

Arrest of 2 in Mexico

shocks families

By **HELGA SILVA**
Miami News Reporter

For the last four weeks Gaspar Jimenez has been sitting in a Mexico City jail. Authorities say he is involved in an international kidnapping and murder scandal. His family sits at home, baffled at the news.

Jimenez, 40, is an unskilled laborer who worked overtime for the Florida East Coast Railway so he could add a swimming pool to his three-bedroom house. He took a second job last Christmas to buy a stereo system for his young daughters.

"We rarely were seen together because my husband didn't like parties, the movies, visits or socializing," his wife said. "He rarely left the house other than to go to work. All he did after work when he got home was watch TV."

His cellmate is Orestes Ruiz Hernandez, 28, a high school dropout from Hialeah, who, according to his father, worked his way up from a refrigeration technician to become the owner of his own refrigeration repair firm.

Jimenez, of 5250 SW 2nd St., and Ruiz



JIMENEZ

are accused of attempting to kidnap the Cuban consul of Merida, Mexico, and killing the consulate's chief of investigations on July 24.

Jimenez was shot in his left arm by a policeman accidentally during his arrest.

A third man, Gustavo Castillo, managed to elude the Mexican police and is believed in the United States. The FBI, which became involved in the case at the request of Mexican authorities, is looking for Castillo and trying to determine whether there was a Miami-based conspiracy to attack another country.

It was the third attempt against Cuban embassies in less than a year. A fourth, almost identical, occurred last week when two Cuban Embassy officials were kidnaped in Argentina.

The families of Jimenez and Ruiz — who did not know each other before the incident — have pooled their resources to hire a lawyer for the two men.

"I was shocked when I read the news in the papers," said Mrs. Jimenez. "He was not involved or active in any political organizations that I know of."

Ruiz' father, Mario Ruiz, was also worried. "We have always been a very close family and he has always been responsible in his business and never discussed or even talked politics at home," said the elder Ruiz. However, Ruiz and his wife moved to Puer-

to Rico last year and had lost touch of the day-to-day activities of their son who remained in Miami.

Friends agreed that Jimenez, a naturalized American citizen, was a quiet, reserved man. He was a freight handler "who was always on time, a good worker who rarely missed a day," according to his foreman, Orlando Manrique.

However, he did have strong political convictions. He fought against the Batista regime as a guerrilla in the famous ninth column under Huber Matos in Cuba. When Matos fell out of grace with Castro and was jailed in October 1959, Jimenez was jailed with the group. After his release he renounced his military commission with the rebel army and left the island in March, 1961.

Ruiz, who has retained his refugee status, came to the United States from Cuba in 1962 with his parents when he was 14. He had no political affiliation known to his father or his clients.

Jimenez allegedly went to Mexico to recuperate from a gastric ulcer operation. "He had never taken a break in all the 15 years we have been in the U.S. All he had ever done was work like a mule," said Mrs. Jimenez, a teacher's aide in the Dade Public School system.

He worked until noon of the day he left for Mexico — July 19. He did not tell his boss that he was leaving, nor did he take vacation. "After several days missing from work someone called us and said he was in New York with a sick brother," said Manrique. "After the news and all the days missing he was automatically dropped from the company."

At work his friends raised \$200 to help the family defray expenses.

No one knows why Ruiz went to Mexico. His father has not been allowed to talk to him since he was arrested.

Mrs. Jimenez flew to Mexico city July 27 and spoke with officials at the U.S. embassy, but did not attempt to visit her husband in jail.

"The Embassy didn't dissuade me, but I felt insecure in the area and I had to think about my two children back here," said Mrs. Jimenez. "However, they (U.S. officials) have seen him and they say he is okay but looks very tired."

Ruiz, who was caught at the Merida Airport in Mexico with a false passport issued to a "Manuel Allen," cannot benefit from any U.S. Embassy services abroad since he is a refugee.

"He is stateless," said a spokesman for the State Department's Special Consular Services. "Terrorist activities are against U.S. policies and the U.S. cannot appear involved in the case of terrorism against a third country which we are not at war."

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Kidnap Attempt Probed

By CHERYL BROWNSTEIN
And GLORIA MARINA
Herald Staff Writers

A federal grand jury investigating terrorism will begin today to question a Hialeah man about the attempted kidnaping of the Cuban consul in Mérida, Mexico, last July.

Gustavo Castillo was returned from Puerto Rico this week on a federal warrant requiring him to appear before the jury as a material witness; he faces no charges. Samuel Sheres, one of his court-appointed attorneys, said Thursday he will seek Castillo's release when his testimony is concluded.

Magistrate Charlene Sorrentino issued the warrant after hearing sworn testimony from an FBI agent regarding possible violations of the U.S. Neutrality Act.

THE JURY will ask Castillo what he knows about the July 23 would-be abduction of Cuban Consul Daniel Ferrer Fernández, which failed after a shootout in which Dartánan Díaz Díaz, a consulate aide, was killed. Two suspects, Gaspar Eugenio Jiménez Escobedo and Orestes Ruiz Hernández, have already confessed to the attack, Mexican officials say.

A third participant is still being sought.

Mexican police say they found Castillo's passport, Mexican tourist visa and an airline ticket for his trip from Miami to Cozumel, when they arrested Jiménez Escobedo and Ruiz Hernández in Mérida.

"The Mexican officials also found additional evidence, including two guns which were used during the shooting," states a sworn FBI statement presented to Magistrate Sorrentino.

"MY INVESTIGATION shows that one of the firearms was purchased in Miami, Florida in May of 1976 and was given to one Gustavo Castillo in June of 1976," the state-

ment continues.

The grand jury has already heard testimony from dozens of persons

about terrorism in Miami and other U.S. cities since it was empanelled last October.

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Cops Charge Castillo in Bombing

By GLORIA MARINA
Herald Staff Writer

A witness in a federal grand jury probe of terrorist activities was charged late Friday with bombing the University of Miami student



union last April shortly before black activist Angela Davis was to have spoken there.

Gustavo Castillo, 30, was arrested by the Metro Public Safety Department minutes after he was indicted on a

CASTILLO federal passport offense after testifying before a grand jury Friday about international terrorist activities.

Castillo, 30, was arrested on a federal warrant in Puerto Rico Monday and returned to Miami as a material witness to the attempted abduction of a Cuban diplomat in Mérida, Mexico, last July.

Metro police accused him of having placed a bomb in a sewer pipe in Whitten Union last Apr. 3. It caused minor damage to the building. There were no injuries.

He was also charged locally with possessing explosives and first degree arson. If tried and found guilty he faces a maximum 30 years in prison. The passport charge carries a maximum five-year prison penalty.

The federal indictment, the first issued by the jury in more than three months of investigation, accused Castillo of lying in order to get a new American passport. His original passport, police say, was found in a Mérida apartment where two suspects in the attempted kidnapping were arrested.

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By LOU SALOME
Miami News Reporter

The bombing trial of Hialeah's Pablo Gustavo Castillo is a miniature foray into the world of Cuban terrorism, a world exposed to Miami with increasing frequency in recent months.

Many of the pieces of that sinister world are present in the trial of the 30-year-old Castillo, charged with a bombing at the University

of Miami student union April 3.

There's the bomb — dynamite, one witness said; the organized plotting of fervant patriots; and an alleged political motive — to protest the Communist leanings of Angela Davis, who was guest speaker at U-M that April night almost a year ago.

In this case there's another ingredient which makes conspirators of any stripe shudder: a squealer, a man who says he was there, pleads

guilty and gets a break in return for his testimony against someone he says joined in the plot.

Manuel Ortega, a 30-year-old carpenter from Hialeah, is the state's key witness in the trial which began yesterday and is expected to end today. The state's entire case, in fact, appears to rest on the shoulders of Ortega, a twice convicted felon who has pleaded guilty to a conspiracy charge in the U-M bombing and who was a fugitive at the time of that bombing.

Castillo sat expressionless yesterday as Ortega, through an interpreter, told the five-man, one-woman jury that he, Castillo and a third man, Orestes Ruiz, carried out the bombing.

Ortega, who is under heavy police security, told the jury he met Ruiz, now in a Mexico jail on murder and attempted kidnaping charges, the morning of April 3. He said Ruiz came to his home that day and told him of the planned U-M bombing later that night.

Ruiz drove him to a cafeteria in Coral Gables where the two men met Castillo a few minutes later, Ortega said under questioning by Assistant State Attorney George Yoss.

Ortega, wearing dark glasses and sporting a mustache, said the three men then left the cafeteria in Castillo's car and drove to nearby location where Castillo showed Ruiz how to assemble a bomb with explosives Castillo brought along in his car.

He described the explosives as being 10 or 12 pink finger-like sticks about eight or 10 inches long, although Ortega said only about eight sticks were used in making the device which did little damage.

After receiving about a half-hour of instruction, the three men drove back to the cafeteria, Ortega said, where he and Ruiz left Castillo and took the explosives to Ruiz' car. From there, Ortega said, he and Ruiz drove to the school.

Once at the university, Ortega said, he and Ruiz walked to a drainpipe outside the student union building where the bomb was to be planted.

He said the bomb was set to explode at 8:15 p.m. and the next day he, Ortega, called radio station WQBA to take credit for the bombing.

Ortega faced heavy cross-examination by Castillo's lawyers, Jeffrey Weiner and Samuel Sheres, who attacked his motives for testifying and accused him of being involved with various terrorist organizations, which he admitted.

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Defendant Had Bomb, Court Told

By GLORIA MARINA
Herald Staff Writer

The key state witness in the trial of accused bomber Pablo Gustavo Castillo testified Monday that Castillo was the one who acquired the explosives and originated the idea of bombing the University of Miami Student Union before a speech by political activist Angela Davis.

Manuel Ortega, already sentenced to two years in prison for admitting to his part in the bombing, testified during the first day of the trial that he was home when another member of the group came to his door April 3, the morning of the bombing.

Ortega, 30, said that Orestes Ruiz told him that "we are going to bomb the University of Miami."

MEXICAN officials are holding Ruiz on charges of conspiring to kidnap the Cuban consul in Merida last year.

"We went to a coffee shop where we met Castillo at mid-morning," Ortega continued. They met with Castillo in the rear of the cafeteria where the bomb was assembled, Ortega said.

Ortega testified that Castillo had the explosives in a brown paper bag with fuses and a detonator cap.

According to Ortega, Castillo told him and Ruiz to take the explosives to the University of Miami.

Once at the UM, Ortega took the bomb and went to place it inside a sewer pipe in the student union complex while Ruiz waited with the car running, Ortega said.

ORTEGA testified that he fled from FBI pursuers through New York, New Jersey and Connecticut before voluntarily turning himself in to the Miami FBI.

Ortega also admitted that he bought explosives for the bombing of the Channel 23 television station but vehemently denied that he knew how to handle explosives.

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**Bomb Defendant
Found Not Guilty**

A Dade County Circuit Court jury declared Pablo Gustavo Castillo not guilty Tuesday of a bombing last April at the University of Miami. After deliberating for less than an hour, the five-man, one-woman jury found Castillo not guilty of five charges, including conspiracy, possession of explosives and possession of explosives without a license. A witness had testified Monday that Castillo had acquired the explosives used to bomb the university's student union building shortly before political activist Angela Davis was to deliver a speech. Manuel Ortega, serving two years for taking part in the bombing, testified Monday that Castillo had told him and Orestes Ruiz to take the bomb to the university after the men had met Castillo in a cafeteria to pick up the assembled bomb. Ruiz is being held by Mexican officials on charges of conspiring to kidnap the Cuban consul in Merida last year.

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