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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

JESUS GUZMAN-CASTRO,
Petitioner,

vs.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Respondent.

CASE NO. 12-cv-2263 – IEG
Related Case: 12-cr-544 – IEG

ORDER:

**(1) DENYING PETITIONER'S
MOTION FOR TIME
REDUCTION PURSUANT TO
28 U.S.C. § 2255**

[Doc. No. 1 in 12-cv-2263]
[Doc. No. 26 in 12-cr-544]

**(2) DENYING CERTIFICATE
OF APPEALABILITY**

Petitioner Jesus Guzman-Castro, a federal inmate proceeding *pro se*, submitted a motion for time reduction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255. [Doc. No. 26 in 12-cr-544.] Having considered Petitioner's arguments, and for the reasons set forth below, the Court **DENIES** Petitioner's motion.

BACKGROUND

Petitioner was charged with, and ultimately pled guilty to, violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 952 and 960 (intentional importation of methamphetamine).¹ [See Doc.

¹ The Government's response incorrectly states that Petitioner was charged, and pled guilty to, 8 U.S.C. §1326 (removed alien found in the United States). [See Doc. No. 28 at 2.]

1 No. 26.] With his Plea Agreement, Petitioner expressly “waive[d], to the full extent
2 of the law, any right to appeal or to collaterally attack the conviction and sentence . .
3 . unless the Court impose[d] a custodial sentence above the greater of the high end of
4 the guideline range recommended by the Government pursuant to this agreement at
5 the time of sentencing or statutory mandatory minimum term, if applicable.” [Doc.
6 No. 15 at 10.] On September 10, 2012, the Court sentenced Petitioner to 46 months
7 in federal custody (and three years of supervised release), the low end of the 46-57
8 month range recommended by the Government. [See Doc. Nos. 23, 24.]

9 With the present motion, Petitioner contends that, due to his alien status, he is
10 ineligible for (1) a one-year reduction of sentence through a drug program, (2) an
11 early release to a halfway house, and (3) a Unicolor job, and that the availability of
12 these programs to United States citizens, but not to aliens such as Petitioner, violates
13 the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, the Due Process Clause
14 of the Fifth Amendment, and the Equal Rights Act of 1964. [Doc. No. 26.]

15 DISCUSSION

16 Section 2255(a) authorizes the Court to “vacate, set aside or correct” a
17 sentence of a federal prisoner that “was imposed in violation of the Constitution or
18 laws of the United States.” Claims for relief under § 2255 must be based on some
19 constitutional error, jurisdictional defect, or an error resulting in a “complete
20 miscarriage of justice” or in a proceeding “inconsistent with the rudimentary
21 demands of fair procedure.” *United States v. Timmreck*, 441 U.S. 780, 783-84
22 (1979) (internal quotation marks omitted). If the record clearly indicates that a
23 petitioner does not have a claim or that he has asserted “no more than conclusory
24 allegations, unsupported by facts and refuted by the record,” a district court may
25 deny a § 2255 motion without an evidentiary hearing. *United States v. Quan*, 789
26 F.2d 711, 715 (9th Cir. 1986).

27 I. Waiver

28 It is clear that Petitioner waived any right to collaterally attack his sentence.

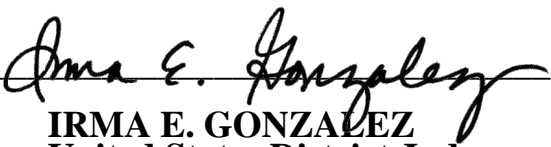
1 “A defendant’s waiver of his appellate rights is enforceable if (1) the language of
2 the waiver encompasses his right to appeal on the grounds raised, and (2) the waiver
3 is knowingly and voluntarily made.” *United States v. Rahman*, 642 F.3d 1257,
4 1259 (9th Cir. 2011) (citation omitted). In this case, as part of his Plea Agreement,
5 Petitioner expressly waived “any right . . . to collaterally attack the conviction and
6 sentence,” unless “the Court impose[d] a custodial sentence above the greater of the
7 high end of the guideline range recommended by the Government pursuant to this
8 agreement at the time of sentencing.” [Doc. No. 15 at 10.] The Court imposed a
9 sentence of 46 months, the low end of the 46-57 month range recommended by the
10 Government. [See Doc. Nos. 23, 24.] Because the Court did not impose a sentence
11 above the high end of the guideline range recommended by the Government, waiver
12 applies. Nor is there any indication that Petitioner’s waiver was not knowingly and
13 voluntarily made. Accordingly, Petitioner’s valid waiver precludes collateral attack
14 on his sentence. *See United States v. Abarca*, 985 F.2d 1012, 1014 (9th Cir. 1993);
15 *see also United States v. Navarro-Botello*, 912 F.2d 318, 321-22 (9th Cir. 1990)
16 (public policy supports plea agreements because, *inter alia*, of the finality that
17 results).

18 CONCLUSION

19 Because Petitioner’s collateral attack is precluded by a valid waiver, the Court
20 **DENIES** Petitioner’s motion for time reduction under 28 U.S.C. § 2255. The Court
21 also denies a certificate of appealability because Petitioner has not “made a
22 substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right.” *See* 28 U.S.C. §
23 2253(c)(2).

24 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

25 **Dated:** June 11, 2013

26 
27 **IRMA E. GONZALEZ**
28 **United States District Judge**