

Morales went to Key bar with widow of murder victim he was quizzed about

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The woman who accompanied Ricardo (Monkey) Morales to the Key Biscayne bar where he was critically shot Monday night is the widow of a man who was murdered in 1973 — a murder in which Morales was questioned by investigators.

Morales later helped in the unsuccessful prosecution of a suspect in the 1973 murder of German Lamazares. Morales admitted he shot and killed the suspect, Armando Elidio Ruiz, several months later outside Morales' apartment. The admission came during the Operation Tick-Talks drug investigation.

Morales, who was described by a Mercy Hospital spokesman as "brain dead" and being kept alive by machines today, shot Ruiz to death two weeks after the murder charges against Ruiz were dismissed, according to Morales' testimony in the Tick-Talks investigation, in which he was an informant.

Nancy Cid, who according to police accompanied Morales to the bar where he was shot, is the widow of Lamazares, whose skeletal remains were found in South Dade, according to attorney Douglas Williams, who was a prosecutor in the Ruiz case and a defense attorney in the Tick-Talks case.

Meanwhile, police say the prime suspect in the shooting of Morales was no stranger to the admitted

• This report was compiled by Miami News Reporters Tom Dubocq, Richard Mauer, Luisa Yanez and Manuel Mendoza.

terrorist and police informant.

Metro homicide detectives say the man they suspect of shooting Morales during a quarrel at Cherry's, the bar at Rogers on the Green restaurant, 4000 Crandon Blvd., was an acquaintance of the victim.

Police have spoken to the suspect, said Metro homicide Detective Frank Wesolowski, lead investigator in the case. The suspect called police yesterday and answered questions over the phone, but police aren't saying who he is.

"He got in touch with us," Wesolowski said. When asked if any arrests were expected soon, Wesolowski said: "That's up to him." He would not elaborate.

Police are sticking to the theory that Morales was shot when "the argument in the bar erupted into a gunfight," said Wesolowski, adding that Nancy Cid is not a suspect in the Morales shooting.

Meanwhile, family members have asked hospital officials not to unplug the life support system keeping Morales alive, said Metro homicide Detective Steven Roadruck.

"But the family has said if he goes into cardiac arrest, they shouldn't try to save him," he said.

Besides Nancy Cid, Morales was accompanied to Cherry's Monday night by a man named Juan Fernandez, police said.

"Morales was blowing off, talking loud," Roadruck said. "People in there didn't like him and they asked him to leave."

Morales and his companions walked to the parking lot, but returned to the bar. "He went back because he found out she had paid a bar bill," Roadruck said.

Morales was shot shortly after he went back in the bar, police said.

Wesolowski said police are trying to talk to others in Cherry's — a dimly lit, wood-paneled lounge — at the time of the shooting.

The 42-year-old Morales was in extremely critical condition at Mercy Hospital. The bullet, which entered the back of his head, left him "brain dead."

Brain death means that doctors can detect no brain waves, according to assistant Dade medical examiner Valerie Rao. "Brain dead is the best indication of death," she said. "The heart and lungs can be supported