYNES, and GRAVES, Circuit Judges.

PER CURIAM:*

Valentin Aguilar-Lopez was convicted of illegal reentry after deportation and was sentenced above the guidelines range to 48 months of imprisonment, to be followed by three years of supervised release. He appeals. Aguilar-Lopez first challenges the substantive reasonableness of his sentence, arguing that it is greater than necessary to satisfy the sentencing goals set forth in 18 U.S.C.

* Pursuant to 5TH CIR. R. 47.5, the court has determined that this opinion should not be published and is not precedent except under the limited circumstances set forth in 5TH CIR. R. 47.5.4.

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§ 3553(a). Aguilar-Lopez asserts that the sentence is more than twice the top end of his guidelines range.

In reviewing a non-guidelines sentence for substantive reasonableness, we consider “the totality of the circumstances, including the extent of any variance from the Guidelines range, to determine whether as a matter of substance, the sentencing factors in section 3553(a) support the sentence.” *United States v. Gerezano-Rosales*, 692 F.3d 393, 400 (5th Cir. 2012) (internal quotation marks and citation omitted). In articulating its reasons for the sentence imposed, the district court noted that Aguilar-Lopez had been removed from the United States on four separate occasions and had six prior convictions. Additionally, the record shows that the court relied on permissible § 3553(a) factors in determining that an above-guidelines sentence was appropriate, including the need to promote respect for the law, the need to provide adequate deterrence, and the need to protect the public from further crimes. Thus, the decision to vary above the advisory guidelines range was based on permissible factors that advanced the objectives set forth in § 3553(a). *See United States v. Smith*, 440 F.3d 704, 707 (5th Cir. 2006).

Although the 48-month sentence is more than twice the 21 months at the top of the applicable guidelines range, we have upheld much greater variances. *See, e.g., United States v. Key*, 599 F.3d 469, 475-76 (5th Cir. 2010); *United States v. Brantley*, 537 F.3d 347, 348-50 (5th Cir. 2008). Based on the totality of the circumstances, including the significant deference that is due to a district court’s consideration of the § 3553(a) factors, the sentence imposed was not substantively unreasonable. *See Gerezano-Rosales*, 692 F.3d at 400-01.

Aguilar-Lopez also contends that his sentence exceeds the statutory maximum punishment for the offense charged in the indictment and that his guilty plea was unknowing and involuntary because he was not instructed on

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an essential element of the offense. Regarding the validity of his guilty plea, Aguilar-Lopez contends that the district court failed to advise him that the felony provision of 8 U.S.C. § 1326(b)(1) was an essential element of the offense. As to his sentence, Aguilar-Lopez argues that it exceeds the two-year maximum set forth in § 1326(a) and, thus, violates the holding in *Apprendi v. New Jersey*, 530 U.S. 466 (2000). As he correctly concedes, these arguments are foreclosed by *Almendarez-Torres v. United States*, 523 U.S. 224 (1998). See *United States v. Wallace*, 759 F.3d 486, 497 (5th Cir. 2014); *United States v. Pineda-Arellano*, 492 F.3d 624, 625-26 (5th Cir. 2007).

Accordingly, the district court's judgment is AFFIRMED.

APPENDIX B

United States District Court

Northern District of Texas

San Angelo Division

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

VALENTIN AGUILAR-LOPEZ
Defendant.Case Number: 6:17-CR-00062-C(01)
USM No. 66012-280**JUDGMENT IN A CRIMINAL CASE**
(For Offenses Committed On or After November 1, 1987)

The defendant, VALENTIN AGUILAR-LOPEZ, was represented by Sherylynn A. Kime-Goodwin.

The defendant pleaded guilty to count 1 of the indictment filed November 8, 2017. Accordingly, the court has adjudicated that the defendant is guilty of the following offenses:

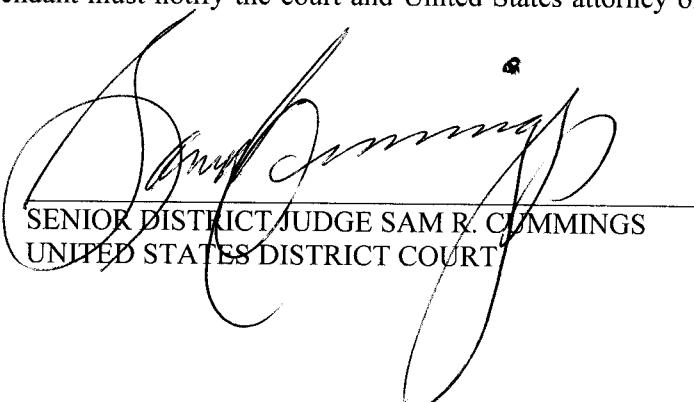
<u>Title & Section</u>	<u>Nature of Offense</u>	<u>Date of Offense</u>	<u>Count Number</u>
8 U.S.C. § 1326(a) and 6 U.S.C. §§202(3), 202(4), and 557	Illegal Re-Entry After Deportation	10/22/2017	1

As pronounced on July 27, 2018, the defendant is sentenced as provided in pages 1 through 4 of this judgment. The sentence is imposed pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984.

It is ordered that the defendant shall pay to the United States a special assessment of \$100.00, for count 1 of the indictment, which shall be due immediately. Said special assessment shall be made to the Clerk, U.S. District Court.

It is further ordered that the defendant must notify the United States attorney for this district within 30 days of any change of name, residence, or mailing address until all fines, restitution, costs, and special assessments imposed by this judgment are fully paid. If ordered to pay restitution, the defendant must notify the court and United States attorney of material change in the defendant's economic circumstances.

Signed this the 27th day of July, 2018.

SENIOR DISTRICT JUDGE SAM R. CUMMINGS
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT


DEFENDANT: VALENTIN AGUILAR-LOPEZ
CASE NUMBER: 6:17-CR-00062-C(01)

IMPRISONMENT

The defendant is hereby committed to the custody of the United States Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a term of 48 months as to count 1.

The defendant shall remain in the custody of the U.S. Marshal Service.

RETURN

I have executed this judgment as follows:

Defendant delivered on _____ to _____
at _____, with a certified copy of this judgment.

UNITED STATES MARSHAL

By _____
DEPUTY UNITED STATES MARSHAL

DEFENDANT: VALENTIN AGUILAR-LOPEZ
 CASE NUMBER: 6:17-CR-00062-C(01)

SUPERVISED RELEASE

Upon release from imprisonment, the defendant shall be on supervised release for a term of: 3 years.

The defendant shall report to the U.S. Probation Officer in a manner and frequency directed by the Court or Probation Officer in the district to which the defendant is released from the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, or in which the defendant makes entry into the United States, within 72 hours of release or entry.

The defendant shall not commit another federal, state, or local crime.

The defendant shall not illegally possess a controlled substance.

For offenses committed on or after September 13, 1994:

The defendant shall refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance. The defendant shall submit to one drug test within 15 days of release from imprisonment and at least two periodic drug tests thereafter, as directed by the probation officer.

The defendant shall not unlawfully possess a controlled substance. The defendant shall refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance. The defendant shall submit to one drug test within 15 days of release from imprisonment and at least two periodic drug tests thereafter, as determined by the court.

- The above drug testing condition is suspended, based on the court's determination that the defendant poses a low risk of future substance abuse.
- The defendant shall not possess a firearm, ammunition, destructive device, or any other dangerous weapon.
- The defendant shall cooperate in the collection of DNA as directed by the probation officer.
- The defendant shall comply with the requirements of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (34 U.S.C. § 20901, *et seq.*) as directed by the probation officer, the Bureau of Prisons, or any state sex offender registration agency in which he or she resides, works, is a student, or was convicted of a qualifying offense.
- The defendant shall participate in an approved program for domestic violence.
- The defendant must make restitution in accordance with 18 U.S.C. §§ 3663 and 3663A or any other statute authorizing a sentence of restitution.

If this judgment imposes a fine or a restitution obligation, it shall be a condition of supervised release that the defendant pay any such fine or restitution that remains unpaid at the commencement of the term of supervised release in accordance with the Fine and Restitution sheet of the judgment.

The defendant shall comply with the standard conditions that have been adopted by this court (set forth below). The defendant shall also comply with the additional conditions on the attached page.

STANDARD CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

- 1) The defendant shall not leave the judicial district without the permission of the court or probation officer.
- 2) The defendant shall report to the probation officer in a manner and frequency directed by the court or probation officer.
- 3) The defendant shall answer truthfully all inquiries by the probation officer and follow the instructions of the probation officer.
- 4) The defendant shall support his or her dependents and meet other family responsibilities.
- 5) The defendant shall work regularly at a lawful occupation unless excused by the probation officer for schooling, training, or other acceptable reasons.
- 6) The defendant shall notify the probation officer at least ten days prior to any change in residence or employment.
- 7) The defendant shall refrain from excessive use of alcohol and shall not purchase, possess, use, distribute, or administer any controlled substance or any paraphernalia related to any controlled substances, except as prescribed by a physician.
- 8) The defendant shall not frequent places where controlled substances are illegally sold, used, distributed, or administered.
- 9) The defendant shall not associate with any persons engaged in criminal activity, and shall not associate with any person convicted of a felony unless granted permission to do so by the probation officer.
- 10) The defendant shall permit a probation officer to visit him or her at any time at home or elsewhere and shall permit confiscation of any contraband observed in plain view by the probation officer.
- 11) The defendant shall notify the probation officer within seventy-two hours of being arrested or questioned by a law enforcement officer.
- 12) The defendant shall not enter into any agreement to act as an informer or a special agent of a law enforcement agency without the permission of the court.
- 13) As directed by the probation officer, the defendant shall notify third parties of risks that may be occasioned by the defendant's criminal record or personal history or characteristics, and shall permit the probation officer to make such notifications and to confirm the defendant's compliance with such notification requirement.

DEFENDANT: VALENTIN AGUILAR-LOPEZ
CASE NUMBER: 6:17-CR-00062-C(01)

SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

1. The defendant shall not illegally re-enter the United States, if deported, removed, or allowed voluntary departure.
2. The defendant shall abstain from the use of alcohol and all other intoxicants during the term of supervision.
3. The defendant shall participate in a program (inpatient and/or outpatient) approved by the U.S. Probation Office for treatment of narcotic, drug, or alcohol dependency, which will include testing for the detection of substance use or abuse. The defendant shall contribute to the costs of services rendered (copayment) at a rate of at least \$25.00 per month.