



United States of America v. Alex Julca

2011 | Cited 0 times | Fifth Circuit | September 28, 2011

Unpublished Opinion

Summary Calendar

United States Court of Appeals Fifth Circuit

Lyle W. Cayce Clerk

Before GARZA, SOUTHWICK, and HAYNES, Circuit Judges.

Alex Julca was convicted of one count of conspiracy to harbor, conceal, or shield from detection aliens and three counts of aiding and abetting the harboring, concealing, or shielding from detection aliens for the purpose of private financial gain in violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii), (v)(I), (v)(II), (B)(i). Julca challenges the 105-month term of imprisonment imposed by the district court, contending that the district court reversibly erred by applying a four-level enhancement for serious bodily injury pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 2L1.1(b)(7)(B), which was based on evidence that several aliens were physically beaten and sexually abused while they were detained. Julca contends that there was insufficient evidence to establish that any beatings resulted in serious bodily injury as that term is defined under the Sentencing Guidelines. Julca further argues that even though sexual abuse constitutes serious bodily injury, the conduct should not be attributed to him in this case because it was not reasonably foreseeable.

Julca did not argue in the district court that the physical beatings did not satisfy the definition of "serious bodily injury." Thus, we review this issue for plain error. See *United States v. Cabral-Castillo*, 35 F.3d 182, 188-89 (5th Cir. 1994). The determination of "serious bodily injury" is a factual determination. *United States v. Garza-Robles*, 627 F.3d 161, 169 (5th Cir. 2010); see also *United States v. Price*, 149 F.3d 352, 353 (5th Cir. 1998) (holding that the severity of an injury in a different guidelines context is a question of fact). The record as a whole supports a finding of "serious bodily injury." See *Garza-Robles*, 627 F.3d at 169. As we affirm on this basis, we need not reach Julca's argument that the sexual abuse committed by other members of the conspiracy was not reasonably foreseeable.

The judgment of the district court is **AFFIRMED**.

1. Pursuant to 5TH CIR. R. 47.5, the court has determined that this opinion should not be published and is not precedent



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except under the limited circumstances set forth in 5TH CIR. R. 47.5.4.

