

No. _____

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

ERNESTO PALACIOS-MARTINEZ,
Petitioner

v.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Respondent

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

APPENDIX

EXHIBIT DESCRIPTION OF DOCUMENT

| | |
|-----|--|
| “A” | Opinion of the Court of Appeals in <i>Ernesto Palacios-Martinez</i> No. 21-40492 (5 th Cir. December 30, 2021 (unpublished)) |
| “B” | Judgment of the United States District Court in <i>United States v. Ernesto Palacios-Martinez</i> No. 1:20-CR-00112-001 (S.D. Tex. June 11, 2020. (unpublished)) |
| “C” | Order Appointing Counsel |

APPENDIX A

Opinion from Court of Appeals *United States v. Ernesto Palacios-Martinez*, No. 21-40492 (5th Cir. December 30, 2021 (unpublished))

United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

United States Court of Appeals
Fifth Circuit

FILED

December 30, 2021

Lyle W. Cayce
Clerk

No. 21-40492
Summary Calendar

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff—Appellee,

versus

ERNESTO PALACIOS-MARTINEZ,

Defendant—Appellant.

Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Southern District of Texas
USDC No. 1:20-CR-112-1

Before WIENER, DENNIS, and HAYNES, *Circuit Judges.*

PER CURIAM:*

Defendant-Appellant Ernesto Palacios-Martinez pleaded guilty to illegal reentry after deportation in violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1326(a) and (b)(1).¹

* Pursuant to 5TH CIRCUIT RULE 47.5, the court has determined that this opinion should not be published and is not precedent except under the limited circumstances set forth in 5TH CIRCUIT RULE 47.5.4.

¹ Palacios-Martinez pleaded guilty pursuant to a plea agreement containing a waiver of appellate rights. Because the only claim Palacios-Martinez presents on appeal is foreclosed by binding precedent, we do not reach the enforceability of the waiver.

No. 21-40492

The district court sentenced Palacios-Martinez to 63 months imprisonment and two years supervised release—a within-guidelines sentence. Palacios-Martinez appeals, challenging the constitutionality of the sentence enhancement provisions of § 1326(b)(1) and (b)(2), on their face and as applied to him, based on *Apprendi v. New Jersey*, 530 U.S. 466 (2000). His primary contention is that the required elements of the increased statutory maximum sentence afforded by (b)(2) were not charged in the indictment or proven to a jury beyond a reasonable doubt. He acknowledges, however, that his claim is foreclosed by *Almendarez-Torres v. United States*, 523 U.S. 224 (1998). *See, e.g., United States v. Murillo-Portales*, 857 F. App'x 827, 828 (5th Cir. 2021) (unpublished).

Palacios-Martinez's sole claim on appeal is foreclosed by *Almendarez-Torres*, so the judgment of the district court is AFFIRMED.

APPENDIX B

Judgment of the United States District Court in *United States v. Ernesto Palacios-Martinez*, No. 1:20-CR-00112-001 (S.D. Tex. June 11, 2020.
(unpublished))

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
Holding Session in Brownsville**ENTERED**

June 11, 2021

Nathan Ochsner, Clerk

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

JUDGMENT IN A CRIMINAL CASE

v.

ERNESTO PALACIOS-MARTINEZ

CASE NUMBER: 1:20CR00112-001

USM NUMBER: 38474-179

Paul G. Hajjar
Defendant's Attorney**THE DEFENDANT:**

pleaded guilty to count(s) 1 on March 17, 2020.

pleaded nolo contendere to count(s) _____ which was accepted by the court.

was found guilty on count(s) _____ after a plea of not guilty.

The defendant is adjudicated guilty of these offenses:

| Title & Section | Nature of Offense | Offense Ended | Count |
|----------------------------------|---|----------------------|--------------|
| 8 U.S.C. §§ 1326(a) nd (b)(1) | Alien Unlawfully Found in the United States After Deportation | 01/24/2020 | 1 |

See Additional Counts of Conviction.

The defendant is sentenced as provided in pages 2 through 5 of this judgment. The sentence is imposed pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984.

The defendant has been found not guilty on count(s) _____

Count(s) _____ dismissed on the motion of the United States.

It is 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 changes in economic circumstances.

June 10, 2021

Date of Imposition of Judgment


Signature of Judge**FERNANDO RODRIGUEZ, JR.
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**

Name and Title of Judge

June 11, 2021

Date

DEFENDANT: **ERNESTO PALACIOS-MARTINEZ**
CASE NUMBER: **1:20CR00112-001**

IMPRISONMENT

The defendant is hereby committed to the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a total term of: 63 months.

See Additional Imprisonment Terms.

The court makes the following recommendations to the Bureau of Prisons:
Designation to a facility in or near Houston, Texas
The defendant be evaluated for placement in a mental health treatment program

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

The defendant shall surrender to the United States Marshal for this district:
 at _____ on _____
 as notified by the United States Marshal.

The defendant shall surrender for service of sentence at the institution designated by the Bureau of Prisons:
 before 2 p.m. on _____
 as notified by the United States Marshal.
 as notified by the Probation or Pretrial Services Office.

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: **ERNESTO PALACIOS-MARTINEZ**
CASE NUMBER: **1:20CR00112-001**

SUPERVISED RELEASE

Upon release from imprisonment, you will be on supervised release for a term of: 2 years.

If not deported, within 72 hours of release from the custody of the Bureau of Prisons, you shall report in person to the probation office in the District to which you are released.

MANDATORY CONDITIONS

1. You must not commit another federal, state or local crime.
2. You must not unlawfully possess a controlled substance.
3. You must 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.
 The above drug testing condition is suspended, based on the court's determination that you pose a low risk of future substance abuse. *(check if applicable)*
4. You must make restitution in accordance with 18 U.S.C. §§ 3663 and 3663A or any other statute authorizing a sentence of restitution. *(check if applicable)*
5. You must cooperate in the collection of DNA as directed by the probation officer. *(check if applicable)*
6. You must 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 the location where you reside, work, are a student, or were convicted of a qualifying offense. *(check if applicable)*
7. You must participate in an approved program for domestic violence. *(check if applicable)*

You must comply with the standard conditions that have been adopted by this court as well as with any other conditions on the attached page.

STANDARD CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

See Special Conditions of Supervision.

As part of your supervised release, you must comply with the following standard conditions of supervision. These conditions are imposed because they establish the basic expectations for your behavior while on supervision and identify the minimum tools needed by probation officers to keep informed, report to the court about, and bring about improvements in your conduct and condition.

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 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.
14. If restitution is ordered, the defendant must make restitution as ordered by the Judge and in accordance with the applicable provisions of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2248, 2259, 2264, 2327, 3663A and/or 3664. The defendant must also pay the assessment imposed in accordance with 18 U.S.C. § 3013.
15. The defendant must notify the U.S. Probation Office of any material change in the defendant's economic circumstances that might affect the defendant's ability to pay restitution, fines, or special assessments.

DEFENDANT: **ERNESTO PALACIOS-MARTINEZ**
CASE NUMBER: **1:20CR00112-001**

SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

You are not to reenter the United States illegally. If you reenter the United States, you must report to the nearest probation office within 72 hours after your return.

DEFENDANT: **ERNESTO PALACIOS-MARTINEZ**
CASE NUMBER: **1:20CR00112-001**

CRIMINAL MONETARY PENALTIES

The defendant must pay the total criminal monetary penalties under the schedule of payments on Sheet 6.

| | <u>Assessment</u> | <u>Restitution</u> | <u>Fine</u> | <u>AVAA Assessment¹</u> | <u>JVTA Assessment²</u> |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| TOTALS | \$100.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | 0.00 | \$0.00 |

- See Additional Terms for Criminal Monetary Penalties.
- The determination of restitution is deferred until _____. An *Amended Judgment in a Criminal Case* (AO 245C) will be entered after such determination.
- The defendant must make restitution (including community restitution) to the following payees in the amount listed below.

If the defendant makes a partial payment, each payee shall receive an approximately proportioned payment, unless specified otherwise in the priority order or percentage payment column below. However, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3664(i), all nonfederal victims must be paid before the United States is paid.

| <u>Name of Payee</u> | <u>Total Loss³</u> | <u>Restitution Ordered</u> | <u>Priority or Percentage</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|

- See Additional Restitution Payees.
- TOTALS**
- Restitution amount ordered pursuant to plea agreement \$_____
- The defendant must pay interest on restitution and a fine of more than \$2,500, unless the restitution or fine is paid in full before the fifteenth day after the date of the judgment, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3612(f). All of the payment options on Sheet 6 may be subject to penalties for delinquency and default, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3612(g).
- The court determined that the defendant does not have the ability to pay interest and it is ordered that:
 - the interest requirement is waived for the fine restitution.
 - the interest requirement for the fine restitution is modified as follows:
- Based on the Government's motion, the Court finds that reasonable efforts to collect the special assessment are not likely to be effective. Therefore, the assessment is hereby remitted.

¹ Amy, Vicky, and Andy Child Pornography Victim Assistance Act of 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-299.

² Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, Pub. L. No. 114-22.

³ Findings for the total amount of losses are required under Chapters 109A, 110, 110A, and 113A of Title 18 for offenses committed on or after September 13, 1994, but before April 23, 1996.

APPENDIX C
Order Appointing Counsel

ENTERED

June 22, 2021

Nathan Ochsner, Clerk

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
BROWNSVILLE DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

§

VS.

§

ERNESTO PALACIOS MARTINEZ

§ CRIMINAL ACTION NO. 1:20-CR-112

§

§

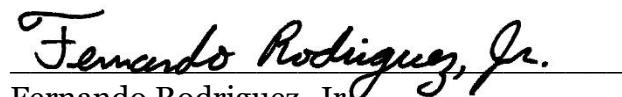
ORDER

Pending before the Court is Paul G. Hajjar's Motion to Withdraw and for Appointment of Counsel (Doc. 39). After considering the unopposed Motion and the applicable law, the Court finds the motion well taken. Accordingly, it is:

ORDERED that the Motion to Withdraw and for Appointment of Counsel is GRANTED; and

ORDERED that Mr. Paul G. Hajjar is withdrawn as counsel for the Defendant, and Mr. Roberto Balli is substituted as counsel of record for the Defendant in this matter. Mr. Balli's contact information is Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 1058, Laredo, TX 78042-1058, ph: 956-712-4999, and email: robertoballi@sbcglobal.net. Counsel are to facilitate an orderly transition to protect the rights of Defendant Ernesto Palacios-Martinez.

SIGNED on June 22, 2021.


Fernando Rodriguez, Jr.
United States District Judge