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2003 Decisions

Opinions of the United  
States Court of Appeals  
for the Third Circuit

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3-24-2003

**USA v. Cruz**

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NOT PRECEDENTIAL

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT

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No. 02-2824

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

ELADIO CRUZ  
a/k/a  
LADO

Eladio Cruz,

Appellant

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On Appeal from the United States District Court  
for the District of New Jersey  
District Judge: Honorable John W. Bissell, Chief Judge  
(D.C. Crim. No. 01-00292-1)

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Argued February 28, 2003

BEFORE: SCIRICA, GREENBERG, and GIBSON\*, Circuit Judges

(Filed: March 21, 2003)

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Esther Salas (argued)  
Lisa M. Mack

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\*Honorable John R. Gibson, Senior Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, sitting by designation.

Federal Public Defender

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OPINION OF THE COURT

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GREENBERG, Circuit Judge.

Eladio Cruz appeals from a judgment of conviction and sentence entered June 28, 2002, on his plea of guilty to an indictment charging him with conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine. The district court determined that his total offense level was 34 which with his criminal history category of VII yielded a sentencing range of 262 to 327 months. The court sentenced him to a 262-month custodial term to be followed by a five-year term of supervised release.

Cruz appeals, contending that “the [district] court erred in denying [his] downward departure motion for over-statement of criminal history because it failed to employ the applicable analytical framework, instead relying upon a skewed view of plea agreement stipulations and its assignment to [him] of responsibility for the sins of his son.” Br. at 11.

His son is a co-defendant in this case. The government answers that we lack jurisdiction because the district court explicitly recognized that it had the authority to depart but declined to do so.

We agree with the government and thus conclude that we do not have jurisdiction. See United States v. McQuilkin, 97 F.3d 723, 729-30 (3d Cir. 1996). Consequently, we will dismiss this appeal.

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TO THE CLERK:

Please file the foregoing not precedential opinion.

/s Morton I. Greenberg  
Circuit Judge