

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

FILED

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

MAY 30 2019

FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

MOLLY C. DWYER, CLERK
U.S. COURT OF APPEALS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

No. 18-50079

Plaintiff-Appellee

D.C. No.

CR-16-01448-WQH-1

v.

WILLIE JONES, JR.,

MEMORANDUM*

Defendant-Appellant

Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Southern District of California
William Q. Hayes, District Judge, Presiding

Argued and submitted May 15, 2019
Pasadena, California

Before: WARDLAW and HURWITZ, Circuit Judges, and KORMAN,** District Judge.

Willie Jones picked up three undocumented aliens near the United States-Mexico border and dropped them off on the side of the road approximately a quarter mile before reaching a border checkpoint on Highway 94. A passing motorcyclist observed the three men exiting Jones's silver vehicle, reported his

* This disposition is not appropriate for publication and is not precedent except as provided by Ninth Circuit Rule 36-3.

** The Honorable Edward R. Korman, United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, sitting by designation.

observations to border patrol agents, and then identified Jones's vehicle as it approached the checkpoint. Jones was sent to secondary inspection and held there for approximately one hour. During this time, border patrol agents found the three men hiding in the bushes, at which point they arrested Jones for alien smuggling.

Jones argued unsuccessfully in the district court that his detention and arrest were illegal and should be suppressed. Throughout the proceedings against him, Jones was appointed five different attorneys at his request. The district judge refused to substitute out his fifth attorney and denied his motion to proceed pro se at trial and at sentencing. Following Jones's conviction for transporting illegal aliens, the district judge declined to apply a minor role adjustment under the Sentencing Guidelines and imposed concurrent sentences of 21 months of incarceration and three years of supervised release. This appeal followed.

1. The district judge did not err in finding that the border patrol agents possessed reasonable suspicion sufficient to detain Jones at the border. *See United States v. Wilson*, 7 F.3d 828, 834 (9th Cir. 1993). Based on the totality of the circumstances—including the motorcyclist's in-person, eyewitness, contemporaneous tip; the border patrol agent's knowledge of alien smuggling in the area; Jones's statement that he was coming from a border city; and Jones's driver's license showing a non-local address—the district judge did not err in finding that there was reasonable suspicion to detain Jones. *See Navarette v.*

California, 572 U.S. 393, 401-04 (2014); *United States v. Palos-Marquez*, 591 F.3d 1272, 1274-77 (9th Cir. 2010); *United States v. Valdes-Vega*, 738 F.3d 1074, 1077, 1079-80 (9th Cir. 2013) (en banc).

2. The district judge did not abuse his discretion by denying Jones a sixth court-appointed attorney. Contrary to Jones’s assertion, the district judge did not categorically preclude Jones from substituting his fifth attorney because he had previously substituted four. Instead, the judge made a type of “general unreasonableness” finding, *see United States v. Mendez-Sanchez*, 563 F.3d 935, 944 (9th Cir. 2009), based on the fact that Jones’s “pattern [was] the same” with each of his four previous attorneys. To the extent that there was a “breakdown in communication” between Jones and his fifth attorney, it was Jones who refused to communicate, and he may not take advantage of this refusal to obtain a new attorney. *See United States v. Roston*, 986 F.2d 1287, 1292-93 (9th Cir. 1993).

3. Similarly, the district judge did not abuse his discretion in denying Jones’s motion to represent himself, made on the morning of trial, after finding that his purpose was to delay proceedings. *Cf. United States v. Farias*, 618 F.3d 1049, 1052-53 (9th Cir. 2010). This was based on his pre-trial conduct—such as continually substituting attorneys and refusing to leave his holding cell on a previous trial date—and the fact that he was asking for a continuance to prepare to proceed pro se at trial. *See Fritz v. Spalding*, 682 F.2d 782, 784 (9th Cir. 1982).

Similarly, the district judge properly denied Jones's post-trial *Faretta* motion after a conference during which Jones was belligerent, disruptive, combative, and unresponsive to the questions the district judge asked in an attempt to make the appropriate *Faretta* inquiry. *See United States v. Lopez-Osuna*, 242 F.3d 1191, 1199 (9th Cir. 2001) (“[The defendant] must be able and willing to abide by rules of procedure and courtroom protocol.” (internal quotation marks and citation omitted)).

4. Lastly, the district judge did not abuse his discretion in denying Jones a minor role adjustment. The district judge considered the five non-exhaustive factors used to determine whether a defendant is entitled to a minor role reduction, *see* U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Manual § 3B1.2, cmt. n.3(C), and properly found that Jones did not carry his burden of demonstrating that these factors weighed in his favor. *See United States v. Cordova Barajas*, 360 F.3d 1037, 1042 (9th Cir. 2004).

AFFIRMED.