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Arocena indicted in terror attacks



Eduardo Arocena
FBI says he heads Omega 7

By **ELLAN CATES**
United Press International

NEW YORK—Eduardo Arocena, the reputed leader of the anti-Castro terrorist group Omega 7, was indicted yesterday on charges of attempting to murder the Cuban ambassador to the United Nations and planting 14 bombs in New York City and Miami.

The New York bombings include the simultaneous blasts at Lincoln Center and at the Cuban Mission to the U.N. on Dec. 28, 1978. One passer-by was injured.

Arocena, 40, a former New Jersey longshoreman, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Manhattan on charges of attempted murder, conspiracy to murder and the New York City bombings.

FBI agents have testified that Arocena confessed he was "Omar" — the commander-in-chief and founder of Omega 7. Arocena, however, speaking through his family, has denied making any confession.

Omega 7's reputed chief charged in murder try

"Eduardo Arocena is the self-admitted leader of Omega 7," FBI spokesman Kenneth Walton said at a Manhattan news conference. "He called himself Omar."

Omega 7 is a tightly knit group of Cuban nationalists dedicated to the overthrow of Cuban President Fidel Castro. FBI officials consider it one of the most active terrorist organizations in the United States.

The Cuban-born Arocena has been in

prison in Otisville, N.Y., since his arrest on explosives charges in Miami in July.

A Cuban defense fund based in Union City last week raised his \$250,000 bail, but before Arocena was released, a federal judge revoked any bail for him on grounds there would be a "risk of danger" if he were released.

A federal grand jury in U.S. District Court in Manhattan returned the seven-count indictment against Arocena.

It accused Arocena of conspiracy to murder and attempted murder in the aborted car-bombing of Cuban U.N. Ambassador Raul Roa-Kouri in 1980 outside the ambassador's Upper East Side residence.

The remote-control bomb attached under the ambassador's limousine fell off as the car was parked and never was detonated.

FBI agents testified at a preliminary hearing that Arocena said he refused to

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detonate the active bomb as the ambassador got into the limousine because a group of schoolgirls was walking by.

The indictment also accused Arocena in the simultaneous bombings Dec. 28, 1978, of Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center and at the Cuban Mission to the United Nations. A man walking past the Cuban Mission was injured in the blast.

In Miami, two grand juries also returned indictments against Arocena. Federal authorities in Miami announced yesterday that Arocena was charged in 11 bomb-

ings and attempted bombings in the Miami area and with weapons violations.

U.S. Attorney Rudolph Giuliani, who held the news conference at his Manhattan office, said Arocena will be arraigned next Thursday. If convicted, he could face a maximum penalty of life plus 70 years.

Asked whether the indictment would break "the back" of Omega 7, Walton said, "One never breaks a terrorist organization. The leaders are always replaced by someone else."

Giuliani and Walton said the investigation is continuing.

• **Omega 7's history has been short, but bloody**

• **Arocena's wife charges mistreatment by government**

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