

People who repressed dissidents in Cuba are moving to the U.S., human-rights group says

BY NORA GÁMEZ TORRES
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Former members of the Cuban regime who have been involved in repressing dissidents on the island have abused the immigration system to come to the United States amid a large exodus from the island, activists with a Miami-based human-rights group said Tuesday.

Cuban exile Tony Costa, the director of the Foundation for Human Rights in Cuba, said in a media conference that the organization has built a database of 1,015 members of the Cuban regime who have surveilled, harassed, bullied or imprisoned dissidents, government critics and peaceful demonstrators. Of those, 115 are already living in the U.S., said Rolando Cartaya, one of the organization's researchers.

Former high-ranking officials in the Communist Party, members of the feared Cuban Interior Ministry, police officers, government lawyers and judges are among the people the organization says have recently arrived in the U.S. and have been identified on the website represorescubanos.com.

They are among the estimated 18% of Cuba's population that has fled the island in recent years.

The arrival in the U.S. of former senior government officials and state security personnel is evidence of the economic debacle on the communist island and could be read as a sign of

the regime's failure to buy political loyalty.

But alleged victims of government repression in Cuba spoke during the media conference in personal terms about what they felt when they encountered in the U.S. some of those they said were their tormentors.

"These people who repressed us, who beat us, are living and enjoying freedom in this great country," said Elixir Arando, who said two of the people identified by the foundation harassed him during "acts of repudiation" against government critics when he was living in the eastern Cuba province of Guantánamo.

Journalist Roberto Quiñones, whom the Cuban government imprisoned for trying to cover the trial of a religious couple who wanted to home-school their children, said a judge who denied his appeal is also living in the U.S.

Deserters from the Cuban government and military have been a common presence in Florida over the years, but the people included in the list compiled by the foundation have not distanced themselves from the Cuban government and might pose a "national security" threat for the United States, some of the victims said during the event.

"These people are infiltrators from the Cuban government to influence opinions, and they are going to be voting to destabilize this country," Arando said.

Cartaya said the foun-

datation built the list by investigating tips given by alleged victims of repression, who must sign notarized statements with their allegations.

Some of the people allegedly involved in repression in Cuba have arrived using legal migration pathways, including a new parole program created by the Biden administration that is currently paused because of allegations of fraud.

Santiago Alpizar, an immigration lawyer who spearheaded a similar project to identify people living in the United States who were involved in suppressing dissent in Cuba, said the new parole program is ripe for abuse because the people who benefit from it are not asked to disclose involvement in human-rights violations or membership in totalitarian parties when they apply to come to the U.S.

People involved in "oppressing the Cuban people" should be deemed "inadmissible," according to U.S. laws, said U.S. Rep. Carlos Giménez, R-Fla., who was at the press conference. Giménez added that he will share the information compiled by the foundation with federal agencies for further investigation.

Giménez and other fellow Florida Republicans complained to the Department of Homeland Security and the State Department about their having authorized the arrival of Manuel Menéndez Castellanos, a former



NORA GÁMEZ TORRES Miami Herald/el Nuevo Herald

From left, U.S. Rep. Carlos Giménez, R-Fla., Florida state Sen. Ana María Rodríguez, Tony Costa, the director of the Foundation for Human Rights in Cuba, and researchers Rolando Cartaya and Luis Domínguez, attend a news conference in Miami on Tuesday.

member of the Cuban Communist Party's central committee who flew to Miami this month to join his family.

"If these people have been fighting so long for the regime, they should stay in Cuba," Giménez said. "We don't need you

here."

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MIDTOWN

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

PLEASE ALL TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Commissioners Meeting of the Midtown Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) scheduled to take place on Saturday, September 7, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. or thereafter, in the City Commission Chambers located at Miami City Hall, located at 3500 Pan American Drive, Miami, Florida 33133.

All interested persons are invited to attend. For more information, please contact the Midtown CRA office at (305) 679-6868.

Ad No. 43559

Anthony Balzebre, Executive Director
Midtown Community Redevelopment Agency



CITY OF DORAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

All residents, property owners and other interested parties are hereby notified of a **COUNCIL MEETING** on **September 11, 2024 beginning at 6:00 PM** to consider site plan approval. The meeting will be held at the **City of Doral, Government Center, Council Chambers located at 8401 NW 53rd Terrace, Doral, Florida, 33166.**

The City of Doral proposes to adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION No. 24-

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE SITE PLAN FOR 8800 DORAL LLC FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 8800 NW 36 STREET, DORAL, FLORIDA, PURSUANT TO SECTION 53-184(F) OF THE CITY'S LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

HEARING NO.: 24-09-DOR-06

APPLICANT: 8800 Doral LLC c/o Toothaker.org (the "Applicant")

PROJECT NAME: Ocean Bank Site Plan

PROPERTY OWNER: 8800 Doral LLC

LOCATION: 8800 NW 36 Street, Doral, FL

FOLIO NUMBER: 35-3028-026-0010

SIZE OF PROPERTY: ±0.4 acres

FUTURE LAND USE MAP CATEGORY: Downtown Mixed Use (DMU) and Urban Central Business District (UCBD) overlay.

ZONING DISTRICT: Downtown Mixed Use (DMU)

REQUEST: The Applicant is proposing a bank with drive-thru facilities.

Inquiries regarding the item may be directed to the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL. The application file may be examined at the City of Doral Planning and Zoning Department located at 8401 NW 53 Terrace, Doral, FL 33166.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, if a person decides to appeal any decisions made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. This notice does not constitute consent by the City for introduction or admission of otherwise inadmissible or irrelevant evidence, nor does it authorize challenges or appeals not otherwise allowed by law.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person who are disabled and who need special accommodations to participate in this meeting because of that disability should contact the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL no later than three (3) business days prior to the proceeding.

Connie Diaz, MMC
City Clerk
City of Doral

Location Map



CITY OF DORAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

All residents, property owners and other interested parties are hereby notified of a **COUNCIL MEETING** on **September 11, 2024, beginning at 6:00 PM** to consider the annual update to the Capital Improvement Element of the City's Comprehensive Plan. The City Council will consider this item for **SECOND READING**. The meeting will be held at the **City of Doral, Government Center, Council Chambers located at 8401 NW 53rd Terrace, Doral, Florida, 33166.**

The City of Doral proposes to adopt the following Ordinance:

ORDINANCE No. 2024-22

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE ANNUAL UPDATE TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ELEMENT (CIE) OF THE CITY'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR 2024 AND THE FIVE-YEAR SCHEDULE OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2024/2025 - 2028/2029 PURSUANT TO SECTION 163.3177(3)(B), FLORIDA STATUTES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

HEARING NO.: 24-09-DOR-01

APPLICANT: City of Doral

REQUEST: The City Manager's Office respectfully recommends that the Mayor and City Councilmembers authorize approval of the annual update to the Capital Improvements Element (CIE) of the City's Comprehensive Plan for 2024 and the Five-Year Schedule of Capital Improvements for Fiscal Years 2024/2025 - 2028/2029.

Inquiries regarding the item may be directed to the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, if a person decides to appeal any decisions made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. This notice does not constitute consent by the City for introduction or admission of otherwise inadmissible or irrelevant evidence, nor does it authorize challenges or appeals not otherwise allowed by law. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person who are disabled and who need special accommodations to participate in this meeting because of that disability should contact the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL no later than three (3) business days prior to the proceeding.

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