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U.S. COURT OF APPEALS

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

SANTOS ERNESTO VILLA  
MARTINEZ,

Petitioner,

v.

ERIC H. HOLDER, Jr., Attorney General,

Respondent.

No. 08-74777

Agency No. A088-423-365

MEMORANDUM\*

On Petition for Review of an Order of the  
Board of Immigration Appeals

Submitted January 10, 2011\*\*

Before: BEEZER, TALLMAN, and CALLAHAN, Circuit Judges.

Santos Ernesto Villa Martinez, a native and citizen of Mexico, petitions for review of the Board of Immigration Appeals’ (“BIA”) order dismissing his appeal from an immigration judge’s (“IJ”) decision denying his motion to reopen proceedings. We have jurisdiction under 8 U.S.C. § 1252. We review de novo

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\* This disposition is not appropriate for publication and is not precedent except as provided by 9th Cir. R. 36-3.

\*\* The panel unanimously concludes this case is suitable for decision without oral argument. See Fed. R. App. P. 34(a)(2).

questions of law, and review for abuse of discretion the denial of a motion to reopen. *Mohammed v. Gonzales*, 400 F.3d 785, 791-92 (9th Cir. 2005). We deny the petition for review.

Villa Martinez was not denied his right to counsel because he knowingly and voluntarily waived his right to counsel when he told the IJ he wanted to proceed with his hearing without counsel after the IJ offered to continue his hearing in order to ensure counsel's presence. *See Biwot v. Gonzales*, 403 F.3d 1094, 1100 (9th Cir. 2005) (“[A]n alien cannot appear pro se without a knowing and voluntary waiver of the right to counsel.”).

We agree with the BIA that Villa Martinez was not prejudiced by former counsel's failure to appear at his hearing because Villa Martinez was not eligible for any relief at that time. *See Mohammed*, 400 F.3d at 793-94.

Villa Martinez's contentions under 8 C.F.R. § 287.8(b)(2) are unavailing.

The BIA did not abuse its discretion in denying Villa Martinez's motion to reopen on the ground that he failed to demonstrate the evidence he submitted was previously unavailable and material. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 1003.2(a), (c); *Bhasin v. Gonzales*, 423 F.3d 977, 984 (9th Cir. 2005).

Villa Martinez's remaining contentions are unavailing.

**PETITION FOR REVIEW DENIED.**