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## NRL star's father sent drugs from Mexico: investigators

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### EXCLUSIVE

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Accused Australian drug smuggler Gregor Haas allegedly sent a shipment of methamphetamines to Indonesia – the seizure of which has him facing execution or life in prison – from a city in Mexico, hidden inside ceramic floor tiles, it can be revealed.

The father of Brisbane Broncos NRL star Payne Haas was arrested in the Philippines on Wednesday and is being held in Manila while Indonesia prepares its attempts to have him extradited.

“The drugs were seized by Indonesian authorities who later discovered via testimonies elicited from arrested drug couriers that the packages were sent by Haas from Guadalajara, Mexico,” the Philippines government said yesterday.

“Indonesia authorities have accused Haas, who has alleged links to the Sinaloa drug cartel, of being behind the attempt to smuggle into Indonesia on December 11, 2023, a shipment of floor ceramics filled with more than five kilograms of the illegal methamphetamine drug substance.”

The Sinaloa Cartel is one of the most powerful criminal organisations in the world. It was formerly headed by the drug kingpin known as “El Chapo”.

As revealed by the *Herald* on

Friday, the quantity of drugs found in the December bust is more than enough to qualify Haas for execution in Indonesia if extradited and convicted.

Philippine immigration commissioner Norman Tansingco said the arrest, which involved co-operation between local, Indonesian and Interpol investigators, was “a major accomplishment of the BI [Bureau of Immigration] in its continuing drive to flush out wanted foreign criminals in the country”.

The Philippine government has not responded to questions about whether it would allow extradition, or if it would impose a condition that Haas not be executed in the case he was ultimately found guilty.

Its statement said Haas was being held “pending deportation proceedings”. The precise meaning of this remained unclear. On Friday, the Indonesians told the *Herald* they expected “no problem” securing his extradition.

The Philippines is signed up to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which, if followed, would prevent it from sending Haas to a possible death sentence in another country.

ANU professor of international law Donald Rothwell said Haas could be used as a bargaining chip in the Philippines’ long-running attempt to bring home Mary Jane Veloso, who has been on death row

in Indonesia for more than a decade.

Rothwell said Haas could also fight extradition in the Philippine courts, which would delay Indonesia’s attempts.

The last Australians to be executed in Indonesia were Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran in 2015.



Broncos player Payne Haas with his accused father, Gregor. Photo: AAP