

August 25, 2006

Charles R. Fulbruge III
Clerk

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

No. 05-21101
Conference Calendar

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff-Appellee,

versus

ARTURO LOPEZ-CHAVEZ, also known as Ricardo Migul Chavez,
also known as Ricardo Lopez-Chavez, also known as Ricardo
Miguel Chavez,

Defendant-Appellant.

Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Southern District of Texas
USDC No. 4:05-CR-156

Before DAVIS, SMITH, and WIENER, Circuit Judges.

PER CURIAM:*

Arturo Lopez-Chavez (Lopez) appeals his guilty-plea conviction and sentence for illegal reentry of a deported alien following an aggravated felony conviction. Lopez argues that the "felony" and "aggravated felony" provisions of 8 U.S.C. § 1326(b)(1) and (b)(2) are unconstitutional.

Lopez's constitutional challenge is foreclosed by Almendarez-Torres v. United States, 523 U.S. 224, 235 (1998).

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 R. 47.5, the court has determined that this opinion should not be published and is not precedent except under the limited circumstances set forth in 5TH CIR.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

Although Lopez contends that Almendarez-Torres was incorrectly decided and that a majority of the Supreme Court would overrule Almendarez-Torres 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). Lopez 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.

AFFIRMED.