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## Wall of silence drawn around Negrin slaying

By Agustin Torres

Eulalio Jose Negrin is dead. But there was no cry of outrage from fellow Cubans over Negrin's murder on Sunday on a downtown Union City street.

A day after Negrin was mowed down by what police believe was a sub-machine gun, there was silence in the Cuban community as if the murdered man did not exist. Occasionally, some Cubans would joke about the shooting, saying that the police had ruled out suicide in the case.

Police say they have run into that

same wall of silence. A week before the shooting, the telephone numbers of many Cuban Nationalist Movement leaders and splinter organizations had been changed, said police superiors.

"Have you ever tried to call some of these guys?" asked an exasperated deputy police chief on the case. "You can't. There's no way to reach anyone right now."

"We don't even know if Negrin was really killed by that anti-Castro group (Omega 7)," said Police Chief Herman Bolte. "It could have been anyone calling us and claiming responsibility for the shooting."

But most of the detectives on the

case were concentrating on suspected anti-Castro terrorists who considered Negrin a traitor and marked him for death. Hudson County Prosecutor James T. O'Halloran said no definite leads have been uncovered so far.

Police say that they are convinced that the .45 caliber slugs that hit Negrin twice in the head, once through the neck, and twice in the side were fired by a sub-machine gun from a passing car. The assailant was wearing a ski mask. On Sunday, police broadcasts called for a search for a silver car with a red top, believed to be a late model Ford Granada.

"We'll make sure of the weapon when we get the ballistics tests back," said one of the police superiors. "The make of the gun can be determined by the grooves created by the slug as it travels through the barrel of the weapon. We are pretty sure that a short burst of 10 shots were fired from the weapon from the bullet casings that were found."

Police said that when Negrin was shot, about 9:50 a.m., he was not wearing the bullet-proof vest that he usually wore during the past year. He was also armed with a revolver at the time.

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# Negrin's slaying is walled in silence

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"It was the shot through the neck that killed him," said police investigators after recovering an autopsy report from the Hudson County medical examiner. Negrin was pronounced dead on arrival at Riverside General Hospital, Secaucus.

Negrin's problems began when he helped negotiate the release of Cuban political prisoners in Havana as part of the Committee of 75, a panel of Cuban exiles living in the United States who were quickly denounced as traitors by anti-Castro groups.

The organizations object to any negotiations with Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

Locally, Negrin and the Rev.

Andres Reyes of Holy Family Church, Union City, were members of the negotiating panel. Both received constant death threats on the telephone.

Negrin had an office on 4912 Park Ave., Weehawken, to aid Cuban exiles with bureaucratic problems ranging from immigration questionnaires to motor vehicle license applications. The operation had several names but it ended wga 7 took credit for bombing the office last March.

Negrin and Father Reyes held press conferences denouncing the bombings and federal and local authorities for failing to make arrests. It was then that Negrin claimed that the FBI was aware of who the bombers were and that he himself had met with them to persuade them to stop harassing him.

Father Reyes was later transferred from his parish after arguments broke ut among the parishioners over his role in the community.

Meanwhile, the FBI offered a \$20,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of Virgilio Pablo Paz, 26, of Union City, and Jose Dionisio Suarez, 39, of Elizabeth, in connection with the bombings.

The murdered man was born in 1941 in Matanzas, Cuba, and emigrated to this country in the 50s, settling in Elizabeth. He became active by joining the local NAACP. In 1964, he was chairman of the Home Peace Corps which aided some of the 25,000 Cuban refugees who came to this country that year.

The would-be politician also was

named secretary of the Elizabeth Cuban Club which claimed responsibility for establishing the first monument to Cuban patriot Jose Marti in the state.

Through his activities in Elizabeth, Negrin became known to U.S. State Department officials, with whom the Cuban often visited to discuss Cuban-American affairs.

It was not known when Negrin moved to Union City, but he first became a public figure when he unsuccessfully ran in 1977 against Mayor William V. Musto for a state Senate seat. The following year, he received only a few hundred votes as a candidate in the city Board of Commissioners in the 1978 municipal election.

But, Negrin was being heard and his statements earned him many detractors and enemies.

Once he sat in his home at 3804 New York Ave. wearing only pajamas explaining the lack of Cuban support for his political ambitions.

"Dominicans, Puerto Ricans and South Americans will take over Hudson County politics very soon," said Negrin.

Instead, Negrin was gunned down in front of 711 10th St. in front of one of his sons, Richard, 13. The Cuban had \$7,000 in his pocket and police say they do not know where the money came from or why he was on Tenth Street that morning.

Police said that Negrin's family wants a private burial service. They said that a West New York funeral home is handling the arrangements but the funeral home denies this.

Negrin leaves his wife, Lucila Munoz, and three children.