

February 23, 2006

Charles R. Fulbruge III
Clerk

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

No. 05-40807
Conference Calendar

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff-Appellee,

versus

ISIDRO GABRIEL MORALES,

Defendant-Appellant.

Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Southern District of Texas
USDC No. 1:04-CR-1006-ALL

Before GARZA, DENNIS, and PRADO, Circuit Judges.

PER CURIAM:*

Isidro Gabriel Morales appeals his sentence under 8 U.S.C. § 1326(a) and (b) for illegal reentry into the United States after having been deported following conviction for an aggravated felony. Morales asserts that the "felony" and "aggravated felony" provisions of 8 U.S.C. § 1326(b) are facially unconstitutional.

The constitutional issue raised is foreclosed by Almendarez-Torres v. United States, 523 U.S. 224, 235 (1998). Although

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 R. 47.5, the court has determined that this opinion should not be published and is not precedent except under the limited circumstances set forth in 5TH CIR.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

Morales contends that Almendarez-Torres was incorrectly decided and that majority of the Supreme Court would overrule it in light of Apprendi v. New Jersey, 530 U.S. 466 (2000), we have repeatedly rejected such arguments on the basis that Almendarez-Torres remains binding. See United States v. Garza-Lopez, 410 F.3d 268, 276 (5th Cir.), cert. denied, 126 S. Ct. 298 (2005). Morales properly concedes that his argument is foreclosed in light of Almendarez-Torres and circuit precedent, but he raises it here to preserve it for further review.

The district court's judgment is AFFIRMED.