

Morales killed

Mia News (Metro) col 2, 1A

in argument over her drink, friend says

23 Dec 82

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Ricardo (Monkey) Morales, a central figure in Miami's Byzantine underworld, was fatally shot while arguing about a bar manager's demand that the woman he was with put her takeout drink in a plastic cup, the woman says.

"He thought it was cheap," said Nancy Cid, who was with the self-described terrorist and murderer — and police informer — when a bullet smashed through his brain during an argument in a Key Biscayne bar.

Cid, 38, the widow of a man police once believed was killed by a man Morales later admitted slaying, yesterday described the events of the Monday night shooting that brought Morales' death.

Cid said she had bumped into Morales in a Calle Ocho restaurant Monday night. He had been a friend of her murdered husband, she said, so she invited him to accompany her and another friend to Cherry's, the bar on Key Biscayne.

Cid said she thought there might be a problem in taking Morales to the bar. Another of her former husbands and his friends go there frequently, she said.

"I love my ex-husband and I know it's not good, not nice that I go to this place with Morales, but I go anyway, for just one drink," she told The Miami News. "I don't care. It's the problem of Morales and not mine."

After one drink, Cid said, she and Morales decided to leave. She carried her drink to the parking lot, but the restaurant manager followed them out and objected, she said.



Monkey Morales: shot in head

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"I had a problem," Cid said. "When I left, I had the drink in my hand and the manager told me I had to put it in a plastic glass. Ricardo no like this: He said this is cheap because everybody knows me there."

"He also said he don't like that I pay for the drink; he expected my ex-husband to pay. Ricardo, in his mind, thinks my husband is an owner (of the bar). Everybody tells him that."

Morales went back into the bar, she said. She waited in the parking lot.

"Then I see everybody going outside crying," she said. "I went back in and I see Ricardo on the floor. It was very bad. I am very nervous and very down. I feel bad."

Morales, 42 — the key informant in the abortive Operation Tick-Talks drug investigation by Miami police — was pronounced dead yesterday at Mercy Hospital. Doctors had called him "brain dead" since Monday night.

Yesterday, at about 1 p.m., the respirator that had kept him alive was turned off by Dr. Jorge Picaza, said hospital spokesman Herb Kelly. Morales' relatives were in the hospital room at the time and gave their consent, Kelly said.

Metro homicide detectives investigating Morales' murder have

questioned Nancy Cid twice, said Sgt. Frank Wesolowski. But Wesolowski, lead investigator in the case, said she is not a suspect.

For now, Wesolowski said, there are few new developments in the case and his investigators are just trying to locate and question bar patrons who scurried away before police arrived. Ten to 15 people were in the bar at the time of the shooting.

"It's going to take some time to locate these people who were in the bar and are not cooperating by coming forward," Wesolowski said.

Cid told The Miami News that she simply told detectives her account of the events leading up to the Morales shooting. She said she didn't see who fired the shot.

Cid is the widow of German Lamazares, who police said was a drug dealer when he was murdered in 1973 — a murder case in which Morales was questioned by authorities. During the Tick-Talks investigation, Morales admitted killing the only suspect in the case after charges against the suspect were dismissed.

Cid also is the ex-wife of Juan Cid, a health club owner and horse trader. In a divorce suit this year, she claimed Juan Cid was a secret partner in Roger's on the Green —

the restaurant in which Cherry's is housed. In court documents from the divorce case, he denied having an interest in the bar.

Wesolowski said Juan Cid is not a suspect in Morales' slaying. The detective said investigators want to discuss the events of Monday night with restaurant co-owner Roger Novo. Novo's lawyer, Roy Black, says he is innocent of wrongdoing.

Metro detectives refused to comment on what Nancy Cid told The News. But they contend they are convinced that Morales' demise was not connected to his life of intrigue.

"It is simply a bar argument and a shooting," detective Wesolowski said. "With all the homicides we have, I can't worry about Morales' entire life."

"As long as I'm satisfied that it's a shooting in a bar fight, that makes a little less work for me. I could go on forever following his life and his enemies."