

Appendix

United States Court of Appeals
for the Fifth Circuit

United States Court of Appeals
Fifth Circuit

FILED

February 25, 2021

Lyle W. Cayce
Clerk

No. 20-50723
Summary Calendar

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff—Appellee,

versus

JOSE LAZARO VENANCIO MENDOZA-BATRES,

Defendant—Appellant,

CONSOLIDATED WITH

No. 20-50728

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff—Appellee,

versus

JOSE MENDOZA-BATRES,

Defendant—Appellant.

No. 20-50723
c/w No. 20-50728

Appeals from the United States District Court
for the Western District of Texas
USDC No. 4:20-CR-261-1
USDC No. 4:20-CR-209-1

Before DAVIS, STEWART, and DENNIS, *Circuit Judges*.

PER CURIAM:*

Jose Lazaro Venacio Mendoza-Batres appeals his sentence of 27 months in prison and three years of supervised release, which the district court imposed following his guilty plea conviction for illegal reentry in violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1326. He also appeals from the judgment revoking his supervised release, which had been imposed after a prior illegal reentry conviction, and imposing a sentence of 21 months in prison to run consecutively to the sentence for his new illegal reentry conviction. Mendoza-Batres contends that the recidivism enhancement under § 1326(b)(1), which was applied in his case, is unconstitutional because it increases the statutory maximum sentence based on facts that are neither alleged in the indictment nor found by a jury beyond a reasonable doubt. He concedes the issue is foreclosed by *Almendarez-Torres v. United States*, 523 U.S. 224 (1998), but he seeks to preserve the issue for further review. The Government has filed an unopposed motion for summary affirmance, asserting that Mendoza-Batres's argument is foreclosed.

The parties are correct that Mendoza-Batres's assertion is foreclosed by *Almendarez-Torres*. See *United States v. Wallace*, 759 F.3d 486, 497 (5th Cir. 2014); *United States v. Rojas-Luna*, 522 F.3d 502, 505-06 (5th Cir. 2008). Further, Mendoza-Batres has abandoned any challenge to the revocation of

* Pursuant to 5TH CIRCUIT RULE 47.5, the court has determined that this opinion should not be published and is not precedent except under the limited circumstances set forth in 5TH CIRCUIT RULE 47.5.4.

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his supervised release by failing to brief an argument as to the revocation. *See Yohey v. Collins*, 985 F.2d 222, 224-25 (5th Cir. 1993). Accordingly, the motion for summary affirmance is GRANTED, *see Groendyke Transp., Inc. v. Davis*, 406 F.2d 1158, 1162 (5th Cir. 1969), the Government's motion for an extension of time to file a brief is DENIED, and the judgments of the district court are AFFIRMED.

8 U.S.C. § 1326. Reentry of removed aliens

(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. 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) 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.