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Justice Subverted By The CIA

The Central Intelligence Agency — which already has a record of infiltrating and corrupting other American institutions — has now been allowed to subvert the process of justice by vetoing the federal prosecution of a suspect in an alleged $8 million car stealing ring in southern California. The matter came to light when U.S. Attorney William Kennedy of San Diego told the *San Diego Union* that the Justice Department, at the CIA's request, had blocked the indictment of Miguel Nassar Haro, a Mexican who was formerly head of Mexico's Directorate of Federal Security. In confirming the Kennedy account, Justice Department officials said prosecution of Mr. Nassar would jeopardize sensitive international intelligence connections.

Twenty-eight Mexicans, including three agents of the Mexican security agency, have already been indicted and 14 of them convicted in connection with the stealing of nearly 600 cars, which were transported to Mexico and sold at inflated prices. Two of the defendants implicated Mr. Nassar, whose whereabouts are unknown. Mr. Kennedy, a Reagan appointee, said in speaking out that he was concerned about the theft victims — car owners or insurance companies that paid off claims.

But higher officials are more concerned with protecting an intelligence network, including the Mexican agency, that is reported to be supplying information on guerrillas in Central America. One U.S. official said: We "knew he (Nassar) was no angel. . . A lot of times we don't like their methods, but when you need information, you take what you can get." Not only were U.S. intelligence officials ready to take what they could get but they were willing to continue sharing information after Mr. Nassar was implicated in the stolen car case. So it appears that where intelligence is involved, important values, including the pursuit of justice, must give way.

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