

# Police seek witnesses in

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Police have a good idea of what happened the night admitted terrorist, spy, killer and police informant Ricardo (Monkey) Morales was shot — but can't take their case to prosecutors yet, says a top detective.

The investigation has produced a "more-likely suspect" — but no arrest will be made at least until more witnesses are found and questioned, Metro Homicide Capt. Donald Matthews said yesterday.

Several of the witnesses fled from Cherry's, a bar on Key Biscayne, after a bullet smashed into Morales' brain late Monday night — leaving him "brain dead" until doctors at Mercy Hospital unplugged his life support system, with Morales' relatives present, and let him die Wednesday.

Matthews said other people who remained in the bar said they didn't see anything.

Several witnesses will probably be asked to take lie detector tests, Matthews said, but he didn't identify which ones.

Until the witnesses are found, the case can't go to the Dade State Attorney's Office for prose-

cution, Matthews said — and police can't arrest anyone.

But he added that investigators have "a fairly good picture of what occurred."

And, said Matthews, the investigation has produced a "more-likely suspect" — adding that he knows of no other "likely" suspects. He provided the name of the suspect.

But police have no plans to arrest the suspect — or anyone else — at this time, he said.

Homicide Sgt. Frank Wesolowski, the lead investigator in the case, refused to name the witnesses police were seeking. He also declined to confirm the name Matthews gave for the suspect.

"We're trying to locate the people who were there and left," Wesolowski said. "But I can't jeopardize the investigation by revealing the evidence we have or the names of the witnesses."

He also said police were concerned about the safety of the witnesses — and the suspect.

Morales — whose long career on the other side of the law was capped by his role as key in-

## Morales killing

formant in the abortive Operation Tick-Talks drug investigation by Miami police — was shot in the head during an argument at Cherry's.

Doctors said Morales' brain died shortly after he was shot, but his heart didn't stop beating until Wednesday, when he was disconnected from life-sustaining machines.

Nancy Cid, the woman who accompanied Morales to the bar where he died, told the Miami News yesterday that he was killed following a quarrel over a plastic cup.

Cid said Morales had insisted that she be allowed to carry out a drink in a real glass, while the restaurant manager insisted it be taken out in a plastic cup.

Morales, who admitted providing the explosives that blew up a Cuban airliner in 1977, has been a key figure in the intrigues that have woven through the Cuban exile community over the years, from arms dealings to drug smuggling. He has also been a key witness in several police corruption investigations.