

U.S. attorney complains of Cuban exile's activity

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U.S. Attorney Daniel López Romo has sent to the chief U.S. probation officer on the island a complaint that a Cuban exile living in Puerto Rico may be in violation of federal parole terms by engaging in political activities.

According to the complaint sent to

López Romo and local FBI head Richard Held, the anti-Castro exile is apparently the person responsible for circulating in the mail a photograph of the autopsy of Carlos Muñiz Varela, a pro-Castro Cuban murdered in Guaynabo in 1979.

Two days after Muñiz Varela was murdered, a right-wing clandestine Cuban group, Comando Zero, claimed responsibility for the killing. Comando Zero

is believed to have joined up with Omega 7, another clandestine group which has claimed responsibility for a series of crimes against Castro supporters.

Raul Alzaga, a close friend of Muñiz Varela, alleged in a letter to López Romo and Held that the photograph — showing a long needle piercing Muñiz Varela's skull — constitutes a death threat against the pro-Castro Cubans who have received them here and on the mainland.

Other photographs of the autopsy, obtained from the Institute of Forensic Medicine, were published recently in a local anti-Castro publication, La Crónica.

In his letter to the two federal officials, Alzaga says that the description given by institute officials of the man who received the autopsy photographs corresponds to an exile sentenced on the mainland for violent anti-Castro activities.

This person, whom Alzaga identifies by name in the complaint, has been ordered to refrain from any political activities as a condition of parole, Alzaga said.

Alzaga, like Muñiz Varela a pro-Castro Cuban, also said in the complaint that the anonymous letters containing the autopsy photographs gave false addresses of the sender on the envelopes, including the

address of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party weekly Claridad.

López Romo said in a brief interview that the question of death threats, "which is a matter of interpretation," must be taken up by the FBI. Regarding the allegations of parole violations, he said he was referring the matter to Isidoro Mojica, chief U.S. probation officer on the island.

Should Mojica feel that a parole violation has been committed, he would have to report to the federal court on the mainland where the anti-Castro exile was sentenced, the U.S. attorney said.

López Romo said there is no new evidence in the Muñiz Varela murder case, which the federal government could conceivably try under the Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organization Act (RICO), despite reports linking another anti-Castro exile and a former police officer with the murder.

The U.S. attorney acknowledged that his office has received the reports, but added: "What we need is evidence." He said none of the people making the claim "were there" or could point with any degree of certainty to people who may have participated.