

# Jailed Exile's Backers Douse Freedom Torch

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Cuban pals of anti-Castro firebrand Felipe Rivero doused the John F. Kennedy Torch of Friendship in downtown Miami last night.

They left behind a poster announcing: "This torch cannot represent freedom while freedom fighters are in prison."

Rivero indeed is in prison — the Dade County Jail — where he awaits a deportation hearing. Authorities say he and his Cuban Nationalist Association threatened, among other things, to bomb the Canadian pavilion at Montreal's Expo 67.

The torch which flickers day and night symbolizes freedom throughout the Americas. It was lighted on Oct. 26, 1960. It was renamed for the late President on Nov. 29, 1963 — seven days after his assassination in Dallas.

It was extinguished once before, on

June 15, 1965, by another embattled Cuban faction.

Rivero is on parole in the U.S. His deportation is being sought "in the public interest."

Rivero, a slender, courteous man, said Tuesday he would refuse food until he was released from jail. Even if his deportation is successfully appealed, he could be held until the Canadian exposition closes in the fall.

His backers have charged that federal officials have bowed to pressure from the Canadian government.

Eight of them — all veterans of the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion — announced last night they too would begin fasting. They met at the CNA headquarters and made the decision.

In sympathy with Rivero's cause, some

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# *Freedom Torch Is Doused By Jailed Exile's Friends*

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of the nation's leading Cuban exiles met in Los Angeles yesterday.

They said they hope to organize their nearly 600,000 fellow countrymen. On hand for the week-long series of meetings were Dr. Emilio Nunez Portuando, formerly Cuba's ambassador to the UN, Dr. Eduardo Suarez Rivas, former president of the Cuban senate, and Dr. Rafael Guas Inclin, former Cuban vice president.

Dr. Carlos Prio Soccaras, Cuba's last constitutional president, is expected to join the meetings.

Rivero called the Los Angeles meetings "the first step" toward concerted action against Fidel Castro's regime.

Any uprising in Cuba is "hampered by the lack of a strong unified leadership among the exile body," he said. If they can't get organized, then the U.S. may be asked to back a guerrilla movement in Cuba, Rivero added.