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Details on 2A

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## Anti-Castro terrorists blamed in bombing

By JIM McGEE  
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A well-known anti-Castro terrorist was seen working under the car of outspoken Cuban newsman Emilio Milian shortly before a dynamite blast shattered the journalist's legs in April 1976, according to an eyewitness who has passed 10 police polygraph tests.

The eyewitness account is contained in a secret Justice Department memorandum that links the terrorist to a conspiracy to silence Milian for his harsh editorials

against a wave of terrorist bombings in Miami at the time.

Shortly before the attack, Milian was visited by two members of a terrorist group. They demanded that he stop his editorials. He refused.

The bombing remains the worst terrorist crime in South Florida's history.

The witness told police he saw Gaspar Jimenez, an exile militant well-known in Little Havana, and another man he didn't know in the parking lot outside WQBA, where Milian was news director.

### **The Milian Bombing: The Face of Terror**

He watched Jimenez stroll from the broadcaster's automobile, retrieve a tool box from another car, and then return to Milian's station wagon.

Soon after, Milian got in his car, turned the ignition key and set off a bomb that crippled him for life.

The blast from an estimated eight

pounds of dynamite roared up through the front of his car. It ripped up the floor board and threw the hood high into the air.

Co-workers at the radio station found him slumped inside the mangled station wagon, his legs shattered by the blast. Acrid smoke filled the air. Beneath the car, chunks of glass and steel were mingled

with blood.

Later, at Jackson Memorial Hospital, where surgeons amputated both of Milian's legs, his 15-year-old son, Alberto, grimly told a reporter: "The important thing, I think, is that he wants these people to be caught."

There have been no arrests and no public disclosure of the evidence gathered in the Milian investigation.

"What the terrorists really wanted was

*Please turn to MILIAN / 12A*

# Witness says he saw terrorist working on newsman's car

MILIAN/From 1A

to silence me, and they got that," Milian said recently.

Milian still lives in Miami, although he and WQBA have long since parted. He remains haunted by a deep sense of frustration: "What really hurts me," he says, "is the absence of justice in this case."

The eyewitness' account became the cornerstone for a law enforcement theory about who was responsible for the Milian bombing.

The bombing, according to a Justice Department memorandum, resulted from "a larger conspiracy, probably comprised of three facets:

"(1) The originators of the plan to bomb Milian for his outspoken criticism of anti-Castro terrorism. (2) The planners, who worked out the details and provided the means and manpower. (3) The 'action men,' or those who actually carried out the bombing . . . Gaspar Eugenio Jimenez and Gustavo Castillo.

"Both men have extensive backgrounds in terrorist activities, primarily carried out abroad," said the Justice Department memorandum. "Castillo, in particular, has a reputation for devising and making small, powerful bombs of dynamite and plastic explosive."

In the past, Jimenez and Castillo have vehemently maintained their innocence in the Milian case. Much of the evidence implicating them in the bombing, such as polygraph test results, would not have been admissible in court.

"I don't have any knowledge of the Milian case or who did it," Castillo told a reporter in 1977.

Today, the two men are considered revolutionary heroes in some segments of Little Havana because of their anti-Castro terrorism. In 1978, Miami Mayor Maurice Ferre assisted efforts to stop their extradition to Mexico on charges of killing and attempting to kidnap Cuban diplomatic personnel.

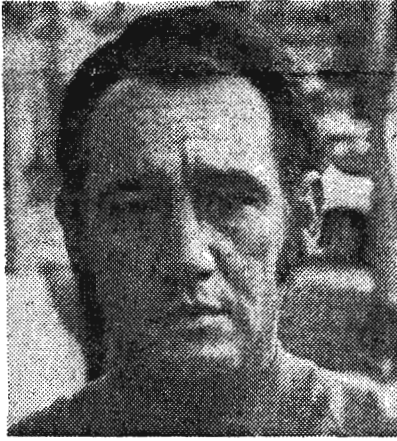
There is no doubt that state and federal law enforcement officials considered both men terrorists during the late 1970s. A secret FBI report obtained by The Herald — titled "Survey of Anti-Castro Cuban Terrorist Activities in the United States" — lists both as principal figures.

Miami had never had a terrorist act quite like the Milian bombing.

With it, the anti-Castro movement seemed to turn viciously inward and strike at a staunch anti-Communist who was highly regarded in Little Havana.

From the beginning, the Milian case overwhelmed Miami's law enforcement community. The investigation was hampered by sloppy police work in Miami, bureaucratic inertia in Washington and conflicts inherent in the FBI's dual role in Miami of chasing anti-Castro terrorists and tracking pro-Castro spies.

Confusion became a recurring theme soon after police reached the WQBA parking lot. A 1981 police department memorandum acknowledges that during the initial days of the investigation no one "was in over-all command over the different agencies. [and] each seemed to



Gaspar Jimenez: Accused by witness.



Gustavo Castillo: Bomb-making reputation.

drift off into its own course. . . . As a result, not enough physical evidence was obtained."

Rumors and tips poured into Miami Police Headquarters. At times, more than 50 investigators worked on the case. They pursued various motives, ranging from personal jealousy to extortion. They probed the possible involvement of Mafia hitmen or Castro spies.

Police got their first real break in the case about three months after the bombing, when they stumbled upon the eyewitness. He will not be named in this account because officials say he would be endangered.

The eyewitness said that less than one hour before the bombing, he walked past the WQBA parking lot in the company of a second person and saw Gaspar Jimenez working under Milian's car. Two other witnesses partially corroborated his version of events.

The eyewitness told police he watched Gaspar Jimenez walk from the parking lot, retrieve a tool box from a parked car, and then return to Milian's station wagon. He said a second man he didn't recognize assisted Jimenez.

Jimenez was a well-known figure in the world of anti-Castro terrorism. He was considered a member of Accion Cubana, a group allegedly headed by the terrorist-bomber Orlando Bosch, and is presently in jail in Mexico charged in a terrorist kidnaping attack on Cuban diplomats.

The eyewitness who said he saw Jimenez working on Milian's car was given 10 separate polygraph examinations by George Slattery, a respected Miami-based examiner,

police say, and Slattery concluded the eyewitness was telling the truth.

"The [polygraph] charts were book perfect," said Ozzie Austin, the Miami Police Department detective who was the case's lead investigator.

When police questioned Jimenez about the Milian bombing, he denied involvement. He said he had an alibi, that he was in Puerto Rico on the day of the bombing.

Jimenez said witnesses saw him in Puerto Rico and would confirm he was on an airline flight that landed in Miami within an hour before the explosion.

When police checked the alibi they found at least one discrepancy. Initial statements from the Puerto Rico witnesses were inconsistent with Jimenez's version of events.

Because of the polygraph tests and other corroborating evidence, police eventually accepted the eyewitness' account, but that was after a conflict arose over his past dealings with the FBI and his credibility as an informant.

The eyewitness told police he had earlier discussed the Milian bombing with now-retired FBI agent Vince Warger, who was then assigned to counterintelligence work in Miami.

Warger had come to doubt the informant's credibility, however, in connection with an unrelated investigation. The witness was unable to identify photographs of Cuban diplomats he said he had met in Miami. Eventually, FBI reports described the informant as someone "proven to be unreliable."

Warger said he was prohibited from commenting on the Milian case.

Despite Warger's misgivings, the eyewitness account caused police to focus their attention on Jimenez.

A laborer with Florida East Coast Railway, Jimenez has been described as a quiet, reserved family man whose diligence and hard work impressed his supervisors.

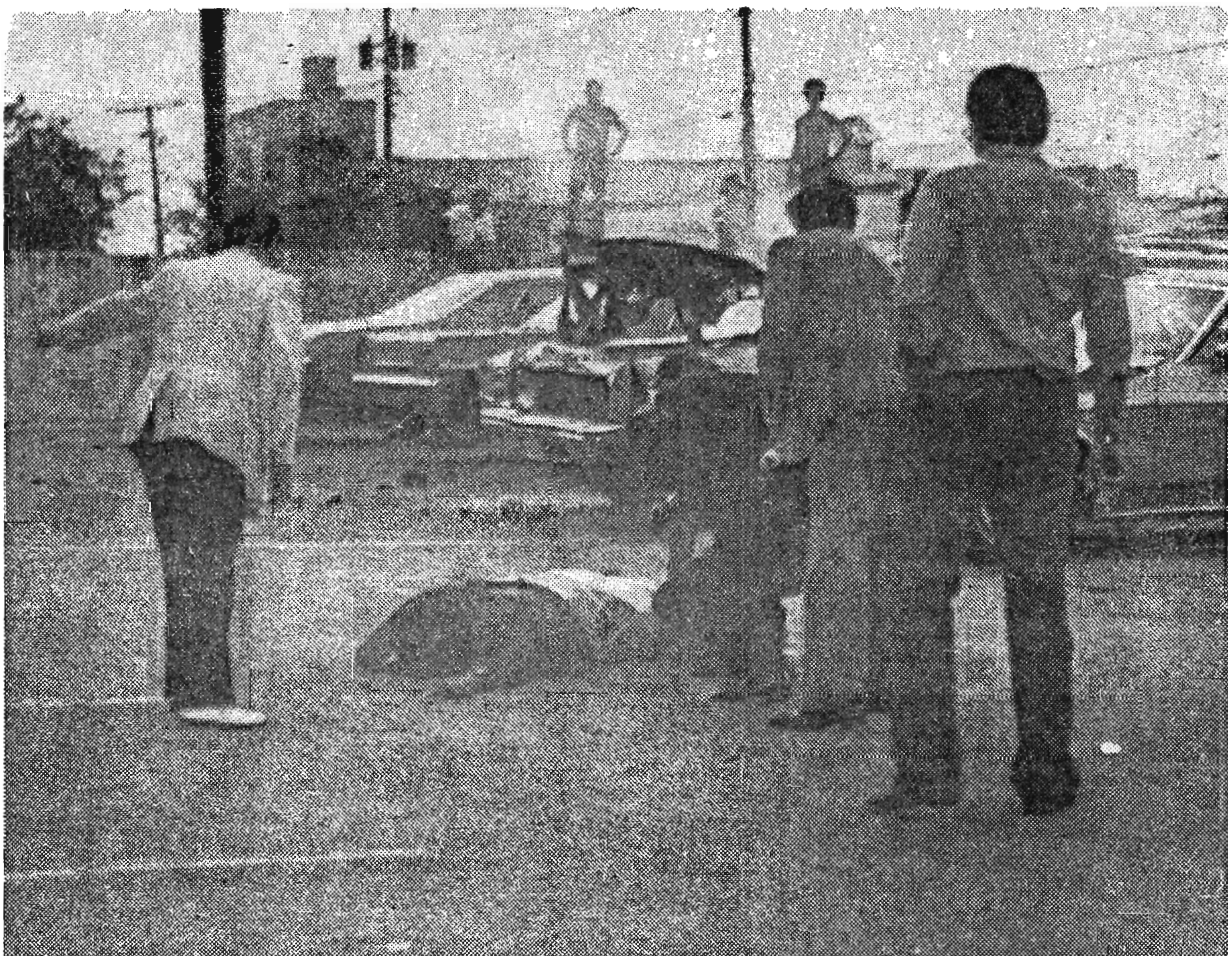
A naturalized American citizen, Jimenez lived in a Little Havana home with his wife, Maria del Carmen, and two daughters. Those who have met him say his commitment to the Cuban exile cause runs deep.

Miami attorney Paul Pollack, who represented Jimenez, dismisses the bombing allegation. He said Jimenez would have told him about being involved in the Milian case so Pollack could use that information as leverage in the unsuccessful bid to stop Jimenez's extradition to Mexico in 1981.

"Notwithstanding the lie detector test, these people are pretty cute," Pollack said. ". . . I wouldn't give any credence that Gaspar was there [in the WQBA parking lot]."

In February 1978, almost two years after the bombing, police identified a second suspect, Gustavo Castillo, who once acknowledged to The Herald that his relationship with Jimenez was virtually "father and son."

This new information surfaced when Ricardo (Monkey) Morales was arrested on drug charges and agreed to talk about the Milian



ASELA RODRIGUEZ

**Police try to assist injured Emilio Milian after bomb ripped through car in 1976.**

bombing in a bid for leniency in his drug case.

Morales told police that Castillo admitted to him that he made the bomb used in the Milian attack from explosives provided by another suspected member of a Miami-based exile group known as FLNC, or the National Front for the Liberation of Cuba.

"It seems it was the consensus among them that Milian was to be bombed," Morales told police.

The FLNC was already suspected in previous terrorist bombings. And members of FLNC, or exile groups later linked to CORU, had warned Milian that his editorials were hurting their fund-raising efforts in Little Havana.

Morales said he knew Castillo. Police already were aware that Mo-

rales had socialized with suspected members of the FLNC and other CORU-linked exile groups in Miami.

It was Morales' habit of incriminating his close associates that later undercut his credibility as a witness.

Last year, months before Morales was killed in a barroom shooting, a trial judge in an unrelated case described Morales as "a man known to the police to sell his services to the highest bidder ... a man highly suspect amongst the law enforcement community."

But that judicial criticism in 1982 came years after Morales had been a valuable and generally accurate informant for the FBI and other state and federal agencies in Miami.

The Herald has obtained a previ-

ously secret transcript of the 1978 police interrogation of Morales. In it, he says he spoke with Castillo and another FLNC member about the Milian bombing and that they admitted their involvement to him.

He said they told him that Castillo built the bomb from explosives provided by another FLNC member, and that Jimenez and a fourth man placed it in Milian's station wagon in the WQBA parking lot.

"Gus Castillo is the one who built it [the bomb]," Morales said, according to the transcript. "... The information that I get is that Gustavo actually is the one who built that ... and Gaspar went down there

## The Milian Bombing

# Informants' credibility questioned

*Shirley M. ...*  
MILIAN / From 12A 4-10-83  
13A

with [a third exile]" and wired the bomb to the car's ignition.

### 'Guilt by association'

Like Jimenez, Castillo was also a familiar name to investigators of anti-Castro terrorism. More the outspoken revolutionary than Jimenez, he was considered by investigators to be a principal member of FLNC.

"That's the main reason the police came to [Castillo]," said his attorney, Jeffrey Weiner. "Guilt by association."

Now 35, Castillo returned to Miami in December 1982 from Mexico. He had been jailed with Jimenez in connection with the unsuccessful attempt to kidnap the Cuban consul. The consul's chauffeur was killed in that incident.

Weiner says Castillo, a former Hialeah High School student now learning the insurance business in Miami, refuses to comment on the Milian case. Weiner scoffs at Morales' statements.

"When the pressure is on to solve the case, the police will grasp at straws like Morales, [who] is notorious for being one of the biggest con men to ever hit the area."

In addition to Morales, Castillo was also implicated in the Milian case by a second informant with credibility problems, Manuel Ortega, a twice convicted felon and admitted terrorist bomber.

In 1977, Ortega pleaded guilty to helping Castillo carry out a bombing at the University of Miami during a visit by black radical Angela Davis. The bomb went off three weeks before the Milian attack.

In a pretrial statement, Ortega told police that when Castillo handed him the bomb for the University of Miami, he told Ortega that another bomb intended for Milian was "on the way."

### Ortega's credibility

Police believed Ortega because of his confession in the University of Miami case, his willingness to testify publicly against Castillo and the results of a polygraph test that showed he was telling the truth.

Weiner represented Castillo in the University of Miami case and cross-examined Ortega during a

trial that ended in Castillo's acquittal. He calls Ortega a "killer" who "has no credibility."

"He would do or say anything the government wanted him to say," Weiner said. "... There is no reason to believe this one statement is any truer than all [Ortega's] other lies under oath."

By 1979, there was a third incident that indicated to police that Castillo was involved. In an effort to clear his name, Castillo went to the Miami FBI office and took a polygraph test on his protestations of innocence in the Milian case.

Castillo failed that polygraph test, according to a report, which said it produced results "indicating his knowledge of and possible participation in the Milian bombing."

Today, Weiner says the test was a set-up.

"It was a government-controlled polygraph test," he said. "... It was always unclear what was deceptive [about his answers]."

Other evidence against both Castillo and Jimenez was circumstantial.

A Justice Department report reflects that Accion Cubana and the FLNC were part of a "powerful core" of Miami-based terrorists suspected in terrorist attacks linked to CORU, a coalition of anti-Castro groups. Weiner acknowledges Castillo was trained in the use of explosives.

### Anti-terrorism stand

Investigators agree with Milian that his anti-terrorism editorials in 1976 — a virtually unheard-of stand for an exile journalist to take — led to the attack.

"In my mind it was terrorism," said Sgt. Paul Janosky, head of the Metro-Dade Organized Crime Bureau's terrorist squad.

Milian said he had received several death threats and veiled warnings from persons linked to exile groups in the CORU coalition, including a personal visit from two FLNC members who demanded Milian soften his stand.

"I received a lot of calls," Milian said recently. "They asked me to stop the campaign against them. ... I remember that they [FLNC members] complained that my criticism of those that made payments was creating a very bad effect for their fund-raising."

Today, Milian lives quietly with his wife in a Miami home that serves as a kind of shrine to his abruptly ended career. It is heavily secured, with outdoor lighting, bars on the windows and a pit bull watchdog. Inside, plaques, journalism awards and photographs adorn the walls.

Radio station WQBA remains popular in Little Havana.

In recent months, the station contributed air time to help a fund-raising drive for two Cuban revolutionaries who were jailed in Mexico.

The goal: To raise money for Gaspar Jimenez and Gustavo Castillo.