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The Rev. Andres Reyes of Holy Family Church in Union City and Eulalio Negrin, director of the New Jersey Cuban Program, talk to reporters yesterday about the weekend explosions.

Negrin: Cops ignore threats against my life

By CAMILLE KENNY
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The director of a Cuban community action program whose storefront was bombed Sunday night called yesterday for stronger precautions against acts of terrorism and said local police have done nothing to stop death threats against him.

Eulalio Jose Negrin, head of the New Jersey Cuban Program, spoke at a press conference held in the rubble of the organization's storefront at 4912 Park Ave. in Weehawken. Rev. Andres Reyes of Holy Family Church in Union City also spoke to reporters.

Both were part of a 75-member delegation of Cuban-Americans chosen by the government of Premier Fidel Castro to iron out an agreement to free Cuban political prisoners and to allow exiled Cubans to visit their homeland. About 400 were released in December.

Negrin and Rev. Reyes say they have received death threats as a result of their dialogue with Castro. Negrin said yesterday that police have not followed up on the threats, but that "neither bombs nor threats will stop the work we are doing."

"It's a humanitarian task (freeing prisoners) that we have been governed to do by the circumstances," said Rev. Reyes. "I'm doing my job, they (the police) should do theirs."

As television cameras whirred, Negrin dodged questions about his political beliefs. Asked if he would like to see Castro overthrown, Negrin said that depended

upon what Cubans still living in Cuba wanted. He said he has met with members of the anti-Castro Cuban Nationalist Movement, and that one contacted him Monday, but he refused to talk with him.

Negrin, who has run several losing campaigns for mayor and state senator, gained prominence Monday in the wake of the bombing. He announced then that he would hold a press conference in Holy Family's rectory. However, he was refused permission by Rev. Francis Maione, the pastor.

"He's not holding it here," said Rev. Maione. "No way. I don't want to endanger the parishioners or schoolchildren."

Despite the death threats Negrin says he has received, Sunday night's bombing was the first attack on him. Police and observers of anti-Castro factions have said that Negrin was relatively safe because he held little power within the Cuban community.

Negrin said Monday that the storefront bombing, for which the anti-Castro terrorist group, Omega 7, has claimed responsibility, was delayed retaliation for his negotiations in Cuba.

He has also speculated that the attack was a protest against the double life sentences meted out to a pair of Union City Cubans last week for the assassination of former Chilean Ambassador Orlando Letelier in Washington in 1976. Guillermo Novo Sampol and Alvin Ross Diaz reportedly were heavily involved in the Cuban Nationalist Movement before their arrest.