

# Confessor tortured, lawyer claims

A confession detailing the alleged complicity of Gustavo Castillo in the 1976 attempted kidnaping of the Cuban consul in Merida, Mex., and the murder of his bodyguard was obtained by torturing another suspect in the crime, according to Castillo's lawyer.

Attorney Jeffrey Weiner said the confession was coerced from Orestes Ruiz, now in a Mexico City jail. Weiner said he obtained a letter from Ruiz detailing the torture when he visited Mexico last week.

Weiner said Ruiz, charged with Castillo and Gaspar Jimenez in the Merida incident, gave him a signed handwritten letter, which states:

"The torture consisted of electrical shocks in one leg and genitals. The shocks were given with a steel chain. . . The body was wetted so that it didn't have much resistance to the electricity. . . This was done all night long. . . by at least five policemen."

Weiner said Ruiz gave a signed statement to

Mexican authorities in the Merida jail to avoid further torture and was then transferred to Mexico City, where he has not been tortured again.

Castillo and Jimenez are being held without bond in a federal penitentiary in South Dade. They are scheduled for an extradition hearing here May 18 in which Ruiz' confession is likely to be an issue. Weiner said a confession coerced by torture is inadmissible as evidence in an United States court.

Weiner went to Mexico last week with a petition urging Mexico's attorney general to drop the extradition proceedings against Castillo. The petition warned that Cuban exiles will boycott Mexico and that torture methods in Mexican jails will be revealed if Mexico does not drop the extradition request.

The Mexican government has not commented on the petition.