No. 22-7183

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

MANUEL CAMILO ORDONEZ-MENDOZA, PETITIONER

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES IN OPPOSITION

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Petitioner contends (Pet. 4-10) that this Court should overrule Almendarez-Torres v. United States, 523 U.S. 224 (1998). In Almendarez-Torres, this Court held, in the context of a constitutional claim arising from a prosecution under 8 U.S.C. 1326, that a defendant's prior conviction may be found by the sentencing court, rather than charged in the indictment and found by the jury as an element of the offense. 523 U.S. at 239-247. The Court has repeatedly and recently denied numerous petitions for writs of certiorari asking this Court to revisit Almendarez-

Torres, including earlier this Term.[1] The same result is warranted here.[2]

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[1] See, e.g., Olivo-Duron v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 1010 (2023) (No. 22-6716); Villalobos-Franco v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 1010 (2023) (No. 22-6708); Francisco-Francisco v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 846 (2023) (No. 22-6637); Valencia-Sandoval v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 842 (2023) (No. 22-6603); Cardenas-Ramirez v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 817 (2023) (No. 22-6372); Esquivel-Ontiveros v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 809 (2023)(No. 22-6317); Mora-Mendez v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 807 (2023) (No. 22-6309); Mendoza-Espinoza v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 808 (2023) (No. 22-6308); Canales v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 756 (2023) (No. 22-6302); Castro-Salazar v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 755 (2023) (No. 22-6300); Munguia-Portales v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 639 (2023) (No. 22-6247); Sanchez-Juarez v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 620 (2023) (No. 22-6228); Moncada-Aguirre v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 620 (2023) (No. 22-6220); Brito-Brito v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 620 (2023) (No. 22-6218); Perez-Gonzalez v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 632 (2023) (No. 22-6168); Rodriguez-Juarez v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 627 (2023) (No. 22-6125); Cante-Dondiego v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 603 (2023) (No. 22-6043); Ramirez-Juan v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 505 (2022) (No. 22-5950); Ramirez-Ortiz v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 504 (2022) (No. 22-5949); Nieto-Uribe v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 506 (2022) (No. 22-5981); Benitez-Marquez v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 507 (2022) (No. 22-5977); Chavira-Montanez v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 501 (2022) (No. 22-5869); Gonzalez-Ramirez v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 469 (2022) (No. 22-5912); Perez-Barrios v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 413 (2022) (No. 22-5810); Granados-Ortez v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 392 (2022) (No. 22-5740); Sanchez-Lugo v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 365 (2022) (No. 22-5603); Amparano-Torres v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 358 (2022) (No. 22-5606); Venzor-Ortega v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 343 (2022) (No. 22-5597); Cruz v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 343 (2022) (No. 22-5598); Mickel v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 341 (2022) (No. 22-5575); Barajas-Salvador v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 339 (2022) (No. 22-5551); Portillo-Rodriguez v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 336 (2022) (No. 22-5511); Gonzalez-Ruiz v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 332 (2022) (No. 22-5459); Lujan-Madrid v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 328 (2022) (No. 22-5445); Molina-Rodriguez v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 324 (2022) (No. 22-5389); Islas-Macias v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 324 (2022) (No. 22-5387); Salazar-Munoz v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 321 (2022) (No. 22-5353); Pacheco-Apodaca v. United States, 143 S. Ct. 319 (2022) (No. 22-5349).

For the reasons set forth more fully in the government's brief in opposition in Dominguez-Morales v. United States (No. 22-6475) (May 8, 2023), petitioner's contention (Pet. 4-10) that Almendarez-Torres was wrongly decided is incorrect.[3] In addition, as Justice Stevens recognized, "there is no special justification for overruling" that decision. Rangel-Reyes v. United States, 547

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[2] Several other pending petitions for writs of certiorari raise the same question. See Dominguez-Morales v. United States, No. 22-6475 (filed Jan. 3, 2023); Narvaez-Gomez v. United States, No. 22-6730 (filed Feb. 6, 2023); Conde-Herrera v. United States, No. 22-6823 (filed Feb. 16, 2023); Martin-Andres v. United States, No. 22-6826 (filed Feb. 16, 2023); Dominguez v. United States, No. 22-6873 (filed Feb. 23, 2023); Hernandez-Correa v. United States, No. 22-6897 (filed Feb. 27, 2023); Berrun-Torres v. United States, No. 22-6983 (filed Mar. 7, 2023); Arroyo-Ramon v. United States, No. 22-6998 (filed Mar. 9, 2023); Onate-Herrera v. United States, No. 22-7016 (filed Mar. 13, 2023); Garcia-Archaga v. United States, No. 22-7025 (filed Mar. 13, 2023); Ortiz-Castillo v. United States, No. 22-7114 (filed Mar. 23, 2023); Ajualip-Pablo v. United States, No. 22-7179 (filed Mar. 29, 2023); Valdivia-Gonzalez v. United States, No. 22-7205 (filed Mar. 31, 2023); Martinez-Saucedo v. United States, No. 22-7207 (filed Mar. 31, 2023); Macias-Torres v. United States, No. 22-7209 (filed Mar. 31, 2023); Tomas-Antonio v. United States, No. 22-7218 (filed Apr. 3, 2023); Juarez-Medellin v. United States, No. 22-7220 (filed Apr. 3, 2023); Encarnacion-Pascual v. United States, No. 22-7224 (filed Apr. 3, 2023); Cejudo-Mancinas v. United States, No. 22-7259 (filed Apr. 10, 2023); Escobedo-Duenas v. United States, No. 22-7260 (filed Apr. 10, 2023); Tovar-Zamarripa v. United States, No. 22-7287 (filed Apr. 12, 2023); Perez-Mendoza v. United States, No. 22-7316 (filed Apr. 17, 2023); Salazar-Hernandez v. United States, No. 22-7319 (filed Apr. 17, 2023); Mora-Rodriguez v. United States, No. 22-7377 (filed Apr. 24, 2023); Morquecho-Sanchez v. United States, No. 22-7420 (filed Apr. 27, 2023); Marquez-Calzadilla v. United States, No. 22-7423 (filed Apr. 27, 2023); Chairez-Avila v. United States, No. 22-7479 (filed May 4, 2023).

[3] We have served petitioner with a copy of the government's brief in opposition in Dominguez-Morales.

U.S. 1200, 1201 (2006) (Stevens, J., respecting the denial of the petitions for writs of certiorari).

Finally, this case, like Dominguez-Morales, would be a poor vehicle for reconsidering Almendarez-Torres even if the Court were inclined to do so. Petitioner acknowledges that he did not raise his constitutional objection to his recidivist enhancement in the district court. Pet. 2; see C.A. ROA 98, 127 (No. 22-50375). Accordingly, his claim would be reviewed only for plain error. See Fed. R. Crim. P. 52(b). And petitioner, who does not dispute that he has a prior qualifying conviction under Section 1326(b)(2), cannot demonstrate that the courts below plainly erred in adhering to this Court's precedent or that any error affected his substantial rights.[4]

CONCLUSION

The petition for a writ of certiorari should be denied.

Respectfully submitted.

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JUNE 2023

[4] The government waives any further response to the petition for a writ of certiorari unless the Court requests otherwise.