

U.S. DISTRICT COURT

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June 21 hearing set on Bosch release

U.S. District Judge William Hoeverler on Thursday scheduled a June 21 hearing on whether anti-Castro activist Orlando Bosch should be freed from prison pending a final decision on his immigration status.

Bosch's immigration case is being reviewed by the U.S. Justice Department in Washington. But his attorneys filed papers to have him released into custody of his family while that decision is being made.

In May 1988, Hoeverler refused a similar request while elements of Bosch's case that might affect national security were being studied by Stephen Martin, southern regional commissioner in Dallas for the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Martin has since ruled that confidential government reports of Bosch's alleged terrorist activities in Latin America were insufficient to have him deported without a full review by an INS officer.

Bosch is seeking political asylum in Miami after spending 11 years in Venezuela on charges that he masterminded the bombing of a Cuban jetliner in 1976. He was never convicted of those charges. He has remained in prison in South Dade since Feb. 16, 1988, when he flew to Miami.