

United States Court of Appeals
for the Fifth Circuit

United States Court of Appeals
Fifth Circuit

FILED

November 24, 2021

Lyle W. Cayce
Clerk

No. 21-50503
Summary Calendar

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff—Appellee,

versus

PEDRO ROMERO-SANDOVAL,

Defendant—Appellant.

Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Western District of Texas
USDC No. 4:20-CR-581-1

Before DAVIS, JONES, and ELROD, *Circuit Judges.*

PER CURIAM:*

Pedro Romero-Sandoval appeals his conviction and sentence for entry after deportation in violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1326(a) and (b)(2). For the first time on appeal, Romero-Sandoval contends that it violates the Constitution to treat a prior conviction that increases the statutory maximum under

* Pursuant to 5TH CIRCUIT RULE 47.5, the court has determined that this opinion should not be published and is not precedent except under the limited circumstances set forth in 5TH CIRCUIT RULE 47.5.4.

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§ 1326(b)(2) as a sentencing factor, rather than as an element of the offense. He correctly concedes that the argument is foreclosed by *Almendarez-Torres v. United States*, 523 U.S. 224 (1998), but he wishes to preserve it for further review. The Government has moved without opposition for summary affirmance or, alternatively, for an extension of time to file its brief.

As the Government asserts and as Romero-Sandoval concedes, the sole issue raised on appeal is foreclosed by *Almendarez-Torres*. See *United States v. Wallace*, 759 F.3d 486, 497 (5th Cir. 2014); *United States v. Pineda-Arrellano*, 492 F.3d 624, 625-26 (5th Cir. 2007). Because the Government’s position “is clearly right as a matter of law so that there can be no substantial question as to the outcome of the case,” *Groendyke Transp., Inc. v. Davis*, 406 F.2d 1158, 1162 (5th Cir. 1969), summary affirmance is proper.

Accordingly, the motion for summary affirmance is GRANTED, and the judgment of the district court is AFFIRMED. The Government’s alternative motion for an extension of time is DENIED.