

Manuel Antonio Noriega

Case ID:

ARW-122

Jurisdiction of Origin of Public Official or Entity Allegedly Involved:

Panama

Position of Public Official(s) (yrs in office):

Commander, Panama Defense Forces (1983-1989)

Jurisdiction of Asset Recovery:

France

Jurisdiction of Asset Recovery ? Description:

Undertaking Recovery Effort, Location of Recovery Effort, Asset Location / Alleged Asset Location

Asset Recovery Start:

1999

Asset Recovery End:

Ongoing

UNCAC Offenses Implicated:

Art.16

Art.18

Art.19

Art.23

Money laundering Implicated:

Yes

Legal Basis for Asset Recovery:

Criminal Prosecution and Forfeiture

Intl.Cooperation: MLAT/Letter of Request?:

Unknown

Basis for Intl Cooperation:

Unspecified, but Panama was Partie Civile in the French prosecution

Contributing Factors in Asset Recovery:

Ongoing Case

Status of Asset Recovery :

Ongoing

Stage in Asset Recovery Chain:

Judgment by Court of First Instance

Agreement for Returned Assets - Description:

N/A

Case Summary:

On July 7, 2010, Mr. Noriega was convicted in Paris of money laundering of criminal drug proceeds received while he was commander of the Panama Defense Forces. He was ordered to forfeit 2.2 million Euros (U.S.\$2.8 million) that had been frozen in his French bank accounts. Reuters reported that the court also ordered EUR 1 million (approx. U.S. \$1,026,000) to be paid in damages to Panama. Mr. Noriega had originally been convicted in absentia in 1999 in France, but retried after completion of his sentence in U.S. and extradition to France. Mr. Noriega had unsuccessfully contested his extradition from the United States.

Panama had been a "partie civile" (civil party) in the criminal case. (Source: Administration des Douanes et Droits Indirects c/ NORIEGA, Republique francaise, Au nom du Peuple francais, Tribunal de Grande Instance de Paris, 11eme chambre/1, No d'affaire : 8935669013 Jugement du : 7 juillet 2010 no : 14.)

Disposition of Criminal Case(s):

According to the July 7, 2010 decision by a Paris trial court, Mr. Noriega was convicted money laundering of criminal drug proceeds received while he was commander of the Panama Defense Forces. (Source: Administration des Douanes et Droits Indirects c/ NORIEGA, Republique francaise, Au nom du Peuple francais, Tribunal de Grande Instance de Paris, 11eme chambre/1, No d'affaire : 8935669013 Jugement du : 7 juillet 2010 no : 14.) According to the U.S. 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, Mr. Noriega was also convicted in the U.S. on eight drug-related counts. (Source: US v. Noriega, Nos. 92-4687, 96-4471 (11th Cir.), Judgment dated July 7, 1997.)

Jurisdiction of Origin: Investigative Agency:

Unspecified

Jurisdiction of Origin: Prosecuting Authority/Civil Attorney(s):

Unspecified

Jurisdiction of Origin: Courts Involved:

Unspecified

Jurisdiction of Asset Recovery: Investigative Agency:

Unspecified

Jurisdiction of Asset Recovery: Prosecuting Authority/Civil Attorney(s):

Public Prosecutor

Jurisdiction of Asset Recovery: Courts Involved:

Tribunal de Grande Instance de Paris, 11th Chamber

Documents:

Noriega_11th_Cir_Conviction_Affirm_746_FSUPP_1511_1997.pdf

Noriega_France_July_7_2010.pdf

Noriega_France_Sentence_NYT_Jul_7_2010.pdf

Noriega_SDFLA_Ct_Docket.pdf

Documents Links:

Other Sources:

Administration des Douanes et Droits Indirects c/ NORIEGA, Republique francaise, Au nom du Peuple francais, Tribunal de Grande Instance de Paris, 11eme chambre/1, No d'affaire : 8935669013 Jugement du : 7 juillet 2010 no : 14; David Jolly, "French court sentences Noriega to 7 years," New York Times, July 7, 2010. See also, U.S. v. Noriega, et al, Case No. 1:88-cr-00079-WMH (S.D. Fla), please note that many documents are missing from docket; U.S. v. Noriega, 746 F. Supp. 1511 (11th Circuit Court, affirming conviction and denying new trial, decision dated July 7, 1997.)