

Exile Leader Ends Hunger Strike

Cuban leader Felipe Rivero quit his hunger strike today at his wife's urging.

Mrs. Rivero wrote a letter to her slender, embattled husband who has been sitting in Jackson Memorial Hospital's lock-up.

"... I appeal to your sensibility as a father and I beg of you for the love you profess for your children that you renounce the hunger strike," she said.

Felipe, 43, agreed in a letter of reply, and went on to urge fellow exiles to cease their fasting. About eight had taken vows of hunger earlier in the week.

Rivero is held because of an alleged bomb threat on the Cuban pavilion at Canada's Expo 67.

"Cuba needs you," he told his fasting friends, veterans of the Bay of Pigs invasion.

"To hurt oneself or to die does not solve anything," Rivero noted. "Go forward, always for Cuba."

In her letter to her husband, Mrs. Carmen Luisa Rivero said the families of the hunger strikers were suffering as much as their fathers and husbands.

"These are boys of modest means," she warned in the letter. "They are ready to die if necessary for the cause of Cuba, but Felipe, they are much more needed alive than dead or sick."

Miami's Cubans have had quite a week of it, staging torchlight marches, burning Immigration letters and once even dousing the Torch of Friendship in Bayfront Park, all in protest of Rivero's jailing.

A time bomb blew up the headquarters of an exile splinter group on Tuesday, some 40,000 Cuban workers left their jobs, and about 3,000 children played hookey from school.

Yesterday, Felipe's attorney, Gino Negretti, filed a federal court petition claiming his client was denied bail, not advised of charges against him and was held unconstitutionally.

The demonstrations became epidemic when Cubans in Key West and Tampa took up the cause and filed in protest through the streets. Some of the women wore mourning black.

Rivero will get an extradition hearing Monday.