

No. _____

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

JOEL ZAVALA-GARCIA,

Petitioner,

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Respondent.

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

APPENDIX

/s/ Christy Posnett Martin

JASON HAWKINS
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Northern District of Texas
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Appendix A Opinion of Fifth Circuit, CA No. 25-10895, *United States v. Zavala-Garcia*, 2026 WL 103742 (5th Cir. Jan. 14, 2026)(unpublished).

Appendix B Judgment and Sentence of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, entered July 31, 2025.
United States v. Zavala-Garcia, Dist. Court 5:25-CR-061.

Appendix C Indictment

APPENDIX A

United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

No. 25-10895
Summary Calendar

United States Court of Appeals
Fifth Circuit

FILED

January 14, 2026

Lyle W. Cayce
Clerk

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff—Appellee,

versus

JOEL ZAVALA-GARCIA,

Defendant—Appellant.

Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Northern District of Texas
USDC No. 4:25-CR-61-1

Before HIGGINBOTHAM, ENGELHARDT, and RAMIREZ, *Circuit Judges.*

PER CURIAM:*

Joel Zavala-Garcia appeals following his conviction and sentence under 8 U.S.C. § 1326(a) for illegal reentry into the United States after deportation, arguing that the statutory sentencing enhancement in § 1326(b) is unconstitutional. Zavala-Garcia concedes that his argument is foreclosed by *Almendarez-Torres v. United States*, 523 U.S. 224 (1998), and seeks to

* This opinion is not designated for publication. *See* 5TH CIR. R. 47.5.

No. 25-10895

preserve it for possible Supreme Court review. The Government has filed an unopposed motion for summary affirmance or, alternatively, for an extension of time to file its brief.

As he concedes, Zavala-Garcia's argument is foreclosed. *See United States v. Pervis*, 937 F.3d 546, 553-54 (5th Cir. 2019); *see also Erlinger v. United States*, 602 U.S. 821, 838 (2024) (explaining that *Almendarez-Torres* "persists as a narrow exception permitting judges to find only the fact of a prior conviction" (internal quotation marks and citation omitted)). Summary affirmance is thus appropriate. *Groendyke Transp., Inc. v. Davis*, 406 F.2d 1158, 1162 (5th Cir. 1969).

Accordingly, the motion for summary affirmance is GRANTED, the alternative motion for an extension of time is DENIED, and 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

JUDGMENT IN A CRIMINAL CASE

v.

JOEL ZAVALA-GARCIA

Case Number: 4:25-CR-00061-P(01)
U.S. Marshal's No.: 63366-379
Justin Beck, Assistant U.S. Attorney
Eduardo Carranza, Attorney for the Defendant

On April 2, 2025 the defendant, JOEL ZAVALA-GARCIA, entered a plea of guilty as to Count One of the Indictment filed on March 4, 2025. Accordingly, the defendant is adjudged guilty of such Count, which involves the following offense:


<u>Title & Section</u>	<u>Nature of Offense</u>	<u>Offense Ended</u>	<u>Count</u>
8 U.S.C. § 1326(a) and (b)(1)	Illegal Reentry After Deportation	8/27/2024	One

The defendant is sentenced as provided in pages 2 through 5 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 March 4, 2025.

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 July 31, 2025.


MARK T. PITTMAN
U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE

Signed July 31, 2025.

Judgment in a Criminal Case
Defendant: JOEL ZAVALA-GARCIA
Case Number: 4:25-CR-00061-P(1)

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IMPRISONMENT

The defendant, JOEL ZAVALA-GARCIA, is hereby committed to the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to be imprisoned for a term of **Twenty-Four (24) months** as to Count One of the Indictment filed on March 4, 2025.

The Court recommends to the Bureau of Prisons that the defendant be incarcerated at a facility within the Dallas, Fort Worth, TX area, if possible.

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 March 4, 2025.

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) The defendant shall report to the probation office in the federal judicial district where he or she is authorized to reside within 72 hours of release from imprisonment, unless the probation officer instructs the defendant to report to a different probation office or within a different time frame;
- 2) After initially reporting to the probation office, the defendant will receive instructions from the court or the probation officer about how and when to report to the probation officer, and the defendant shall report to the probation officer as instructed;
- 3) The defendant shall not knowingly leave the federal judicial district where he or she is authorized to reside without first getting permission from the court or the probation officer;
- 4) The defendant shall answer truthfully the questions asked by the probation officer;
- 5) The defendant shall live at a place approved by the probation officer. If the defendant plans to change where he or she lives or anything about his or her living arrangements (such as the people the defendant lives with), the defendant shall 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, the defendant shall notify the probation officer within 72 hours of becoming aware of a change or expected change;

Judgment in a Criminal Case

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Defendant: JOEL ZAVALA-GARCIA

Case Number: 4:25-CR-00061-P(1)

- 6) The defendant shall allow the probation officer to visit the defendant at any time at his or her home or elsewhere, and the defendant shall permit the probation officer to take any items prohibited by the conditions of the defendant's supervision that he or she observed in plain view;
- 7) The defendant shall work full time (at least 30 hours per week) at a lawful type of employment, unless the probation excuses the defendant from doing so. If the defendant does not have full-time employment, he or she shall try to find full-time employment, unless the probation officer excuses the defendant from doing so. If the defendant plans to change where the defendant works or anything about his or her employment (such as the position or the job responsibilities), the defendant shall 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, the defendant shall notify the probation officer within 72 hours of becoming aware of a change or expected change;
- 8) The defendant shall not communicate or interact with someone the defendant knows is engaged in criminal activity. If the defendant knows someone has been convicted of a felony, the defendant shall not knowingly communicate or interact with that person without first getting the permission of the probation officer;
- 9) If the defendant is arrested or questioned by a law enforcement officer, the defendant shall notify the probation officer within 72 hours;
- 10) The defendant shall 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) The defendant shall not act or make an 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 the defendant poses a risk to another person (including an organization), the probation officer may require the defendant to notify the person about the risk and the defendant shall comply with that instruction. The probation officer may contact the person and confirm that the defendant has notified the person about the risk; and,
- 13) The defendant shall 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 possess illegal controlled substances;

not possess a firearm, destructive device, or other dangerous weapon;

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Judgment in a Criminal Case
Defendant: JOEL ZAVALA-GARCIA
Case Number: 4:25-CR-00061-P(1)

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

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; and,

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

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.

Judgment in a Criminal Case
Defendant: JOEL ZAVALA-GARCIA
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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 Marshal

APPENDIX C

ORIGINAL

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
FORT WORTH DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

JOEL ZAVALA-GARCIA (01)

No.

4:25-cr-61-P

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KAB

INDICTMENT

The Grand Jury Charges:

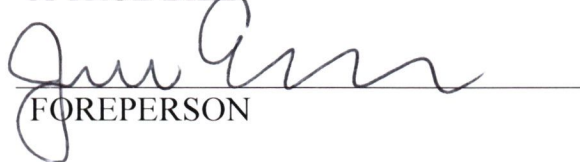
Count One

Illegal Reentry After Deportation
(Violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1326(a) and (b)(1))

On or about August 27, 2024, in the Fort Worth Division of the Northern District of Texas, defendant, **Joel Zavala-Garcia**, an alien, was found in the United States having previously been deported and removed from the United States on or about June 7, 2018, and the defendant had not received the consent of the Attorney General of the United States or the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, to reapply for admission to the United States.

In violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1326(a) and (b)(1).

A TRUE BILL



FOREPERSON

CHAD E. MEACHAM
ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY



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