

Mexican Ex-Prosecutor Held For U.S. Deportation Hearing

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Body

Former **Mexican** prosecutor Mario Ruiz Massieu was denied bail today and ordered **held** by immigration authorities who want to deport him to Mexico.

The State Department and Immigration and Naturalization Service are trying to deport Ruiz Massieu, wanted in Mexico on charges he covered up the investigation into the assassination of his brother, a leading politician, and allegedly embezzled from the **Mexican** government.

The **U.S.** and **Mexican** governments have failed four times to extradite the former deputy attorney-general. Ruiz Massieu has been in custody of immigration officials since Friday, when the latest extradition attempt failed.

His request for bail was denied at a **hearing** before federal Judge Andrew Meisner, who noted he would consider the bail request further. A **deportation hearing** is expected early next month.

Separately, Ruiz Massieu's attorney, Cathy Fleming, said she was seeking political asylum in the **United States** for her client on grounds he would be physically harmed if he returned to Mexico.

On Friday, the State Department and INS issued a statement saying they were seeking Ruiz Massieu's **deportation** on grounds his "presence and activities in the **United States** would have potentially serious adverse foreign policy consequences for the **United States**."

Mexican authorities want Ruiz Massieu to face charges of covering up an investigation into the September 1994 assassination of his brother, Jose Francisco Ruiz Massieu, then-secretary general of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party.

Ruiz Massieu has been **held** without bail since March 3, when he was arrested at Newark International Airport trying to board a flight to Spain with his family. He was carrying a large amount of undeclared cash, **U.S.** Customs officials said.

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