



MARICE COHN BAND / Miami Herald Staff

RALLY IN RAIN: About 300 demonstrators turned out at the county courthouse on Monday to support Orlando Bosch and fight his deportation.

Bosch renounces armed struggle

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By **CHRISTOPHER MARQUIS**
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Anti-Castro militant Orlando Bosch ended months of silence Monday with a passionate rebuttal to U.S. charges that he is a terrorist who is unworthy of political asylum.

Bosch, who was slated for deportation by a U.S. Justice Department ruling last Friday, declared he has renounced armed struggle, has never harmed people who are "innocent or outside our dispute," and is the victim of a campaign of lies.

"For many, many years, I have been recommending that we don't do any more violent actions in this country," he said in a 10-minute speech that was broadcast over

Spanish-language radio. Such acts, Bosch said, "only harvest for us the alienation and rejection of the American people."

Bosch's declarations, issued from his cell at the Metropolitan Correctional Center, came as 300 supporters rallied on the steps of the county courthouse Monday afternoon. Chanting "Libertad, Orlando Bosch," they stepped into the driving rain and paraded with a 10-foot Cuban flag.

"He represents the freedom of Cuba," Senaya Rodriguez, a Miami-Dade Community College student, shouted over car horns and rumbling thunder.

Several of a dozen or so people caught in the crush said they weren't persuaded.

"They should send him to another country. We can't have him here," said Hilda Gilbert. "I'm against what he did. He's a terrorist."

Anita Nuñez, a visiting businesswoman from Tampa, agreed: "They should find a country like Panama to take him."

Monday morning, a group of leading Dade Republicans announced they would send a delegation to Washington to ask President Bush to release Bosch and urged backers to send telegrams to the White House. U.S. Sen. Connie Mack sent a letter to the president requesting a meeting.

"The Republican Party of Dade County will not abandon Orlando Bosch," declared

David Craig, the party's county vice chairman. Politicos at his side included state Reps. Carlos Valdes, R-Miami Springs; Nilo Juri, R-Hialeah; and state Sen. Javier Souto, R-Miami.

Bosch, a 62-year-old baby doctor and vehement Castro foe, has been in U.S. custody since he returned illegally to the United States in February 1988. He was returning from Venezuela where he was jailed 11 years in connection with a Cuban airliner bombing for which he was never convicted.

U.S. immigration officials studied the case for more than a year before Acting As-

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