

Letelier Probe Witness Balks; Is Jailed

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By Timothy S. Robinson
Washington Post Staff Writer

An anti-Castro Cuban exile now living in Elizabeth, N.J., was jailed yesterday for refusing to testify before a federal grand jury here that is probing the bombing death here last fall of former Chilean Ambassador Orlando Letelier.

Even though Jose Dionisio Suarez, a 38-year-old salesman was granted immunity from prosecution, he told a federal judge he would not testify. He said he refused to do so because he believed that the federal government is using the investigation to

harass the Cuban exile community in the United States.

Suarez's attorney, Oscar Gonzalez-Suarez, said his client had no knowledge of the bombing, but would still serve his jail term of up to 11 months for contempt of court rather than go against his principles.

Other representatives of the Cuban Nationalist Movement held a press conference after Suarez's jailing to state they they were solidly behind Suarez and would also refuse to testify before the panel.

The jailing of Suarez was the first public act by the government in its

six-month investigation into the murders of Letelier and his Institute for Policy Studies coworker, Ronnie Moffitt. They were killed as they drove to work around Sheridan Circle NW last September.

The court action yesterday is believed to signal a new, tougher stance by the federal government in its attempts to force witnesses to cooperate with investigators.

Previously, it had been learned that federal investigators working on the case believe the murder of Letelier

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