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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

United States of America,)	No. CV 12-1135-PHX-GMS (DKD)
Plaintiff,)	No. CR 11-0756-PHX-GMS
v.)	ORDER
Ramon Zambada-Vega,)	
Defendant/Movant.)	

Movant Ramon Zambada-Vega, who is confined in the Limestone County Detention Center in Groesbeck, Texas, filed a *pro se* Motion to Vacate, Set Aside, or Correct Sentence by a Person in Federal Custody pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255.¹ The Court will summarily dismiss the motion.

I. Procedural History

Pursuant to a plea agreement, Movant pled guilty to re-entry of removed alien, in violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1326(a) & (b)(1). The plea agreement provided for a sentencing range of 6 to 125 months depending upon Movant’s criminal history. On September 12, 2011, the Court sentenced Movant to 15 months in prison, to run consecutive to the term imposed in CR08-0824-PHX-GMS, followed by three years on supervised release.

Movant alleges two grounds for ineffective assistance of counsel. In Ground One, he alleges that his attorney should have requested a reduction of his sentence under “The

¹ Movant also filed a motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*. (Doc. 3.) Because there is no filing fee for a § 2255 motion, this motion will be denied as moot.

1 Attorney General Memorandum dated April 28, 1995,” pursuant to which a two point
2 downward departure can be offered if a defendant agrees to a final deportation order. In
3 Ground Two, he alleges that his attorney failed by not arguing that “when an alien defendant
4 is unwilling to stipulate [to] deportation, and thus not beneficiary of any plea agreement,” the
5 Sentencing Reform Act allows a reduction for agreeing to be deported. Movant seeks a
6 reduction of his sentence by one to two points.

7 **II. Summary Dismissal**

8 A district court must summarily dismiss a § 2255 application “[i]f it plainly appears
9 from the motion, any attached exhibits, and the record of prior proceedings that the moving
10 party is not entitled to relief.” Rule 4(b), Rules Governing Section 2255 Proceedings for the
11 United States District Courts. When this standard is satisfied, neither a hearing nor a
12 response from the government is required. See Marrow v. United States, 772 F.2d 525, 526
13 (9th Cir. 1985); Baumann v. United States, 692 F.2d 565, 571 (9th Cir. 1982). In this case,
14 the record shows that summary dismissal under Rule 4(b) is warranted because Movant has
15 waived the right to bring a § 2255 motion.

16 **III. Waiver**

17 Movant has waived challenges to his sentence. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
18 has found that there are “strict standards for waiver of constitutional rights.” United States
19 v. Gonzalez-Flores, 418 F.3d 1093, 1102 (9th Cir. 2005). It is impermissible to presume
20 waiver from a silent record, and the Court must indulge every reasonable presumption
21 against waiver of fundamental constitutional rights. United States v. Hamilton, 391 F.3d
22 1066, 1071 (9th Cir. 2004). In this action, Movant’s waiver was clear, express, and
23 unequivocal.

24 Plea agreements are contractual in nature, and their plain language will generally be
25 enforced if the agreement is clear and unambiguous on its face. United States v. Jeronimo,
26 398 F.3d 1149, 1153 (9th Cir. 2005). A defendant may waive the statutory right to bring a
27 § 2255 action challenging the length of his sentence. United States v. Pruitt, 32 F.3d 431,
28 433 (9th Cir. 1994); United States v. Abarca, 985 F.2d 1012, 1014 (9th Cir. 1992). The only

1 claims that cannot be waived are claims that the waiver itself was involuntary or that
2 ineffective assistance of counsel rendered the waiver involuntary. See Washington v.
3 Lampert, 422 F.3d 864, 871 (9th Cir. 2005) (holding that a plea agreement that waives the
4 right to file a federal habeas petition pursuant to § 2254 is unenforceable with respect to an
5 ineffective assistance of counsel claim that challenges the voluntariness of the waiver); Pruitt,
6 32 F.3d at 433 (expressing doubt that a plea agreement could waive a claim that counsel
7 erroneously induced a defendant to plead guilty or accept a particular plea bargain); Abarca,
8 985 F.2d at 1014 (expressly declining to hold that a waiver forecloses a claim of ineffective
9 assistance or involuntariness of the waiver); see also Jeronimo, 398 F.3d at 1156 n.4
10 (declining to decide whether waiver of all statutory rights included claims implicating the
11 voluntariness of the waiver).

12 “Collateral attacks based on ineffective assistance of counsel claims that are
13 characterized as falling outside [the category of ineffective assistance of counsel claims
14 challenging the validity of the plea or the waiver] are waivable.” United States v.
15 Cockerham, 237 F.3d 1179, 1187 (10th Cir. 2001). See also Williams v. United States, 396
16 F.3d 1340, 1342 (11th Cir. 2005) (joining the Second, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Tenth
17 Circuits in holding that “a valid sentence-appeal waiver, entered into voluntarily and
18 knowingly, pursuant to a plea agreement, precludes the defendant from attempting to attack,
19 in a collateral proceeding, the sentence through a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel
20 during sentencing.”).

21 As part of his plea agreement, Movant made the following waiver:

22 Providing the defendant’s sentence and disposition are consistent with
23 this agreement, **the defendant waives** (1) any and all motions, defenses,
24 probable cause determinations, and objections that the defendant could assert
25 to the indictment or information, or to the petition to revoke; and (2) **any right**
26 **to file an appeal, any collateral attack, and any other writ or motion that**
27 **challenges the conviction, an order of restitution or forfeiture, the entry**
28 **of judgment against the defendant, or any aspect of the defendant’s**
sentence of disposition, including the manner in which the sentence or
disposition is determined, including but not limited to any appeals under
18 U.S.C. § 3742 and motions under 28 U.S.C. §§ 2241 and 2255. The
defendant acknowledges that if the Court has sentenced the defendant and
imposed disposition according to the terms of this agreement, **this waiver**
shall result in the dismissal of any appeal, collateral attack, or other
motion the defendant might file challenging the conviction, order of

