



Miami News Staff Photo by BOB MACK

Wife visits Humberto Lopez, chained to hospital bed

# Who are the mysterious FLNC people with war names?

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At dark of night, a bomb explodes in the faces of two Miami Cubans who are painstakingly putting it together, and the presence of anti-Castro terrorism is felt once again.

Luis Crespo and Humberto Lopez, both 32, are in Jackson Memorial Hospital, severely maimed by a bomb which was to have been inserted gingerly into a hollowed-out book.

Police say they are members of the Frente de Liberacion Nacional Cubano (Cuban National Liberation Front) which has painted Little Havana storefronts with their black initials FLNC.

The group's activities are the first instance of active anti-Castro activity here since the days, six years ago, when the Cuban Power organization bombed the offices of foreign organizations whose countries traded with Cuba.

But leaders of the FLNC — which claims

between 60 and 100 active members and many more sympathizers to the cause — say the organization is less vicious in its actions. While it sank, it says, five Cuban ships in international waters in the last five months, its leaders assert they did not harm any of the crews and permitted them to return to Cuba.

It has taken credit however, for the bombing of embassies in Mexico and Chile, and the mining of a Bahamian ship that blew up in the Miami River last New Year's Eve.

Who are these people of the FLNC?

A Miami News reporter met three of them recently in a darkened, curtained, mobile camper trailer. The clandestine meeting was set up by an anonymous phone caller.

All three were hooded.

Ignacio, a Miami businessman, is an honor graduate in engineering from an American university. Maximo is a mechanic. Carlos is a fac-

tory worker. The three said the names they were using were "war-names."

Their aim, they said, is simple: to hit the Castro regime wherever it is the most vulnerable. "Only with blood, sweat and sacrifice shall we reach victory" is their slogan.

Ignacio claimed, "We are not terrorists or violent people. We love peace and we want peace in Cuba, but regrettably we have to resort to violence now as the only way left to fight Castro."

They hope their actions will lead to internal insurrection in Cuba and, inevitably the down fall of Fidel Castro's regime.

The FLNC terrorists, products of both Cuban and American culture, are in their 20s or early 30s. Many are U.S. Army and Vietnam War veterans. Most were educated here, but maintain a patriotic fervor for their original

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# 3 FLNC leaders tell of flight

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homeland.

Their funds come from local Cuban business and professional leaders, they say.

Lopez and Crespo were both ardent anti-Castroites. Crespo, who lost an arm and the fingers of his other hand and had his face mutilated by the bomb blast early yesterday, had worked as a cashier in the Andres Pharmacy here. He left the pharmacy 18 months ago to start a construction business of his own.

Rolando Jaspe, an employe at the pharmacy, recalls Crespo as "a man very involved with matters related to Cuba and very dedicated to the cause of a free Cuba."

Like Lopez, Crespo, who lives with his wife Olga and two sons at 18901 NW 52nd Ave., had police records for illegal possession of firearms.

Lopez, of 460 W. 42nd Pl., underwent surgery early this morning. He has lost his left eye, three fingers on his left hand and one finger on his right hand. He also has a puncture wound in the throat and multiple injuries of the shoulders, chest and stomach.

He was in the recovery room this morning.

Crespo is still in critical condition in the intensive care unit. In addition to the lost hand and forearm, he has a broken jaw and lost several of his teeth. Doctors say vision in both eyes may have been damaged.

Yesterday, before emergency surgery, Lopez told The Miami News that, when the bomb exploded, his friend Crespo grabbed what was left of his arm, and yelled in Spanish, "Humberto, I've lost a hand. Long live a free Cuba." They had been assembling the bomb in the garage of a friend at 234 SW 16th St., Police said.

Both Crespo and Lopez are manacled to their Jackson Memorial Hospital beds. Their relatives are bitter, but police who have charged both with illegal possession of explosive and intent to inflict bodily injury and property damage, said this was normal in cases involving felonies.

Charged as an accessory before and after the fact was

Joaquin Miranda, 28, of 4217 NW 196th St., who was unharmed by the blast. Later, he was released without bail.

Bond hearings for Crespo and Lopez will not be held until they are moved from the hospital to jail.

Lopez and Crespo were both veterans of three years in the U.S. Army and regarded in exile circles as dedicated patriots. Lopez' father, Humberto Sr., who works as a columnist for Replica magazine, is a leader of a faction within the Cuban Revolutionary Party — Authentic (Authenticos).

Lopez Sr., also is one of the organizers of an "Ecuencal-Patriotic Ceremony — Pro Cuba" to be held at Miami Stadium April 14 at 2 p.m. A cocktail party and

press conference scheduled to be held yesterday to announce the rally was canceled because of the condition of Lopez Jr.

The senior Lopez maintained today, "My son has never been involved in any terrorist activity. He is simply a man who loves his country."

Lopez' wife Matilde, stayed all afternoon yesterday in her husband's hospital room. She has a son 15, by a previous marriage. Lopez, a U-Haul inspector, graduated from Jackson Senior High School.

Crespo's wife, Olga, said she dreaded telling their two sons, Luis Alberto Jr., 11, and Olga Maria, 7, about their father's condition. "I don't want them to suffer," she kept saying. "I don't want them to suffer."

What impact the incident would have on the activities of the FLNC could not be immediately gauged.

The hooded Ignacio, in that nocturnal interview, had said that its ideology is almost as anti-U.S. government as it is anti-Communist.

"We want Cuba to be completely sovereign and independent of any foreign powers," said Ignacio.

Despite "undue harassment from U.S. agencies, we have succeeded in hitting the regime where and when we have chosen to, and we will continue to do so.

"We have proven to the world and to our countrymen inside Cuba that the invulnerability of Castro is a myth."

(There have been no reports in the U.S. press of terrorist actions — like the sinking of the five ships — claimed by the FLNC. There have, however, been reports over Havana Radio claiming harassment of the country's fishing fleet by Central Intelligence Agency men.)

The organization's headquarters, said Ignacio, "is located somewhere outside the United States." But cells are active everywhere. FLNC signs have appeared in every city where there are Cuban exiles as well as in some Latin and European cities. Many of their communiques have been postmarked in Paris and Madrid.

Said Ignacio: "Our activities now are the birth certificate that first must be obtained to be able to unify all the factors needed to hit Fidel Castro at home."



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Group slogan scrawled across wall in Little Havana