

## MARCHERS DEMAND FREEDOM FOR JAILED ANTI-CASTRO MILITANT



JON KRAL / Miami Herald Staff

**RALLY IN LITTLE HAVANA:** Marchers on Southwest Eighth Street carry a Cuban flag and placards Thursday supporting anti-Castro activist Orlando Bosch.

# Pro-Bosch strike shuts hundreds of shops

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A unified show of support for jailed anti-Castro militant Orlando Bosch shut down hundreds of Cuban-owned businesses in Little Havana, Hialeah, Westchester and other heavily Hispanic pockets of Dade for three hours Thursday.

Large chains such as Sedano's Supermarkets and Popular Discount Pharmacies, and landmark restaurants such as Versailles and La Carreta shut their doors from noon to 3 p.m., as did shopping centers, and blocks of

mom-and-pop cafeterias and shops lining the streets of Little Havana.

The shutdown, labeled a "general strike" by Bosch supporters, began with a rally of about 1,500 people at Southwest Eighth Street and 27th Avenue. The crowd marched east on Eighth Street for an hour before getting soaked by a thundershower.

The protests were the latest show of support for Bosch, a 62-year-old pediatrician who was ordered deported last Friday by the U.S. government.

Bosch, who in the past has espoused vio-

lence against the Castro government as a legitimate tool of the struggle against communism, has become a symbol of patriotism to many Cuban Americans. The U.S. government, however, has labeled him an "unwavering terrorist."

Bosch has been in federal custody in South Dade since he arrived from Venezuela in February 1988. Before his arrival, Bosch spent 12 years in Venezuelan prisons accused — but never convicted — of blowing up a Cuban jetliner in 1976, killing 73 people. His lawyers plan to fight his deportation

at a federal court hearing in Miami on July 14.

Not unexpectedly, the most unified support for Bosch on Thursday came in Little Havana, where virtually every business east of 27th Avenue on Calle Ocho shut down, as did about three-fourths of the shops on Flagler and Southwest First streets.

"He has had to pay more than he should for a crime he didn't commit," said Roberto B. Urquiza, manager of the Clinica Medical

PLEASE SEE BOSCH, 10A

# Support for Bosch shuts hundreds of shops

## Marchers demand freedom for jailed anti-Castro militant

BOSCH, FROM 1A

Center at 2135 SW Eighth St. "It was the right thing for us to do, as doctors, as human beings."

Marchers and business owners expressed similar sentiments about Bosch: that he has served more than enough time in U.S. and Venezuelan prisons, and he is a symbol of the Cuban exile who continued the fight against Castro and communism after leaving Cuba.

"Anybody who has sacrificed his freedom, his profession, his family, his life against communism deserves our support," said Ida Budihas, a social worker from Jackson Memorial Hospital.

"I'm very proud of the people for standing by us," said Bosch's daughter Myriam Bosch, who led the parade along with her sister Lourdes Bosch Blinder, and Bosch's wife Adriana.

On Palm Avenue in Hialeah, more than two-thirds of the merchants closed their shops and businesses.

Vicente Rodriguez, president of the Hialeah Chamber of Commerce & Industries, said he had encouraged Cuban-owned businesses to close in support of Bosch.

"This is our way of sending a message to President Bush and the Cabinet that we support Orlando Bosch," said Enrique Garcia, owner of the Popular Discount grocery store at West 19th Street and Palm Avenue. "It doesn't matter how much money we lose during these hours because it's for a good cause."

Daniel Cabrera, a manager at the Popular Discount store in Sweetwater, said all 12 stores in Dade had closed.

"If we had this many people united, then the voice of the people will reach the government," Cabrera said.



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A police horse is stationed at Southwest Eighth Street and 27th Avenue during pro-Bosch rally Thursday.

"It is a good cause."

Everglades Lumber & Building Supply, with two stores in Southwest Dade, closed, as did Northwestern Meat International, 2100 NW 23rd St., where a recorded bilingual message greeted callers: "We are supporting the freedom of Orlando Bosch."

An informal telephone survey of a dozen Cuban-owned companies Monday showed that some of the largest Cuban-run businesses in Dade remained open,

including the appliance chain Kaufman & Roberts and Republic National Bank.

Although state law does not prohibit a bank from setting its own hours, a state banking regulator said a bank could leave itself vulnerable to civil lawsuits from customers who expected it to be open.

Horacio Garcia, owner of Garcia-Menendez Enterprises, 8390 NW 53rd St., said he advocates Bosch's release and joined in Thursday's march. But Garcia said he

could not afford to close the six McDonald's restaurants he manages in Dade.

"I am part of a big organization and it doesn't serve any purpose to close my business," he said. "I have a lot of customers and I can't afford to lose them."

Other businesses staying open were Salman Realty, run by former Dade Republican Chairman Carlos Salman, and Church and Tower, the contracting firm owned by Cuban American National Foundation Chairman Jorge Mas Canosa.

"We have cut all nonessential work at my company," said Mas Canosa, who attended the demonstration.

"I work for the telephone company and I couldn't cut off essential emergency jobs, jobs that are pending for service, jobs that the telephone company relies on to provide telephone service," he said.

The work shutdown also drew scattered response from areas of Dade with smaller Hispanic populations. In south Miami Beach, the Salgado Market at Fifth Street and Collins Avenue was locked shut. Roberto Salgado, 59, stood at the door and held up three fingers to show his irritated customers when he would reopen.

"Orlando Bosch is a patriot. He loves his country," Salgado said.

In Sweetwater, where most of the businesses are run by Nicaraguans, a few businesses closed in sympathy.

"We're just doing it because we don't want them to deport that man," said Gladys de Ocaña, a clerk at El Leon Dorado bakery at 11 SW 107th Ave.

Back at the Bosch march on Calle Ocho, Jackson Hospital social worker Budihas and co-worker Mayra Miro said they were a little disappointed to see that most of the Bosch marchers were in their 40s or older.

"I'm concerned about that, because when this generation passes on, there won't be another to take their place," Miro said.

"It's the parents' responsibility to teach their children patriotism, and consciousness of our roots," Budihas said. "Because we are Cubans."

Herald staff writers Angelo Figueroa, Sandra Dibble, Karen Branch and Celia Dugger contributed to this report.