

# Lieberman's Cuban Money-Bags Linked To Terrorism

As of Oct. 24, 2006, Luis Posada Carriles, deputy to CIA "black ops" specialist Felix Rodriguez in the infamous Ollie North/George H.W. Bush "secret government," is on his way to being a free man. Convicted in Venezuela for crimes related to the terrorist blowing up—in midair—of a Cuban passenger plane in 1976, which killed 73 people, Posada then escaped in 1985, through the work of Felix Rodriguez, with bribe money provided by Joe Lieberman's Florida money-bags, Jorge Mas Canosa. Around March 2005, Posada snuck into the United States, and was later incarcerated for immigration violations. A recent court decision in Texas says that Posada should be released. But the Bush Administration refuses to extradite him to Venezuela, or to try him for the Cuban airliner attack. It is a clear double standard.

*The Bush Administration protects its own terrorists, while threatening any nation with military attack that it accuses of "harboring terrorists"*

*The week of Oct. 23, investigative reporter, Ann Louis Bardach, author of Cuba Confidential, told radio interviewer Amy Goodman that the FBI files on Posada Carriles had been destroyed: "Sometime after 2002, the evidence in the evidence room of the Miami FBI was destroyed—I understand, shredded . . . original evidence. And most courts demand original evidence. . . . Somebody made the decision to close the case (emphasis added)."*

*The following is excerpted from an article by William F. Wertz, Jr., "Luis Posada Carriles Gives the Lie to George Bush's 'War on Terrorism,'" EIR, June 17, 2005.*

Immediately after Sept. 11, 2001, President George W. Bush righteously threatened any nation that "harbored terrorists." But now, *EIR* investigations show that the Bush Administration itself is harboring a nest of terrorist assassins in Jeb Bush's Florida—foremost among them being the Cuban-born operative Luis Posada Carriles, whose career in terrorism and intelligence "black bag jobs" spans more than four decades.

On March 10, 2005, long-time CIA asset **Félix Rodríguez Mendigutia** called for U.S. military intervention in Venezuela, and alluded to the possible assassination of Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez, on a Miami TV program.<sup>1</sup> Rodríguez had been the CIA liaison with the Bolivian forces that cap-

1. The footnotes referred to in this text are posted on *EIR*'s website, [www.larouche.com](http://www.larouche.com), and were printed in *EIR*, June 17, 2005.



*Luis Posada Carriles, convicted in Venezuela for terrorism, in blowing up a plane, killing 73 people, escaped thanks to bribe money provided by Joe Lieberman's Florida money-bags, Jorge Mas Canosa. Now, the Bush Administration is refusing to extradite him to Venezuela. So much for the "war on terrorism."*

tured and executed Ernesto "Che" Guevara on Oct. 9, 1967; he later ran the Contra resupply operation in El Salvador in the 1980s, to overthrow the Nicaraguan government on behalf of Vice President George H.W. Bush and CIA death squad organizer **Néstor Sánchez**.

Rodríguez's deputy in the Iran-Contra operation was Luis Posada Carriles. . . .

## Posada and the CIA's Cuban 'Gusanos'

. . . Posada joined the CIA's Brigade 2506 in 1961, as part of CIA director Allen Dulles's abortive "Bay of Pigs" invasion of Cuba. Posada, **Orlando Bosch Avila**, and Félix Rodríguez were also members of the elite intelligence unit called Operation 40. Other members included **Ricardo "el Mono" Morales Navarrete**, **Virgilio Paz**, **José Dionisio Suárez** and the **Novo Sampoll brothers**, **Guillermo and Ignacio**.<sup>5</sup>

Operation 40 has been suspected by some of involvement in the assassination of U.S. President John F. Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963. . . .

This same unit was deployed in the 1970s to participate in Operation Condor. In December 1974, Orlando Bosch, Guillermo Novo, and Dionisio Suárez travelled to Santiago, Chile to offer their services to General Pinochet.<sup>8</sup> It was Suárez and Virgilio Paz who later triggered the bomb that killed former Chilean Foreign and Defense Minister Orlando Letelier and his associate Ronni Moffitt in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 21, 1976, a crime for which they were convicted.<sup>9</sup> A declassified FBI report confirms a meeting between exiled

Cubans and Pinochet on March 17, 1975, in which Pinochet offered them financial assistance, on the condition they help create a unified fascist international.<sup>10</sup>

... According to the FBI, in 1965, Jorge Mas Canosa paid Posada to blow up a Cuban or Soviet vessel in the Port of Veracruz, Mexico.<sup>13</sup> That same year, the FBI reported that he was implicated in a plot to overthrow the government of Guatemala.<sup>14</sup>

In July 1967, Posada was officially dropped as a CIA asset, but then was reinstated in October, when he was approached by the CIA with an offer to join the Venezuelan secret police (DISIP),<sup>15</sup> where he became chief of security and counterintelligence (Division 54). In 1971, Posada was involved in a plot to assassinate Fidel Castro on a visit to Caracas on Nov. 31.<sup>16</sup>

### The Letelier Assassination and Cubana Airlines Bombing

On June 11, 1976, all of the anti-Castro Cuban exile groups met in the Dominican Republic to create a new umbrella organization called the Coordination of United Revolutionary Organizations (CORU), headed by Orlando Bosch.<sup>24</sup> Soon after the founding of CORU, on Sept. 21, 1976, Guillermo Novo and other members of the Cuban Nationalist Movement, which merged into CORU, participated in the assassination of former Chilean Foreign and Defense Minister Orlando Letelier in Washington, D.C. This assassination was carried out by Operation Condor. When Posada was arrested in connection with the bombing of the Cubana Airlines plane, he was reportedly found with a map of Washington showing Letelier's daily route to work.<sup>25</sup>

Both the assassination of Letelier and the bombing of the Cubana Airlines Flight 455 fifteen days later were planned at the June 11, 1976 meeting in Santo Domingo.<sup>26</sup> As early as June 22, 1976, a CIA document reported that a "usually reliable" source stated that Bosch "plans to place a bomb on a Cubana Airline flight traveling between Panama and Havana."<sup>27</sup> CORU then participated in the founding of Spanish fascist Blas Piñar's Fascist International in Rome in October 1976.<sup>28</sup> (In August 1976, Néstor Sánchez had become the CIA station chief in Madrid, Spain.<sup>29</sup>)

According to declassified U.S. intelligence documents, Posada and Bosch are regarded as the "engineers" of the October 1976 bombing of Cubana Airlines Flight 455.<sup>30</sup> In September 1976, after the Letelier assassination and prior to the bombing of the Cuban airliner, Bosch stated: "Now that our organization has come out of the Letelier job looking good, we are going to try something else."<sup>31</sup> A CIA source also overheard Posada stating: "We are going to hit a Cuban airliner."<sup>32</sup> The two individuals who placed the bomb on the plane, **Hermán Ricardo** and **Freddy Lugo**, worked for Posada's security agency.<sup>33</sup> ... Both Ricardo and Lugo were convicted and sentenced to 20 years imprisonment.

After the CORU meeting in the Dominican Republic,

Bosch went to Nicaragua and then arrived in Caracas on Sept. 8 with a fake Dominican passport, invited by Orlando García. "Mono" Morales Navarete, who had replaced Posada in 1974 as the head of Division 54 in the DISIP and was García's deputy, told an FBI agent that there were two meetings in Caracas at which the bombing was planned.

... Posada and Bosch were arrested in Venezuela on Oct. 14, 1976 for their involvement in the bombing. In 1985, Posada escaped from a Venezuelan prison and went to El Salvador to work for the illegal CIA-run Contra resupply operation, under the pseudonym **Ramón Medina**. He worked as the deputy of Félix Rodríguez (pseudonym—**Max Gómez**).<sup>36</sup> Posada also functioned as Eugene Hasenfus's translator.<sup>37</sup> Rodríguez had been sent to El Salvador in 1985 by Néstor Sánchez, with the approval of Vice President George H.W. Bush.<sup>38</sup> Sánchez ... was now U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Inter-American Affairs,<sup>39</sup> from which position he oversaw the operations in which Posada was involved.

### Bosch: Bush Family Terrorists

In 1987, after meeting with Rep. Ilana Ros-Lehtinen at the request of Jeb Bush, then-Vice President George H.W. Bush intervened to effect the release of Orlando Bosch from prison in Venezuela, via Otto Reich, the U.S. Ambassador to Venezuela. Bosch then entered the U.S. illegally in 1988, where he was granted asylum. He was represented by Florida attorney **Raoul Cantero**, the grandson of Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista; Jeb Bush appointed Cantero to the Florida Supreme Court in 2002. On July 18, 1990, the senior President George Bush granted Bosch residency in the United States.<sup>42</sup>

In November 2000, Posada and three of his colleagues, including Guillermo Novo, were arrested and imprisoned after trying to assassinate Castro once again, this time at the University of Panama.<sup>43</sup> Novo had been convicted along with Suárez and Paz for his participation in the Letelier assassination, but his conviction was overturned on appeal in 1981. He and his brother Ignacio then got jobs ... for Jorge Mas Canosa's CANF.

According to journalist Ann Louise Bardach, just weeks before Sept. 11, 2001, both Suárez and Paz, who had also been convicted for the Letelier-Moffitt assassination in Washington, D.C., were released from prison by Attorney General John Ashcroft, at the intercession of Jeb Bush.<sup>44</sup> In September 2004, Posada and his three co-conspirators were suddenly pardoned in Panama, only four months after they were convicted and sentenced to eight-nine years in jail. The pardon was reportedly negotiated in Miami by **Ruby Moscoso**, sister of then-Panamanian President Mireya Moscoso.<sup>45</sup>

... The case of Luis Posada Carriles is the thread, which if pulled, can expose the Bush War on Terrorism as the fraud it has always been.