

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

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No. 98-41259  
Consolidated with  
98-41290

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff-Appellee,

v.

JOSE AMADOR SILVAS,

Defendant-Appellant.

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Appeal from the United States District Court  
for the Southern District of Texas  
(C-98-CR-171-1 & L-93-CR-91-1)

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December 6, 1999

Before JONES and DENNIS, Circuit Judges, and PRADO\*, District Judge.

PER CURIAM:\*

The court has carefully considered the briefs and excellent oral arguments of counsel in light of the record and, having done so, finds no clear error of fact in the district court's determination that the license plate was sufficiently damaged and blurred that the police officer had probable cause to believe that state law was being violated. As a result, the stop of Silvas' vehicle was constitutional, and his conviction for transporting illegal aliens is AFFIRMED.

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\* District Judge of the Western District of Texas, sitting by designation.

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 R. 47.5, the court has determined that this opinion should not be published and is not precedent except under the limited circumstances set forth in 5TH CIR.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

**AFFIRMED.**