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Friends petition for Bosch release

Orlando Bosch, the jailed anti-Castro activist the U.S. government has sought unsuccessfully to deport, Thursday got some backing from friends who urged the Justice Department to modify its conditions for Bosch's release from prison.

"What you are proposing not only wounds the dignity of Dr. Bosch," they wrote in a petition presented at a Little Havana press conference, "it hurts the sensibilities of those of us who came to this land in search of understanding of our national drama."

Bosch, 63, has refused to accept the government's condition that he record the names of visitors and other contacts if he is released from prison and placed under house arrest. Bosch has said this would make him an informant.

Bosch's lawyers are trying to get the Justice Department to drop the visitor's log requirement. Neither the Justice Department nor Bosch's lawyers could be reached for comment.