

Government Offers to Release Cuban Exile to House Arrest

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Body

Lawyers for a Cuban exile said he was inclined to reject a government offer to trade prison for a restrictive house arrest program.

The proposal presented to Orlando Bosch by immigration officials Monday was a departure for the Justice Department, which has maintained for years that the anti-Castro activist would continue his terrorist ways if released.

The offer would require him to tell the FBI of any contacts with Cuban exile groups that advocate violence.

"He's just not prepared to send a message out that he's an informant," said attorney Henry Adorno. "He believes that lists are kept by people like Joe McCarthy and Fidel Castro."

Bosch's family criticized the conditions for his release, but appeared to encourage the 63-year-old former pediatrician to accept the deal.

"The conditions are very restrictive but it is better than jail. I prefer him here at home, of course," said Adriana Bosch, who said her husband suffers from ulcers and declining health after years in Venezuelan and U.S. jails.

As of this morning, Bosch remained in prison, Metropolitan Correctional Center officials said.

Justice Department spokesman Dan Eramian in Washington said the government decided to offer Bosch parole for humanitarian reasons, but will continue the effort to deport him. Thus far, 31 nations have refused to accept him.

The offer appeared to be an attempt to resolve what has become a cause celebre for Miami's staunchly anti-Castro Cuban exile community, which has held rallies and demonstrations on his behalf.

Bosch has been held since 1988, when he was arrested for parole violations and for reentering the country illegally.

According to CIA documents, he ran bombing runs on Cuba in the early 1960s. In 1968, he was convicted in a bazooka attack on a Polish freighter at the Port of Miami and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

He was paroled in 1972 and fled the country in 1974 after he was subpoenaed to testify in an inquiry into the killing of a Miami exile leader.

Accused of masterminding the 1976 bombing of a Cuban jetliner that killed 73 people, Bosch spent 11 years in Venezuelan jails. He denied involvement in the bombing and was acquitted in three separate trials.

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The parole conditions would require **Bosch** to wear an electronic monitoring device, remain at home for 21 hours a day, keep a log of visitors and allow his telephone to be monitored, said Richard Smith, director of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service *in* Miami.

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