

July 13, 2006

Charles R. Fulbruge III
Clerk

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

No. 05-51430
Conference Calendar

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff-Appellee,

versus

JOSAFAT LOPEZ-BENITEZ, also known
as Gustavo Lopez-Benitez,

Defendant-Appellant.

Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Western District of Texas
USDC No. 2:05-CR-214-ALL

Before DAVIS, BARKSDALE, and DeMOSS, Circuit Judges.

PER CURIAM:*

Appealing the Judgment in a Criminal Case, Josafat Lopez-Benitez raises arguments that are foreclosed by Almendarez-Torres v. United States, 523 U.S. 224, 235 (1998), which held that a prior conviction is a sentencing factor under 8 U.S.C. § 1326(b)(2) and not a separate criminal offense. The Government's motion for summary affirmance is GRANTED, and the judgment of the district court is AFFIRMED.

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 R. 47.5, the court has determined that this opinion should not be published and is not precedent except under the limited circumstances set forth in 5TH CIR.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