

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
BEAUMONT DIVISION

LUIS A. SERRANO-BENITEZ §
VS. § CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:17-CV-75
WARDEN CHAPA §

ORDER OVERRULING PETITIONER’S OBJECTIONS AND ADOPTING
THE MAGISTRATE JUDGE’S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

Petitioner Luis A. Serrano-Benitez, a federal prisoner confined at the Federal Correctional Institution in Beaumont, Texas, proceeding *pro se*, filed this petition for writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241.

The court ordered that this matter be referred to the Honorable Keith Giblin, United States Magistrate Judge, at Beaumont, Texas, for consideration pursuant to applicable laws and orders of this court. The Magistrate Judge recommends dismissing the petition.

The court has received and considered the Report and Recommendation of United States Magistrate Judge, along with the record and the pleadings. Petitioner filed objections to the Magistrate Judge’s Report and Recommendation.

The court has conducted a *de novo* review of the objections in relation to the pleadings and the applicable law. *See* FED. R. CIV. P. 72(b). After careful consideration, the court concludes the objections are without merit.

Petitioner’s claims do not challenge the manner in which his sentence is being executed. Rather, they attack on the legality of his sentence. A claim challenging the legality of a sentence

generally must be brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2255, not § 2241. *Tolliver v. Dobre*, 211 F.3d 876, 877 (5th Cir. 2000).

Circuit precedent holds that the savings clause of § 2255, which in some instances allows a petitioner to proceed under § 2241, “applies to a claim: (i) that is based on a retroactively applicable Supreme Court decision which establishes that the petitioner may have been convicted of a nonexistent offense and (ii) that was foreclosed by circuit law at the time when the claim should have been raised in the petitioner’s trial, appeal, or first § 2255 motion.” *Reyes-Requena v. United States*, 243 F.3d 893 (5th Cir. 2001). As the Magistrate Judge concluded, petitioner failed to meet the first prong of the *Reyes-Requena* test. Petitioner’s claims do not demonstrate that he was convicted of “a nonexistent offense” as required by the actual innocence prong of *Reyes-Requena*. Therefore, the petitioner may not pursue his claim concerning his sentence under § 2241.

ORDER

Accordingly, petitioner’s objections (document no. 3) are **OVERRULED**. The findings of fact and conclusions of law of the Magistrate Judge are correct, and the report of the Magistrate Judge (document no. 2) is **ADOPTED**. A final judgment will be entered in this case in accordance with the Magistrate Judge’s recommendation.

So **ORDERED** and **SIGNED** this **6** day of **May, 2017**.



Ron Clark, United States District Judge