

FALN Terrorist William Morales: Living in Cuba Under Castro's Protection

By Curtis Kincaid

With the killing of Osama Bin Laden and the Islamic terrorist threat, it is easy to forget about the “domestic terrorism” that occurred on American soil from the 1960s-80s. In fact, this “domestic terrorism” had a foreign component. The Communist Cuban intelligence service sponsored terrorism by Puerto Rican “liberation” fighters – one of whom, William “Guillermo” Morales, a prominent member of the FALN (Fuerzas Armadas de Liberación Nacional or Armed Forces of National Liberation), would escape to Cuba, where he lives today.

Born in 1950 in New York to Puerto Rican parents, Morales would become a terrorist at the age of 20 and go on to commit heinous crimes against innocent persons across the United States.¹

America's Survival, Inc. (ASI) believes that it is time to bring those who have evaded law enforcement to justice. Morales is so open about his life in Cuba that he posed with another of Castro's American terrorists, Joanne Chesimard, also known as Assata Shakur.

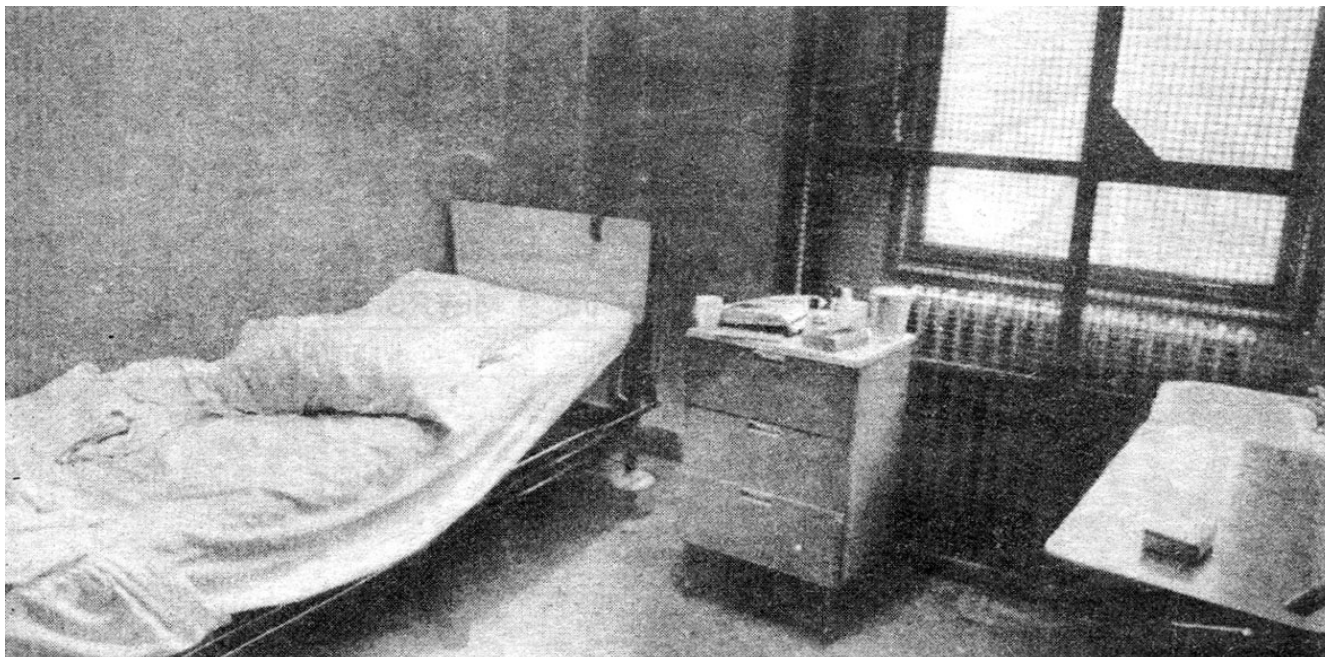


Shakur and Morales in Cuba²

The FALN was an extremist Puerto Rican separatist group³ devoted to carrying out acts of terrorism aimed to achieve “national independence” and the “release of all Puerto Rican political prisoners”.⁴ In the 1960's underground armies were formed by Puerto Rican terrorists to protest the U.S. Government or what they called “colonial forces of the United States.”⁵ The FALN claimed responsibility for the January 1975 Fraunces Tavern bombing which killed 4 and injured more than 60 others.⁶ Frank Connor was one of those killed in the blast.

In 1978, Morales was captured after a bomb he was making went off prematurely in a factory in Queens, New York. Morales suffered severe damage to his face and lost all of his fingers. He was apprehended by police and later taken to Bellevue Hospital for treatment. In 1979 Morales constructed a rope out of elastic bandages and slipped out of the window. Outside

help is reported to have been given to aid in his escape.



Bellevue Hospital ward from where Morales escaped⁷



Morales in prison after bomb accident⁸

In May, 1983 Morales was again captured, but this time in Mexico. In a manuscript written by former FBI agent Richard S. Hahn entitled *American Terrorists: The True Story of the F.A.L.N. America's Most Prolific Terrorist Group*, the capture and proceedings of Morales thereafter are detailed. Morales was at this time living in a safe house with other possible terrorist suspects, so it was hoped that he could be captured outside of the house without having others know about it thus compromising the capture of the others. Agent Hahn requested surveillance authority which was then sent to the U.S. Embassy in Mexico. The request was denied.

Mexican officials would attempt to take over the operation to take Morales into custody. Hahn realized Mexico had no extradition treaty with Mexico. In other words, there was no guarantee Morales would be sent back into U.S. custody. Hahn original request was to simply “do a photo surveillance to get pictures of the guy and determine if he was, in fact, Morales.”⁹

The following information is all able to be found in former FBI Agent Hahn’s manuscript. On May 26, 1983 in Puebla, Mexico, Mexican Federales (Mexican Federal Police) received a call with information saying Morales would be at a small café around 5:00 pm. Federales entered the café when gunfire broke out after Morales’ bodyguard spotted the Federales and opened fire. The bodyguard was killed and two officers were wounded. Eventually managing to get Morales into the officers’ car he attempted escape and then was placed into the trunk of the car until arriving at the station. Morales told the Federales he had been living in Cholula (a town close to Puebla). Mexican police arrived at the house and were immediately engaged by gunfire from the inside of the building. There were two people inside: a woman (dead), Morales common-law wife, Patricia Vidrio Anguiano and a young boy (wounded). Hahn “didn’t believe Morales would ever be extradited.”

A judgment was delivered to Morales on December 15, 1987 by a judge in Mexico which called for the extradition of Morales to the U.S. once his sentence in Mexico was completed. However; Morales was given to officials from Havana, Cuba on June 24, 1988. The Reagan administration was furious and proceeded to recall the U.S. ambassador to Mexico and criticize the Mexican ambassador to the U.S.¹⁰

Facing a 99-year sentence if Morales returns to the United States, he is being well protected by Castro. However, Americans have been able to access him for interviews, but have not provided information regarding his location in Cuba. On January 02, 1998 Amy Goodman, host and executive producer of Democracy Now!, met with Morales in person for an interview on the a radio show with Juan Gonzales through Democracy Now!. When asked how he would respond to those who call him a terrorist for “injuring” innocent persons Morales claimed “I didn’t injure anybody. The only person that was injured was myself.”¹¹ Later on in the interview Morales says again “I didn’t hurt anyone...The only one hurt here is myself, physically.” Juan Gonzales, co-host of Democracy Now!, refers to Morales as a “Puerto Rican independence fighter” and “freedom fighter”.

Ron Kuby, Morales’ American lawyer, was also on the radio show for the interview. Kuby claims that the only way the United States and these “Independence organizations” are able to “move forward” and achieve “healing” is if “the prisoners are freed and the exiles are permitted to come home.” He calls for a “truth and reconciliation commission” and “amnesty for political prisoners”.

Kuby later points out that “Cuba has been a sort of shining example of what freedom and independence can do for the people of the Caribbean, having created the highest standard of living in Latin America and the Caribbean: free medical care, tremendous educational system and is stood in stark contrast to the conditions of Puerto Rico that have existed under U.S. imperialism.” He then praises Cuba for the asylum they provide to “political prisoners” such as Morales and Assata Shakur.¹²



Morales in Lenin Park, Havana, 2004¹³

The FALN was created along with several other organizations during the 1960's including The Ejército Popular Boricua (EPB), also called Los Macheteros or The Machete Wielders. Los Macheteros are most known for their attempted bombing of an ROTC building in San Juan, Puerto Rico in 1977 and a robbery of a Wells Fargo bank in West Hartford, Connecticut in 1983 where \$7 million was stolen. This is more commonly known today as the "White Eagle" robbery as "Águila Blanca" (meaning white eagle in Spanish) was the codename for their operation.¹⁴ The FALN was responsible for over 120 bombing of various government and financial buildings and for the deaths of 6 individuals and the dozens of injured individuals.¹⁵ Members of these organizations are terrorists, plain and simple.

On September 10, 1990 President Clinton offered clemency deals to 16 FALN members who were at that time imprisoned for charges including bomb making and armed robbery. The sentences of these terrorists ranged from 35 to 90 years. At the time they were offered clemency, they had only served 14 to 19 years. The clemency deal offered would require the prisoners to sever all ties with FALN and renounce violence for good.¹⁶

Obama has continually pushed for renewed relations between Cuba and the U.S. Earlier this year, Obama took steps to ease travel restrictions to Cuba. This was one of the first, of many expected steps to redefine our relationship with Cuba. Tourist travel is still prohibited, however; churches, schools and cultural groups will now be able to visit Cuba under certain conditions.¹⁷ Obama has also eased restrictions, implemented by the Bush Administration, regarding cash flow from U.S. citizens to Cubans. Americans are now able to send up to \$2000 to any Cuban not part of the communist party and who is not working under Castro's regime. Under Bush only relatives were able to send money, up to \$500.¹⁸

In an official statement from the President he called for "an end to the repression, for the immediate, unconditional release of all political prisoners in Cuba, and for respect for the basic rights of the Cuban people."¹⁹ Why not call for an extradition of terrorists as well?

It is time to bring these terrorists to justice by allocating resources and manpower to hunt them down. Political pressure must be put on Castro as well. However, without the commitment by President Obama and Attorney General Holder, nothing can be done. Obama claims he has a “desire to seek a new era in relations between the governments of the United States and Cuba.”²⁰ Well then let us begin with demanding the extradition of criminals, including Morales and Chesimard, who are directly responsible for deaths of countless Americans. Until these terrorists are in the choke hold of the American justice system, there should be no “new era of relations” between the American and Cuban governments.

¹ “Guillermo Morales Correa: Clandestinidad y exilio 1ra parte” “Guillermo Morales: Underground and Exile Part 1” <http://www.latinamericanstudies.org/puertorico/morales-entrevista.htm>

² <http://writetofight.wordpress.com/the-puerto-rican-culture-of-resistance/>

³ Testimony of Louis J. Freeh, Director, FBI

<http://classic->

web.archive.org/web/20071008233253/http://www.fbi.gov/congress/congress01/freeh051001.htm

⁴ Political Position of FALN

<http://www.latinamericanstudies.org/puertorico/FALN-political-position.pdf>

⁵ A Nation Will Rise

<http://nyc.indymedia.org/or/2006/09/76140.html>

⁶ Clemency Opens Old Scars for Sons of Bombing Victim

<http://www.nytimes.com/1999/08/23/nyregion/clemency-opens-old-scars-for-sons-of-bombing-victim.html>

⁷ <http://www.latinamericanstudies.org/guillermo-morales.htm> (Hospital)

⁸ <http://www.latinamericanstudies.org/guillermo-morales.htm> (Prison)

⁹ American Terrorists: The True Story of the F.A.L.N. America’s Most Prolific Terrorist Group (Hahn 251)

¹⁰ American Terrorists: The True Story of the F.A.L.N. America’s Most Prolific Terrorist Group (Hahn 300)

¹¹ Goodman & Gonzalez: Morales Interview

http://www.democracynow.org/1998/1/2/cuba_report

¹² Goodman & Gonzalez: Morales Interview

http://www.democracynow.org/1998/1/2/cuba_report

¹³ <http://www.latinamericanstudies.org/guillermo-morales.htm> (Morales Lenin Park)

¹⁴ ‘Aguila Blanca’: The Robbery

<http://www.courant.com/news/breaking/hc-wells-fargo-series-5-1111-1999,0,3910307.story>

¹⁵ FALN

<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/489.html>

¹⁶ FALN Prisoners Another Step Closer to Freedom

http://articles.cnn.com/1999-09-09/us/9909_09_faln.clemency_1_clemency-offer-president-clinton-prisoners?_s=PM:US

¹⁷ Obama to Ease Travel Restrictions to Cuba, Allow More U.S. Cash to Island

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/01/14/2016622/obama-to-ease-travel-restrictions.html>

¹⁸ Cuba Isn’t Happy With Obama’s New Travel Edict

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/01/17/obama-cuba-travel_n_809887.html

¹⁹ Statement by the President on the Human Rights Situation in Cuba

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/statement-president-human-rights-situation-cuba>

²⁰ Statement by the President on the Human Rights Situation in Cuba

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/statement-president-human-rights-situation-cuba>