

No. \_\_\_\_\_

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

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JOEL CASTRO-LOPEZ,

Petitioner,

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Respondent.

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ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI  
TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

APPENDIX

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/s/ Kevin Joel Page

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Appendix A Judgment and Opinion of Fifth Circuit, CA No. 21-10254, dated December 10, 2021, *United States v. Castro-Lopez*, 2021 WL 5871879. (unpublished).

Appendix B Judgment and Sentence of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, entered March 12, 2021. *United States v. Castro-Lopez*, Dist. Court 4:20-CR-00259-O-1.

## APPENDIX A

United States Court of Appeals  
for the Fifth Circuit

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No. 21-10254  
Summary Calendar

United States Court of Appeals  
Fifth Circuit

**FILED**

December 10, 2021

Lyle W. Cayce  
Clerk

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

*Plaintiff—Appellee,*

*versus*

JOEL CASTRO-LOPEZ,

*Defendant—Appellant.*

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Appeal from the United States District Court  
for the Northern District of Texas  
USDC No. 4:20-CR-259-1

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Before HIGGINBOTHAM, HIGGINSON, and DUNCAN, *Circuit Judges.*

J U D G M E N T

This cause was considered on the record on appeal and the briefs on file.

IT IS ORDERED and ADJUDGED that the judgment of the District Court is AFFIRMED.

United States Court of Appeals  
for the Fifth Circuit

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No. 21-10254  
Summary Calendar

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United States Court of Appeals  
Fifth Circuit

**FILED**

December 10, 2021

Lyle W. Cayce  
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

*Plaintiff—Appellee,*

*versus*

JOEL CASTRO-LOPEZ,

*Defendant—Appellant.*

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Appeal from the United States District Court  
for the Northern District of Texas  
USDC No. 4:20-CR-259-1

---

Before HIGGINBOTHAM, HIGGINSON, and DUNCAN, *Circuit Judges*.

PER CURIAM:\*

Joel Castro-Lopez appeals his 72-month sentence for illegal reentry under 8 U.S.C. § 1326(a) and (b)(2). He concedes that the district court provided adequate reasons to support the upward variance but asserts that the court was further obligated under *Rita v. United States*, 551 U.S. 338

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\* 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.

No. 21-10254

(2007), to specifically address his nonfrivolous argument for a lower sentence.

The record as a whole reflects that the district court considered Castro-Lopez's argument that he returned to the United States because his daughter was ill with COVID-19. The argument appeared in the presentence report, which the district court adopted, and was repeated by defense counsel at sentencing and by Castro-Lopez during his allocution. The district court's express reasons for the sentence provided a reasoned basis for the upward variance under the sentencing factors in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) and reflected an implicit determination that his criminal history, history of immigration violations, and likelihood of reoffending outweighed any mitigating effect of his motive for returning. Accordingly, the court did not err by failing to reference the argument. *See Rita*, 551 U.S. at 343-45, 356, 358-59; *United States v. Coto-Mendoza*, 986 F.3d 583, 584, 586-87 & nn.4-6 (5th Cir.), *cert. denied*, 2021 U.S. LEXIS 3947 (2021) (No. 20-8439); *United States v. Becerril-Pena*, 714 F.3d 347, 351-52 (5th Cir. 2013). The Government's motion for summary affirmance is DENIED. *See Groendyke Transp., Inc. v. Davis*, 406 F.2d 1158, 1162 (5th Cir. 1969). In the interest of judicial economy, the alternative motion for an extension of time to file a brief on the merits is DENIED as unnecessary. The judgment of the district court is AFFIRMED.

## APPENDIX B

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
Fort Worth Division

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

JOEL CASTRO-LOPEZ

**JUDGMENT IN A CRIMINAL CASE**

Case Number: 4:20-CR-00259-O(01)

U.S. Marshal's No.: 39206-179

Robert Boudreau for Levi Thomas, Assistant U.S. Attorney  
George Lancaster, Attorney for the Defendant

On November 4, 2020 the defendant, JOEL CASTRO-LOPEZ, entered a plea of guilty as to Count One of the Indictment filed on October 6, 2020. Accordingly, the defendant is adjudged guilty of such Count, which involves the following offense:

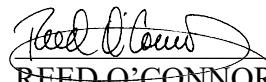
<u>Title &amp; Section</u>	<u>Nature of Offense</u>	<u>Offense Ended</u>	<u>Count</u>
8 U.S.C. § 1326(a) and (b)(2)	Illegal Reentry After Deportation	7/29/2020	One

The defendant is sentenced as provided in pages 2 through 3 of this judgment. The sentence is imposed pursuant to Title 18, United States Code § 3553(a), taking the guidelines issued by the United States Sentencing Commission pursuant to Title 28, United States Code § 994(a)(1), as advisory only.

The defendant shall pay immediately a special assessment of \$100.00 as to Count One of the Indictment filed on October 6, 2020.

The defendant shall notify the United States Attorney for this district within thirty 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.

Sentence imposed March 12, 2021.

  
REED O'CONNOR  
U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE

Signed March 12, 2021.

Judgment in a Criminal Case  
Defendant: JOEL CASTRO-LOPEZ  
Case Number: 4:20-CR-00259-O(1)

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## IMPRISONMENT

The defendant, JOEL CASTRO-LOPEZ, is hereby committed to the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to be imprisoned for a term of **SEVENTY-TWO (72) MONTHS** as to Count One of the Indictment filed on October 6, 2020.

The defendant is remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal.

## SUPERVISED RELEASE

Upon release from imprisonment, the defendant shall be placed on supervised release for a term of **THREE (3) YEARS** as to Count One of the Indictment filed on October 6, 2020.

As a condition of supervised release, upon the completion of the sentence of imprisonment, the defendant shall be surrendered to a duly-authorized immigration official for deportation in accordance with the established procedures provided by the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC § 1101 et seq. As a further condition of supervised release, if ordered deported or removed, the defendant shall remain outside the United States.

In the event the defendant is not deported immediately upon release from imprisonment, or should the defendant ever be within the United States during any portion of the term of supervised release, the defendant shall also comply with the standard conditions contained in the Judgment and shall comply with the mandatory and special conditions stated herein.

- (1) You must report to the probation office in the federal judicial district where you are authorized to reside within 72 hours of your release from imprisonment, unless the probation officer instructs you to report to a different probation office or within a different time frame.
- (2) After initially reporting to the probation office, you will receive instructions from the court or the probation officer about how and when you must report to the probation officer, and you must report to the probation officer as instructed.
- (3) You must not knowingly leave the federal judicial district where you are authorized to reside without first getting permission from the court or the probation officer.
- (4) You must answer truthfully the questions asked by your probation officer.
- (5) You must live at a place approved by the probation officer. If you plan to change where you live or anything about your living arrangements (such as the people you live with), you must notify the probation officer at least 10 days before the change. If notifying the probation officer in advance is not possible due to unanticipated circumstances, you must notify the probation officer within 72 hours of becoming aware of a change or expected change.
- (6) You must allow the probation officer to visit you at any time at your home or elsewhere, and you must permit the probation officer to take any items prohibited by the conditions of your supervision that he or she observes in plain view.
- (7) You must work full time (at least 30 hours per week) at a lawful type of employment, unless the probation officer excuses you from doing so. If you do not have full-time employment you must try to find full-time employment, unless the probation officer excuses you from doing so. If you plan to change where you work or anything about your work (such as your position or your job responsibilities), you must notify the probation officer at least 10 days before the change. If

Judgment in a Criminal Case  
Defendant: JOEL CASTRO-LOPEZ  
Case Number: 4:20-CR-00259-O(1)

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notifying the probation officer at least 10 days in advance is not possible due to unanticipated circumstances, you must notify the probation officer within 72 hours of becoming aware of a change or expected change.

- (8) You must not communicate or interact with someone you know is engaged in criminal activity. If you know someone has been convicted of a felony, you must not knowingly communicate or interact with that person without first getting the permission of the probation officer.
- (9) If you are arrested or questioned by a law enforcement officer, you must notify the probation officer within 72 hours.
- (10) You must not own, possess, or have access to a firearm, ammunition, destructive device, or dangerous weapon (i.e., anything that was designed, or was modified for, the specific purpose of causing bodily injury or death to another person such as nunchakus or tasers).
- (11) You must not act or make any agreement with a law enforcement agency to act as a confidential human source or informant without first getting the permission of the court.
- (12) If the probation officer determines that you pose a risk to another person (including an organization), the probation officer may require you to notify the person about the risk and you must comply with that instruction. The probation officer may contact the person and confirm that you have notified the person about the risk.
- (13) You must follow the instructions of the probation officer related to the conditions of supervision.

In addition the defendant shall:

not commit another federal, state, or local crime;

not illegally possess controlled substances;

cooperate in the collection of DNA as directed by the probation officer;

not possess a firearm, ammunition, destructive device, or any dangerous weapon;

report in person to the U.S. Probation Office in the district to which the defendant is released from the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons within 72 hours of release;

refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance. You must 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;

pay the assessment imposed in accordance with 18 U.S.C. § 3013;

take notice that if this judgment imposes a fine, you must pay in accordance with the Schedule of Payments sheet of this judgment; and,

not illegally reenter the United States if deported or allowed voluntary departure.

Judgment in a Criminal Case  
Defendant: JOEL CASTRO-LOPEZ  
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**FINE/RESTITUTION**

The Court does not order a fine or costs of incarceration because the defendant does not have the financial resources or future earning capacity to pay a fine or costs of incarceration.

Restitution is not ordered because there is no victim other than society at large.

**RETURN**

I have executed this judgment as follows:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
United States Marshal

\_\_\_\_\_  
BY  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Marshal