

Panama: U.S. Backs Noriega Extradition

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Manuel Antonio Noriega, the deposed Panamanian strongman who is ending a 15-year prison sentence in Miami, can be extradited to France, where he faces charges of money laundering and up to a decade in prison, a federal judge in Miami ruled. The decision by Magistrate Judge William C. Turnoff followed a decision last week by another federal judge that rejected an argument that Mr. Noriega, above, should be returned to [Panama](#) when his current term for drug trafficking and racketeering ends on Sept. 9. A lawyer for Mr. Noriega vowed to appeal. The final decision on whether Mr. Noriega, 73, can be extradited to France lies with Secretary of State [Condoleezza Rice](#).