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Tomás Yarrington: Fugitive Mexican ex-governor caught by police in Italy

Former Tamaulipas state governor is charged with drug smuggling, bank fraud, racketeering and money laundering

Loulla-Mae Eleftheriou-Smith | Monday 10 April 2017 12:45 BST

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Tomas Yarrington was caught by police in Italy after being on the run for nearly five years *Reuters*



has been caught by police in Italy.

Tomás Yarrington, the 59-year-old former governor of Mexico's north-eastern state of Tamaulipas, had been wanted by authorities for nearly five years and has been detained by police in Florence, according to Mexico's attorney-general's office. He is expected to be extradited to Mexico within days.

US authorities have accused Mr Yarrington of taking millions of dollars in bribes from the Gulf Cartel and other traffickers since 1998, when he was the mayor of Matamoros on the US border.



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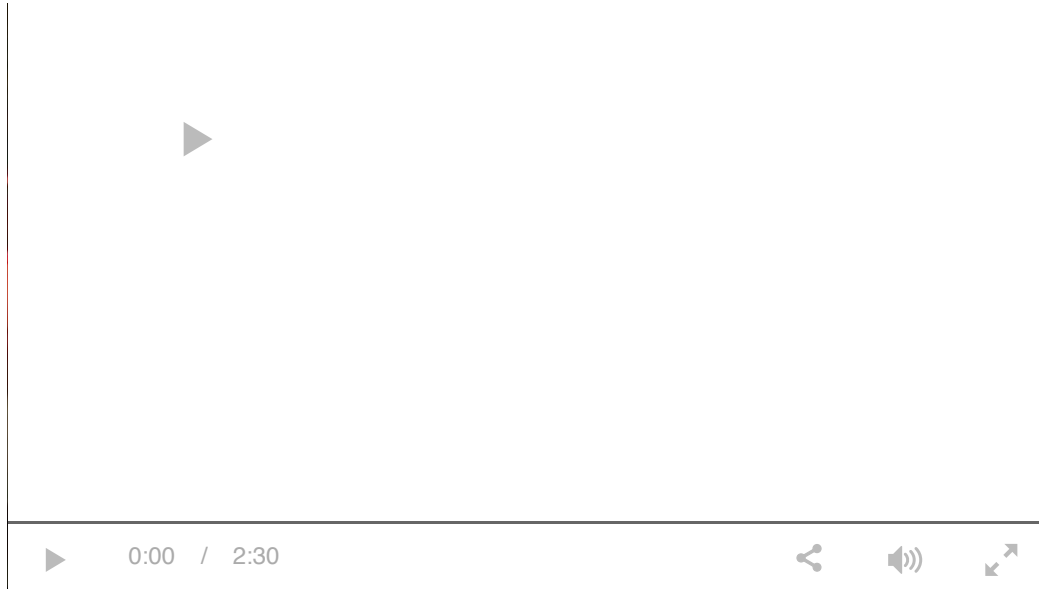
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He became governor of Tamaulipas between 1999 and 2005 and is further accused of accepting bribes from cartels for ignoring their drug smuggling activities across the border, [the BBC reports](#), and for money laundering in Texas. He was indicted by the US in 2013.

Mexican authorities also want Mr Yarrington on charges of “organised crime and money laundering, among others”.



His capture on Sunday was made possible due to an Interpol red notice, authorities said.



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US authorities will also be seeking Mr Yarrington's extradition, the *Wall Street Journal* reported. Before becoming a fugitive, the former governor maintained he was innocent and a victim of politically motivated charges.

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Mr Yarrington was suspended from **President Enrique Peña Nieto's** Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) in 2012 on grounds of corruption. He is one of several former politicians from the party to have been suspended.

The PRI responded to the former governor's arrest in a statement, saying the party backed the work of the attorney-general's office and asked for all necessary investigations to be carried out.