
Jailed DEA Spy Claims Entrapment

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Authorities have begun an investigation into the circumstances that landed a former employee of the Nassau International Airport into the U.S. federal prison system charged with others for allegedly importing approximately 1,000 kilograms of cocaine in 1995.

Jesse Jerome Dean Jr. is only eight years into his 30-year prison sentence at the Federal Correctional Complex in Forrest City. He claims he is innocent and was railroaded by an unfair criminal justice system.

It is an allegation that has apparently spurned some concern at the Consulate General office in Miami, Florida.

According to Consul General Alma Adams, officials remain in "constant communication" with Dean - a former senior radar controller at Nassau International Airport.

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In a letter to the Bahama Journal, Dean claimed that in 1991, he volunteered to become a confidential informant for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration local branch. He said he played a pivotal role in the seizures of several large drug shipments, for which he was paid by the DEA.

While working on building a case against a South Florida drug dealer in 1995, Dean said DEA and FBI agents in Florida arrested him.

He was indicted along with 14 others in a conspiracy that imported 908 kilograms of cocaine into Fort Lauderdale, via Belize. In the 20 months leading up to the trial, Dean claims he was offered numerous plea bargains that began at 30 years then dwindled down to two years.

The final plea bargain reportedly proposed to dismiss the drug indictment if Dean pled guilty to using a telephone illegally, which carried a maximum charge of 48 months.

He told the Bahama Journal

that he refused them because he was innocent.

It was a move that did not pay off. At trial he was convicted and sentenced to 30 years.

In his defense, Dean claimed "entrapment by estoppel, innocent intent or public authority," which means that as a confidential informant he was authorized to engage in activities that would otherwise be criminal.

However, at trial he learned that he had been de-activated but was not informed.

He alleges that this is a gross violation of the Department of Justice's own guidelines regarding the use of confidential informants. Presently, he has a motion for reconsideration pending in a U.S. District Court.

Meantime, Consul General Adams says her office is doing "all within its power" to assist him.

She noted that Dean's case is not a straightforward one and her office must proceed with "due diligence" from a diplomatic and legal standpoint.