

April 21, 2004

Charles R. Fulbruge III
Clerk

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

No. 03-41290
Conference Calendar

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff-Appellee,

versus

JOSE RAMIREZ-HAREO, also known as
Jose Ilario Ramirez,

Defendant-Appellant.

Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Southern District of Texas
USDC No. M-03-CR-473-1

Before JOLLY, JONES, and SMITH, Circuit Judges.

PER CURIAM:*

Jose Ramirez-Hareo appeals his conviction and sentence for being an alien unlawfully found in the United States after deportation after having been convicted of an aggravated felony in violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1326(a) & (b). For the first time on appeal, Ramirez-Hareo argues that 8 U.S.C. § 1326(b) is unconstitutional on its face and as applied in his case because it does not require the fact of a prior felony or aggravated

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 R. 47.5, the court has determined that this opinion should not be published and is not precedent except under the limited circumstances set forth in 5TH CIR.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

felony conviction to be charged in the indictment and proved beyond a reasonable doubt.

Ramirez-Hareo acknowledges that his arguments are foreclosed by Almendarez-Torres v. United States, 523 U.S. 224 (1998), but he wishes to preserve the issues for Supreme Court review in light of Apprendi v. New Jersey, 530 U.S. 466 (2000). Apprendi did not overrule Almendarez-Torres. See Apprendi, 530 U.S. at 489-90; United States v. Dabeit, 231 F.3d 979, 984 (5th Cir. 2000). Thus, we must follow Almendarez-Torres "unless and until the Supreme Court itself determines to overrule it." Dabeit, 231 F.3d at 984 (internal quotation marks and citation omitted).

Accordingly, Ramirez-Hareo's arguments are foreclosed, and his conviction and sentence are AFFIRMED.