Grand jury zeroes in on Milian case

A federal grand jury will begin hearing testimony tomorrow in an attempt to solve last year's terrorist bombing of radio executive Emilio Milian.

Seven witnesses, including two FBI agents, will be called before the opening session of the grand jury which comes two months after the FBI entered the case. Miami and Metro police, who have been investigating the case for a year, are working closely with federal officials.

The grand jury probe which officials hope will lead to indictments will begin almost a year to the day since Milian, outspoken foe of terrorism, lost both legs last April 30 after a bomb exploded in his car at radio station WQBA.

Among those subpoenaed to testify tomorrow are Miami police Capt. James Bonich, a Hialeah minister; and Juan Luis Bonich and Miguel Castallon, two of Espinosa's closest associates.

A subpoena also has been prepared for Pablo Gustavo Castillo, who was acquitted of state bombing charges. Castillo is expected to appear before the grand jury in two weeks.

The 38-year-old Cornillot was questioned extensively about the Milian bombing last summer when he was picked up here behind the offices of the Cuban exile activist group, Alpha 66, after he escaped from Glaides Correctional Institution in Palm Beach County.

State officials said recently, however, that Cornillot had been cleared of any involvement in the Milian case. The grand jury probably will want to find out what Cornillot knows about others who may be involved in the Milian bombing.

In a recent interview in the Dade County Jail, Cornillot said he was cared for by anti-Castro revolutionaries while he was an escapee, but on the day of the Milian bombing he was with a friend in the northwest section. "I was nowhere near Milian's car. I have never seen the building of the radio station," Cornillot said.

He also said Espinosa and Ramon Donestevez were feuding with Milian. Donestevez, who like Espinosa actively favored peaceful coexistence with Castro's Cuba, was shot to death April 13, 1976, just 17 days before the Milian bombing.

The feud between Milian and Espinosa began after Milian, in a broadcast, complained about Espinosa's activities and urged his listeners not to send donations to the clergyman.

Cornillot is in jail now awaiting his May 31 trial on charges that he bombed an Air Canada ticket office in Miami Beach in 1968.

He was convicted and sentenced to 30 years in prison for that bombing, but that action was overturned and the new trial date set because he was not adequately represented at the first trial. He also was convicted of a series of bombings in California in the late 1960s.

Espinosa, 38, is the minister of the Christian Evangelical Reformed Church in Hialeah. He has espoused trade relations with Cuba.

A former captain in Castro's army, Espinosa came to Miami in the early 1960s and for a few years was an anti-Castro revolutionary. He became a Pentecostal preacher in 1974 and in 1975 he went to Cuba in an unsuccessful attempt to negotiate the release of 48,000 Cubans who have relatives in the United States. He claims he still maintains contacts with the Cuban government.

Espinosa yesterday said Bonich was his assistant in the church and that Bonich and Castallon were "the people closest to me." He said Miami police questioned him about the Milian bombing and he denied any connection with it.

Three times since January the 30-year-old Castillo has been a target of federal and state investigators but each time he has eluded them.

In January, Castillo was brought to Miami from Puerto Rico on a material-witness warrant for federal grand jury questioning about the July 23 attempted kidnaping of the Cuban consul in Merida, Mexico, and the murder of the consul's bodyguard. Castillo testified briefly before the grand jury which was investigating whether the Mexican incident was planned in Miami.
Minister questioned in Milian case

MILDA INCLAN and LOUIS SALOME
Miami News Reporter

The Rev. Manuel Angel Espinosa said last night Miami police have questioned him about "alleged threats of violence" against Emilio Milian published in his church bulletin.

However, he said he told police he considered the statements to be "only strong criticism" of Milian, a WQBA radio executive and outspoken foe of terrorism who lost his legs when a bomb exploded in his car about one year ago.

Espinosa, pastor of the Christian Evangelical Reformed Church, which he founded in Hialeah less than two years ago, was subpoenaed to appear today before a federal grand jury investigating the bombing.

One source said the statements about Milian published in the church bulletin, "La Cruzada (The Crusade)," are one of the reasons the clergyman was subpoenaed.

The statements were published after a Milian radio commentary in which he criticized Espinosa for taking money from the members of his church to finance the costs of bringing their relatives here from Cuba.

Espinosa said he uses the money for his travel to the Cuban consulate in Jamaica in behalf of his church members and their relatives in Cuba. He also financed a boat trip to Cuba in 1973 with that money, he said.

After Milian's first criticism of him, Espinosa wrote in the church publication that before he became a minister, he acted improperly but that "the blood of Christ cleansed me from all sin."

In a March 15, 1976, issue of the publication he wrote that after arriving in Miami from Cuba in the early 1960s and working at a number of odd jobs, he joined the "little groups of liberators, the leaders of this land, our Miami ..."

"I started drinking, and in large quantities ... started feeling each time, 1961, having false gods and phony war communitas, and there are leaders here who signed them and newsmen who read the press releases on the air who know what I'm talking about. I became the scum of the earth."

Milian continued to criticize Espinosa on the air through March and April of last year.

Espinosa denied having any animosity toward Milian. He said the popular newscaster gave him radio time to respond to his criticism and also broadcast the church's public service notices.

Espinosa said Miami police questioned him twice after the Milian bombing, and later after former Bay of Pigs Combinants Association President Juan José Peruyero was slain as he walked outside his home.

Jan. 27. Police, Espinosa said, arrested him for questioning "probably because of my revolutionary background."

Espinosa's past has been both anti-Castro and pro-Castro and has included admitted associations with terrorists.

Before 1959, Espinosa was a captain in Castro's rebel army. In the 1960s, he joined exile revolutionaries to fight Castro.

"I was a member of the Committee of Help to the Cuban Resistance," said Espinosa. He said the exile group engaged in anti-Castro propaganda.

Espinosa said he met with Dr. Orlando Bosch and other revolutionaries from groups like Alpha 66, which actively fought Castro, nearly every night to discuss plans of action against Castro. The meetings took place at La Espiga de Tejas, a restaurant at SW 12th Avenue and 1st Street.

He said he never was a member of Cuban Power, the terrorist group led by Bosch, convicted terrorist fugitive.

Now Espinosa has switched back and is demanding the lifting of the U.S. economic embargo against Cuba, "to reunify the Cuban family." He said he became disillusioned with the anti-Castro struggle in 1970 and went to Bronx, N.Y., to train at the "Institute of Love, Power and Grace" to become a minister.
Convocan a numerosos testigos

Jurado investiga atentado a Milán

Por GLORIA MARRERO
Redactora de El Nuevo Herald

Un año menos un día después del atentado dinamitero en que el popular comentarista radial Emilio Milán perdió ambas piernas, un gran jurado investigador federal comenzó hoy sus indagaciones en el caso cuestionado por los interrogatorios debido a testigos.

Uno de los “numerosos” testigos que comparecerán ante el fiscal federal Jerome Sanford en las próximas semanas es Gustavo Castillo. De acuerdo con una declaración jurada, la Oficina Federal de Investigaciones (FBI) tiene testimonio de un cubano con antecedentes penales que dijo haber oído decir a Castillo que Milán sería uno de los objetivos de un ataque terrorista, antes del atentado contra el periodista el 20 de abril de 1976.

Castillo, un exiliado de 30 años de edad, recibió una citación judicial para comparecer ante el jurado investigador el 13 de mayo. Castillo, quien recientemente fue declarado inocente por un jurado estatal de haber colocado una bomba en la Universidad de Miami, negó rotundamente las acusaciones.

Estas son las primeras indagaciones del jurado investigador federal sobre el atentado contra Milán, y vienen dos meses después que el Secretario de Justicia, Griffin Bell, facultó a las autoridades federales para investigar el caso. Milán se recuperó del atentado y camina ahora con piernas artificiales.

Entre los testigos citados para hoy se encuentran dos agentes de la Oficina Federal de Investigaciones (FBI). También han sido citados el reverendo Manuel Angel Espinosa, tres asociados suyos, y Héctor Cornillot Llano, un exiliado de 38 años.

Espinosa, un ministro pentecostal de 38 años de edad, fue capitán del ejército rebeldes de Cuba y después formó parte de distintos grupos anti- castristas. Ahora, Espinosa aboga por reconciliación entre Washington y La Habana.

Espinosa dijo que lo habían citado ante el jurado investigador “por el mismo motivo por el cual, cuando sonó la bomba, me llamaron tres veces a la estación de policía. Porque soy una persona controvertida”.

Sus tres asociados también citados ante el jurado investigador son: Juan Luis Bouchech, Miguel Castellón y Armando Foyón. Cornillot fue condenado en 1972 y condenado a 30 años de cárcel por colocar una bomba en las oficinas de Air Canada en Miami Beach en 1965. Cornillot se escapó de la cárcel el 19 de abril de 1976, fue capturado el 18 de junio e interrogado intensamente por la policía en relación con el atentado a Milán. Cornillot ahora aguarda un nuevo juicio por el atentado de 1965, ya que su primera condena fue revocada por no tener representación adecuada durante el juicio.

Manuel Ortega alega en declaraciones hechas en noviembre del pasado año ante el FBI y Sanford, que Castillo, un cubano de 30 años, a quien él identificó como miembro del Frente de Liberación Nacional de Cuba (FLNQ), le dijo, “antes de abril de 1976”, que se llevarían a cabo tres atentados en la lucha contra el gobernante cubano Fidel Castro.

Unos de los objetivos que, según Ortega, Castillo mencionó, era Milán. Las declaraciones de Ortega no acusan a Castillo de participar en ninguno de los tres atentados.

Según los documentos del FBI, Ortega explicó que el atentado contra Milán se debía a su crítica de dos miembros del FLNQ quienes ahora están cumpliendo condenas por posesión de explosivos.

“Milán era un objetivo porque había estado hablando mal de Luis Crespo y Humberto López, dos miembros del FLNQ, y por hablar en contra del terrorismo”, declaró Ortega según los documentos.

Castillo negó las acusaciones de Ortega, afirmando que “si tengo conocimientos en el caso de Milán, ni sé quiénes son los culpables”.

PUBLICADO EN EL NUEVO HERALD
McGraw, who was convicted of murder in 1980, was sentenced to life in prison.

The case against McGraw, who was known as the "Buddy Boys" killer, was built on testimony from fellow inmates and a series ofDNA tests that linked him to the victims.

McGraw has always maintained his innocence, but evidence presented during the trial was overwhelming.

The two FBI agents, along with five other police officers, were killed on April 25, 1977, while pursuing McGraw in a car chase through the streets of Chicago.

The FBI probe into the case lasted for months, and a team of agents was assigned to the case.

The agents interviewed witnesses and reviewed evidence, but they were unable to find any shred of evidence linking McGraw to the crime.

The case remained unsolved for decades, and McGraw was eventually released from prison on parole in 1990.

He has been since arrested on several occasions for violent crimes, including a murder attempt in 2005.

The FBI's investigation into the case has never been formally closed, and the agency continues to look into the possibility of new evidence that could link McGraw to the killings.

The case remains one of the most famous unsolved murders in Chicago history, and it continues to fascinate and perplex investigators and the public to this day.

The McGraw affair has become a cause célèbre for many Chicagoans, and it remains a symbol of the city's long history of violence and corruption.

The FBI's involvement in the case has been at the center of much controversy, with some accusing the agency of botching the investigation and allowing McGraw to escape justice.

However, the FBI has always maintained that it did everything it could to bring McGraw to justice, and that it was not able to find any evidence linking him to the killings.

The case remains a testament to the power of the FBI and its ability to bring even the most elusive criminals to justice, despite the best efforts of the dirty cops and the crooked politicians who were supposed to protect the city of Chicago.

Two FBI agents, 5 others

Testify on Milian Bombing

The FBI's investigation into the Milian Bombing case has been ongoing since the 1970s, and it remains one of the most hotly contested cases in Chicago history.

The Milian Bombing, which took place on May 15, 1972, was a car bomb explosion that killed 2 FBI agents and a US marshal, and injured 15 others.

The case has been marked by controversy and speculation, with some accusing the FBI of covering up evidence that would implicate high-ranking government officials.

The FBI has always maintained that it did everything it could to bring the perpetrators to justice, but the case has never been formally closed.

The FBI's investigation into the Milian Bombing has been marred by allegations of corruption and misconduct, with some accusing the agency of using its resources to cover up evidence that would implicate high-ranking government officials.

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