

APPENDIX A

United States v. Morales-Mercado,
No. 19-50827, unpub. op. (5th Cir. Mar. 19, 2020)
(per curiam)

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

United States Court of Appeals
Fifth Circuit

FILED

March 19, 2020

Lyle W. Cayce
Clerk

No. 19-50827
Summary Calendar

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff-Appellee

v.

JOSE RICARDO MORALES-MERCADO,

Defendant-Appellant

Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Western District of Texas
USDC No. 3:19-CR-188-1

Before STEWART, HIGGINSON, and COSTA, Circuit Judges.

PER CURIAM:*

Jose Ricardo Morales-Mercado appeals the 51-month sentence imposed following his guilty plea conviction for being found unlawfully present in the United States after previous deportation. He argues that his sentence was imposed under an unconstitutional statute, 8 U.S.C. § 1326(b). Specifically, he contends that in order to trigger a sentencing enhancement under § 1326(b), the fact of a prior conviction must be alleged in the indictment and proven to a

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 R. 47.5, the court has determined that this opinion should not be published and is not precedent except under the limited circumstances set forth in 5TH CIR.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

No. 19-50827

jury; therefore, he asserts that § 1326(b) is unconstitutional. He correctly concedes that his argument is foreclosed by *Almendarez-Torres v. United States*, 523 U.S. 224 (1998), but raises the issue to preserve for further possible review. *See United States v. Wallace*, 759 F.3d 486, 497 (5th Cir. 2014); *United States v. Pineda-Arrellano*, 492 F.3d 624, 625-26 (5th Cir. 2007).

The Government has filed an unopposed motion for summary affirmance and, alternatively, seeks an extension of time to file its brief. Because the issue is foreclosed, summary affirmance is appropriate. *See Groendyke Transp., Inc. v. Davis*, 406 F.2d 1158, 1162 (5th Cir. 1969).

Accordingly, the Government's motion for summary affirmance is GRANTED, the Government's alternative motion for an extension of time to file a brief is DENIED, and the judgment of the district court is AFFIRMED.

APPENDIX B

Indictment,
United States v. Morales-Mercado,
EP-19-CR-118-DB
(W.D. Tex. Jan. 19, 2019)

JUDGE DAVID BRIONES

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
EL PASO DIVISION

2019 JAN 23 AM 11:51

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

JOSE RICARDO MORALES-
MERCADO,

Defendant.

§ CRIMINAL NO. EP-19-CR-

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INDICTMENT

CT 1: 8 U.S.C. § 1326(a) - Illegal Re-Entry

EP19CR0188

THE GRAND JURY CHARGES:

COUNT ONE
(8 U.S.C. § 1326(a))

On or about December 28, 2018, in the Western District of Texas, Defendant,

JOSE RICARDO MORALES-MERCADO,

an alien, who had previously been excluded, deported, and removed from the United States on or about February 16, 2018, attempted to enter, entered, and was found in the United States, without having previously received express consent to reapply for admission from the United States Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security, the successor pursuant to Title 6, United States Code, Sections 202(3), 202(4) and 557, in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1326(a).

A TRUE BILL. ORIGINAL SIGNATURE
REDACTED PURSUANT TO
E-GOVERNMENT ACT OF 2002

FOREPERSON OF THE GRAND JURY

JOHN F. BASH
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

BY:


Assistant U.S. Attorney

APPENDIX C

8 U.S.C. § 1326



KeyCite Yellow Flag - Negative Treatment

Proposed Legislation

United States Code Annotated

Title 8. Aliens and Nationality (Refs & Annos)

Chapter 12. Immigration and Nationality (Refs & Annos)

Subchapter II. Immigration

Part VIII. General Penalty Provisions

8 U.S.C.A. § 1326

§ 1326. Reentry of removed aliens

Effective: September 30, 1996

[Currentness](#)

(a) In general

Subject to subsection (b), any alien who--

(1) has been denied admission, excluded, deported, or removed or has departed the United States while an order of exclusion, deportation, or removal is outstanding, and thereafter

(2) enters, attempts to enter, or is at any time found in, the United States, unless (A) prior to his reembarkation at a place outside the United States or his application for admission from foreign contiguous territory, the Attorney General has expressly consented to such alien's reapplying for admission; or (B) with respect to an alien previously denied admission and removed, unless such alien shall establish that he was not required to obtain such advance consent under this chapter or any prior Act,

shall be fined under Title 18, or imprisoned not more than 2 years, or both.

(b) Criminal penalties for reentry of certain removed aliens

Notwithstanding subsection (a), in the case of any alien described in such subsection--

(1) whose removal was subsequent to a conviction for commission of three or more misdemeanors involving drugs, crimes against the person, or both, or a felony (other than an aggravated felony), such alien shall be fined under Title 18, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both;

(2) whose removal was subsequent to a conviction for commission of an aggravated felony, such alien shall be fined under such title, imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both;

(3) who has been excluded from the United States pursuant to [section 1225\(c\)](#) of this title because the alien was excludable under [section 1182\(a\)\(3\)\(B\)](#) of this title or who has been removed from the United States pursuant to the

provisions of subchapter V, and who thereafter, without the permission of the Attorney General, enters the United States, or attempts to do so, shall be fined under Title 18 and imprisoned for a period of 10 years, which sentence shall not run concurrently with any other sentence.¹ or

(4) who was removed from the United States pursuant to [section 1231\(a\)\(4\)\(B\)](#) of this title who thereafter, without the permission of the Attorney General, enters, attempts to enter, or is at any time found in, the United States (unless the Attorney General has expressly consented to such alien's reentry) shall be fined under Title 18, imprisoned for not more than 10 years, or both.

For the purposes of this subsection, the term “removal” includes any agreement in which an alien stipulates to removal during (or not during) a criminal trial under either Federal or State law.

(c) Reentry of alien deported prior to completion of term of imprisonment

Any alien deported pursuant to [section 1252\(h\)\(2\)](#)² of this title who enters, attempts to enter, or is at any time found in, the United States (unless the Attorney General has expressly consented to such alien's reentry) shall be incarcerated for the remainder of the sentence of imprisonment which was pending at the time of deportation without any reduction for parole or supervised release. Such alien shall be subject to such other penalties relating to the reentry of deported aliens as may be available under this section or any other provision of law.

(d) Limitation on collateral attack on underlying deportation order

In a criminal proceeding under this section, an alien may not challenge the validity of the deportation order described in subsection (a)(1) or subsection (b) unless the alien demonstrates that--

- (1) the alien exhausted any administrative remedies that may have been available to seek relief against the order;
- (2) the deportation proceedings at which the order was issued improperly deprived the alien of the opportunity for judicial review; and
- (3) the entry of the order was fundamentally unfair.

CREDIT(S)

(June 27, 1952, c. 477, Title II, ch. 8, § 276, 66 Stat. 229; [Pub.L. 100-690, Title VII, § 7345\(a\)](#), Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4471; [Pub.L. 101-649, Title V, § 543\(b\)\(3\)](#), Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 5059; [Pub.L. 103-322, Title XIII, § 130001\(b\)](#), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2023; [Pub.L. 104-132, Title IV, §§ 401\(c\)](#), 438(b), 441(a), Apr. 24, 1996, 110 Stat. 1267, 1276, 1279; [Pub.L. 104-208](#), Div. C, Title III, §§ 305(b), 308(d)(4)(J), (e)(1)(K), (14)(A), 324(a), (b), Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-606, 3009-618 to 3009-620, 3009-629.)

[Notes of Decisions \(1300\)](#)

Footnotes

1 So in original. The period probably should be a semicolon.

2 So in original. [Section 1252](#) of this title, was amended by [Pub.L. 104-208](#), Div. C, Title III, § 306(a)(2), Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-607, and as so amended, does not contain a subsec. (h); for provisions similar to those formerly contained in [section 1252\(h\)\(2\)](#) of this title, see [8 U.S.C.A. § 1231\(a\)\(4\)](#).

8 U.S.C.A. § 1326, 8 USCA § 1326

Current through P.L. 115-132.

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