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HOLDING ON: Cubans march down Southwest Eighth Street on Saturday in support of jailed anti-Castro militant Orlando Bosch.

Exiles steadfast in supporting Bosch

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By **DAVID HANCOCK**
Herald Staff Writer

Orlando Bosch may be weary of fighting the government's efforts to deport him, but Miami's Cuban exile community hasn't tired of showing its support for the jailed anti-Castro militant.

About 2,500 supporters marched through Little Havana on Saturday afternoon during the latest of many

public displays of affection for Bosch, who has been imprisoned here since February 1988.

The mostly middle-aged Cubans marched down Southwest Eighth Street from Southwest 27th Avenue to the Bay of Pigs monument at 13th Avenue. They waved banners saying that deporting Bosch was the same as sending him to a firing squad, and that Fidel Castro, not

Bosch, is the real threat to the United States.

"He's very much loved by the Cuban community," said supporter Enrique Marti Cabo. "He is not a terrorist, as the U.S. government claims."

Bosch decided this week not to appeal his deportation case after a federal judge upheld a government ruling that he should be deported as

a threat to national security.

His family said they were moved by the continuing support from the Cubans.

"It's very touching. We had very little time to plan a march," said Bosch's wife, Adriana.

"I guess they figure if they can't do anything else to help him, they might as well come out and support him," said Bosch's daughter Myriam.