



As Cartel Members Face Extradition, Rastrojos Consider Surrender to the US

McNabb Associates, P.C. (U.S. Extradition Attorneys)

Submitted at 10:57 AM October 6, 2011

The extradition of another top lieutenant from the Rastrojos drug gang, heirs to the powerful Norte del Valle Cartel, delivers more leverage to U.S. authorities to force the group's leadership to surrender.

Former hitman and drug smuggler Juan Carlos Rivera Ruiz, alias "06," was extradited from Colombia to the U.S. on September 29. Rivera worked for the Rastrojos, successors to the once-powerful Norte del Valle Cartel, which now operates across Colombia, expanding away from its base on the Pacific coast. According to El Nuevo Herald, Rivera helped the current leaders of the Rastrojos kill their ex-boss, Norte del Valle Cartel commander Wilber Varela, in Venezuela in 2008. Varela's death allowed the "Comba" brothers -- Luis Enrique and Javier Antonio Calle Serna -- to take control of Colombia's most powerful drug trafficking network.

Rivera's extradition means that the U.S. authorities now have a slew of Rastrojos commanders behind bars. Many of those currently in detention were once important contacts for the Sinaloa Cartel, as well as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). Detainees like Rivera, who coordinated the Rastrojos' drug shipments from the Pacific port city Buenaventura, will be able to paint a detailed picture of how the group coordinated cocaine shipments to Central America and Europe.

In addition to providing intelligence about the Rastrojos' drug networks, Rivera will likely serve another, more symbolic

purpose. U.S. authorities are reportedly already in the middle of negotiations with the Calle Serna brothers, rumored to have been in the works since April 2011. InSight Crime has heard reports that Luis Enrique is already in the U.S., making the appropriate contacts. By putting key middlemen like Rivera in U.S. prisons, the U.S. is gaining the leverage needed to pressure the Calle Serna brothers into sharing more exclusive intelligence on gang operations. This means if and when the Calle Sernas turn themselves in, they will be forced to betray many other top-level collaborators, reducing the chance that the Rastrojos could survive the brothers' exit intact.

It is significant that the "Comba" brothers reportedly reached out to the U.S. just as their rivalry with the Urabeños has intensified into a nationwide conflict. Fighting between these two gangs was once limited mostly to Antioquia's northern Bajo Cauca region. Since then, it has spread to Antioquia's capital, Medellin, to the Rastrojos' stronghold along the Pacific, and even outside of Colombia. Some of the 45 murders registered last September in the Venezuelan border state Tachira have reportedly been traced to the Rastrojos-Urabeños conflict.

It isn't clear, however, that it is the war with the Urabeños that prompted the Calle Sernas to negotiate. Rather, the war was a result of the string of arrests of Rastrojos' middle leadership, which disrupted operations and allowed the Urabeños to boldly venture into their rival's territory. The ongoing violence, in turn, upped the

pressure on Luis Enrique and Javier Antonio.

The arrest and extradition of many mid-level Rastrojos commanders has pushed the group into acting more like an extremely decentralized franchise. This is in contrast to the Urabeños, who are somewhat more disciplined and willing to apply orders on a national basis. This also raises the question of how well the Calle Sernas can control the actions of the many drug trafficking cells who have adopted the "Rastrojos" name.

Rather than taking orders from a central command, several Rastrojos cells across the country are choosing to follow their own course, especially when it comes to relations with the FARC. This is most clear in the southwestern Pacific department of Nariño. Here, InSight Crime heard reports of an outbreak of war between the left-wing guerrillas and an aggressively ideological, right-wing faction of the Rastrojos, many of them former members of the paramilitary bloc once active there. The conflict has manifested in a wave of kidnappings and killings across Nariño, as the Rastrojos and the FARC fight for control of coca crops.

Elsewhere in the country, the Rastrojos are working alongside with the FARC in the interests of drug trafficking. That the Rastrojos franchise in Nariño is pursuing their rivalry with the rebels, rather than being forced to obey a nationwide truce, is an indication of how little control the Calle Sernas wield over certain factions of the Rastrojos.

The Rastrojos' tendency to operate like a loosely connected franchise network will only accentuate if the Calle Sernas surrender to the U.S. In that case, the remaining middle leadership of the Rastrojos would have little incentive (or power) to push for alliances at the national, rather than local, level. The trends currently playing out in Colombia will likely only get worse: further fragmentation of the country's criminal gangs, and increased violence across the board as each independent cell pursues their own blood feuds.

This article was written by Elyssa Pachico and published by Insight Crime on October 5, 2011.

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Canadian 'Prince of Pot' Supporters Petition Obama for Pardon

McNabb Associates, P.C. (U.S. Extradition Attorneys)

Submitted at 11:09 AM October 6, 2011

Friends and supporters of Canada's so-called "prince of pot" are using one of U.S. President Barack Obama's democracy outreach projects to get the

president to weigh in on Marc Emery's stay in a U.S. prison.

Under Obama's newly launched "We The People" program, anyone who can gather 5,000 names on a petition will receive a formal response.

In Emery's case, the petition-signing effort took just nine days, and the marijuana advocate's supporters now expect a presidential response within 30 days.

The Vancouver man was extradited to the U.S. in May 2010 to begin his sentence for selling marijuana seeds to Americans through his mail-order business.

"Marc is a political prisoner stolen from his home country for the crime of financing cannabis activism in the U.S.A. and Canada through selling seeds," said Emery's wife Jodie.

"There was widespread opposition to his extradition in the first place, and now we're demonstrating that thousands of people want Marc to be free and sent home to Canada," she said.

Obama is quoted on a government website, outlining his objectives for the program.

"When I ran for this office, I pledged to make government more open and accountable to its citizens," the president is quoted as saying. "That's what the new We the People feature on WhiteHouse.gov is all about — giving Americans a direct line to the White House on the issues and concerns that matter most to them."

Jodie Emery said that having her husband serve out his sentence in Canada is a reasonable goal.

"He's a Canadian — American taxpayers shouldn't be paying for a Canadian to be in jail there," she said. "That's always the goal — he should never have left Canada.

"He's agreed to serve his time, but his supporters are upset that he's in the United States."

Emery, 53, is currently behind bars in Mississippi at a medium-

security prison, hoping to be set free on an early release date of July 9, 2014.

This article was written by Ian Austin and published by the Vancouver Sun on October 4, 2011.

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Extradition Ordered for Groom Accused of Murder on his Honeymoon

McNabb Associates, P.C. (U.S. Extradition Attorneys)

Submitted at 11:34 AM October 6, 2011

The British Home Secretary has formally ordered the extradition of Shrien Dewani who faces murder charges in South Africa after his Swedish wife was killed on their honeymoon last year.

It is likely that Dewani's lawyers will appeal the ruling over the next two weeks, despite pleas from Anni Hindocha's family for the businessman to face the legal proceedings and give them "closure".

The couple were honeymooning in Cape Town when their taxi was apparently hijacked by two armed

men. The driver, Zola Tongo, and Dewani were released unharmed, but Hindocha was later found dead in the back seat of the vehicle. As part of a plea bargain, Tongo accused Dewani of paying him to hire the hit men.

The 31 year-old British Indian, who has since been living in a care home and receiving treatment for post traumatic stress disorder, strenuously denies the claims. His lawyers have continuously opposed the extradition order, claiming their client will not receive proper treatment while facing trial in South Africa. They now have 14 days to take their appeal to the High Court in London.

Anni's uncle, Ashok Hindocha, welcomed the decision but pleaded with Dewani not to delay the process further. "We are extremely pleased that this case is going forward now, I just hope that we get closure as soon as possible," he said in a report by The Telegraph. "I beg Shrien not to [lodge an appeal] for the sake of everybody's health."

Media mogul Max Clifford, who is acting as Dewani's publicist, said, "I've been told from the family no comment at all, which is something that I disagree with, but they are following the advice of their lawyers. I personally am totally convinced that they basically have no chance of a fair trial if they go back to South Africa."

This article was published by Ice News on October 5, 2011.

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Accused Credit Card Scammer Fights Extradition from Canada

McNabb Associates, P.C. (U.S. Extradition Attorneys)

Submitted at 11:47 AM October 6, 2011

A Toronto man accused of defrauding 30,000 Americans of about \$7-million U.S. in a low-rate credit card scheme for people with poor credit has taken his case to the country's highest court to avoid being returned to Chicago to stand trial.

Alex Orphanou, a.k.a. Alexos Orphanou, who is in a Toronto jail, was ordered extradited to the U.S. last week by an Ontario Court of Appeal to face a slew of fraud-related offences. He quickly filed a leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada, which will rule if it will hear the case or send the suspect packing.

Orphanou was charged by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in 2008 for violating commission laws and a telemarketing sales rule by falsely "promising consumers a major credit card and charging an advance fee for it, but never delivering the card," the FTC said in a 2002 news release.

The FTC alleged "the appellant fraudulently telemarketed credit cards by offering persons who had poor credit ratings 'guaranteed' credit cards in exchange for a fee."

Court heard the alleged scheme was highly organized and preyed on elderly U.S. residents.

"The alleged fraudulent scheme, of which the appellant is said to have been the chief architect and directing force, was massive in scope and highly sophisticated," the Court of Appeal said in its decision.

"It involved numerous corporations owned or controlled by the appellant, thousands of victims in the U.S. and victim losses totalling approximately \$7 million U.S."

The FTC alleged Orphanou falsely claimed he can provide consumers with a Visa or MasterCard with an interest of 3.9 or 6%, and a credit limit of \$2,500 to \$5,000 and no annual fee.

The scheme required customers to pay an upfront "processing" fee of up to \$199 for the credit cards by authorizing debits from their bank account. But their cards never arrived.

The FTC said instead "consumers received packages containing information about avoiding credit card fraud and financial scams, about discount shopping services and vacation certificates."

The commission alleged Orphanou was not authorized to issue credit cards and as many as 30,000 Americans, many who were elderly, were ripped off for millions of dollars.

The scheme led U.S. and Canadian police to shut four financial companies that they alleged were operated by Orphanou out of the same location in Toronto.

This article was written by Tom Godfrey and published by the Toronto Sun on October 4, 2011.

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Niger Refuses to Extradite Gadhafi's Son

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Submitted at 12:00 PM October 6, 2011

Niger's foreign minister said his country remains firm in its decision not to extradite Saadi Gadhafi, the son of ousted Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi.

Extradition of the former professional footballer is sought by both Interpol, which issued a "red alert" for Saadi Gadhafi, and Libya's National Transitional Council, the Daily Maverick of South Africa reported Tuesday.

Saadi Gadhafi arrived in Niger last month with eight other Libyans.

Mohamed Bazoum, Niger's minister of foreign affairs, told a news conference Monday his country "cannot extradite a citizen to a country without the assurance of equitable justice."

"In Libya there is no government," Bazoum said. "Human Rights Watch yesterday revealed new findings about the conditions in Libyan prisons."

He said Saadi Gadhafi is not wanted by the International Criminal Court that is seeking his father, brother Saif and Libya's former intelligence chief Abdullah Senussi.

Bazoum said the National Transitional Council was invited to interview Saaadi in Niger on Sept. 22 but the delegation from Libya never arrived.

This article was published by UPI on October 4, 2011.

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Charges Against Tigers Great Denny McLain Dropped

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Submitted at 12:14 PM October 6, 2011

Former Tigers pitching star Denny McLain got the win -- in court, that is.

Criminal charges were dropped Monday against the Tigers legend, who was facing extradition to Louisiana on charges he stiffed some landowners out of money he owed them for scrap metal.

McLain, 67, who has had several run-ins with the law over the years, was arrested Sept. 22 in Port Huron after he got tangled in construction and accidentally drove on the bridge to Canada while trying to get to a Cracker Barrel restaurant. Border officers ran his name and discovered an outstanding warrant from St. Charles Parish, La.

"It's something that should have never, ever, ever happened," McLain told the Free Press on Monday, adding the legal ordeal "was a little bit crazy."

His lawyers agreed, saying McLain was not aware that a

warrant had been issued until he was stopped at the border.

"Mr. McLain had no knowledge of this warrant. He was an accidental fugitive," attorney Josh Fahlsing said. "I think he's looking forward to getting this matter cleared up."

According to Capt. Patrick Yoes of the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office, McLain had cut a deal with landowners in the Bayou Gauche area to buy some of their scrap metal. With the exception of a deposit demanded in advance by one of the landowners, no money was paid for the scrap metal, Yoes said.

"This matter was a civil case. Unfortunately, the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office took the drastic step of issuing an arrest warrant," New Orleans attorney Craig Mordock said, adding the matter has been resolved.

It got resolved just in time for McLain to focus on something perhaps less stressful: the playoffs and the World Series.

"Now let's see if we can get the Tigers in there," McLain said.

This article was published by the Detroit Free Press on October 4, 2011.

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