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Trends. Blowing the Perfect Cover: The Trials of Mexico's Former Drug Czar

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Imagine General Jesus Gutierrez Rebollo preparing his defense for civilian and military trials concerning his alleged illegal involvement in illicit drug trafficking. "Yes, I was living in a building furnished by a powerful drug trafficker. Yes, I took money and other gifts from him. Yes, I protected his trafficking organization. Occasionally we arranged for minor portions of his assets to be captured by police authorities. Yes, I also took very significant actions against his primary adversary--another drug trafficker. So, I don't disagree agree with what I'm being accused of doing. I do disagree with how my behaviors have been labeled and maintain that I have done nothing wrong legally, ethically, and morally.

The significant actions against the adversary, the getting close to a powerful drug trafficker--all this was necessary to establish a relationship so that I could best manage what never can be totally eradicated. By protecting one trafficking organization, I could best attack others and finally minimize the corruption and murder accompanying the drug trade. Then, I could turn all my attention to the one remaining drug trafficker and destroy him and his organization. In fact, others political authorities and other drug traffickers who feared losing their piece of the pie are responsible for my current legal problems. I defy anyone to come up with a better way of protecting Mexico's viability, integrity, and sovereignty from the scourge of international drug trafficking--besides getting rid of the United States drug consumers who have caused the problem.

Now, you the jury. Am I the corrupt violator of trust who has been ceaselessly attacked in the mass media? Or a courageous hero trying to do a dirty job? (See Bersin, A.D. (1996.) El tercer pais: Reinventing the U.S./Mexico border. Stanford Law Review, 48, 1413-1420; Dillon, S. (August 22, 1997.) Trial of drug czar tests Mexico's new democracy. The New York Times, <http://www.nytimes.com>; Holden-Rhodes, J.F. (1997.) Sharing the secrets: Open source intelligence and the war on drugs. Praeger Publishers.)