

**Venezuela tells U.S.: Give up Cuban;
Urging the extradition of an exile sought in a jet attack, it said American
credibility was on the line.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer
MAY 21, 2005 Saturday CITY-D EDITION

Copyright 2005 Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC All Rights Reserved

The Philadelphia Inquirer
Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A02

Length: 356 words

Byline: Curt Anderson ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: MIAMI

Body

Venezuela pressed the United States yesterday to hand over **Cuban exile** Luis Posada Carriles for prosecution in a 1976 **Cuban** airliner bombing that killed 73 people, saying the Bush administration's **credibility** in the war against terrorism was at stake.

Venezuela plans to formally request his **extradition** and is preparing a "voluminous" file for **U.S.** authorities, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. **Venezuela** and the United States have an **extradition** treaty.

"There isn't an excuse of a legal or other nature for not complying with these obligations," said the Spanish-language statement released by the Venezuelan Embassy in Washington. "Only in this manner can some **credibility** be gained in the constant sermon about the fight against terrorism."

Posada, 77, was seized by **U.S.** immigration officials in Miami this week and was charged with entering the United States illegally, a move that could lead to his deportation. He is being held at a federal lockup in El Paso, Texas, for an immigration hearing June 13.

Justice Department spokesman Bryan Sierra would not comment on **Venezuela's extradition** request.

U.S. officials have said they will not send anyone to a country believed to be doing Cuba's bidding. Cuba's Fidel Castro and Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez are close allies, and Castro has supported **Venezuela's** request that the United States hand Posada over.

Posada, a former CIA operative and longtime opponent of Castro, has denied taking part in the downing of the **Cuban** jetliner off the coast of Barbados. He escaped from prison in **Venezuela** in 1985 after two trials failed to convict him in the **attack**.

In **Venezuela**, a petition drive demanding that Posada be turned over was under way.

Venezuela tells U.S.: Give up Cuban; Urging the extradition of an exile sought in a jet attack, it said American credibility was on the line.

"Why do they have to protect this shameless terrorist from Venezuela?" said Amanda Otaiza, 84, who signed a petition in Caracas. "It's not right."

Posada's attorney, Eduardo Soto, has said he will fight deportation or extradition to Venezuela.

Soto is expected to ask for U.S. asylum for Posada based on fear of persecution and a claim that he never lost U.S. legal-residency status gained in 1962.

Graphic

PHOTO;

Luis Posada Carriles faces a U.S. hearing next month.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Subject: EXTRADITION (92%); IMMIGRATION (90%); WAR ON TERROR (89%); TERRORISM (89%); PETITIONS (89%); US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (78%); HISPANIC AMERICANS (78%); CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS (78%); WAR & CONFLICT (78%); ANTI-CASTRO CUBANS (78%); JUSTICE DEPARTMENTS (78%); STATE DEPARTMENTS & FOREIGN SERVICES (77%); FOREIGN RELATIONS (76%); BOMBINGS (73%); PRISONS (72%); EMBASSIES & CONSULATES (71%); LAW ENFORCEMENT (68%); TREATIES & AGREEMENTS (56%)

Industry: AIRLINES (73%)

Person: FIDEL CASTRO (78%); HUGO CHAVEZ (59%)

Geographic: CARACAS, VENEZUELA (59%); EL PASO, TX, USA (55%); TEXAS, USA (79%); VENEZUELA, BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF (99%); UNITED STATES (96%); CUBA (92%); BARBADOS (79%)

Load-Date: September 13, 2005