

ANÍBAL ACEVEDO VILÁ
GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO

December 29, 2008

The Honorable Barack Obama
President-elect of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500-0001

Dear President-elect Obama:

As Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, I respectfully appeal to the executive powers that will be vested upon you as President by the Constitution of the United States of America to intercede on behalf of the Department of Justice of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), regarding the ongoing investigation of the murder of Santiago Mari-Pesquera.

Santiago Mari-Pesquera was a 23 year-old pilot murdered in Caguas, Puerto Rico, on March 24, 1976. He was the eldest son of attorney Juan Mari Brás, a prominent pro independence leader in Puerto Rico, who at the time was Secretary General of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP), and its Governor candidate. The facts surrounding this murder, the numerous threats that Mari Brás and his family received before the boy was killed, and the long history of political persecution that Mari Brás has experienced throughout his life, strengthen the theory that the motive of the perpetrators of this assassination was political, in order to harm the head of the Socialist Party and, therefore, the independence movement in Puerto Rico.

Although Henry W. Coira, a mentally unstable neighbor of the family was found guilty and served in jail for this assassination, there are leads suggesting that this man did not act alone. It is thought that Mari-Pesquera was victim of a conspiracy organized and financed by members of Cuban extreme right wing groups in Puerto Rico, possibly supported by similar groups in the United States of America. Mari Brás and the Socialist Party had very close relations with Fidel Castro's government in Cuba, something that annoyed these right winged groups as well as Puerto Rico's and the United State's governments at the time.

Although the Department of Justice of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico has undertaken the investigation of this crime with all due diligence, there are still missing relevant pieces of

information to identify the suspects and solve this crime. The FBI has information about this murder that is very much needed to solve this case. When the Agency has sent documents to the family regarding this crime under the Freedom of Information Act, most of them have always appeared crossed out.

For over 32 years, the family of Santiago Mari-Pesquera and his father, attorney Juan Mari Brás, who is now 81 years old and a highly respected political figure in our country, have consistently demanded a thorough investigation of this murder.

Knowing your high commitment to just causes, I respectfully appeal for your intervention with the FBI in order for them to declassify and furnish to the Department of Justice of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico all the information in their possession related to the Santiago Mari Pesquera case. I, as well as the victim's family and the People of Puerto Rico, will be enormously grateful for any action or consideration that you may devote to this case.

Sincerely,



Anibal Acevedo Vila

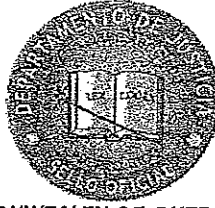
Appendices

Letter to Mr. Luis S. Fraticelli, Special Agent in Charge San Juan Field Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation, September 26, 2005

Letter to Mr. David M. Hardy, Section Chief, Record/Information Dissemination Section, Records Management Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, December 26, 2007

Letter to the Information and Privacy Coordinator, Central Intelligence Agency, January 28, 2008

Letter to Mr. Scott Koch, Information and Privacy Coordinator, Central Intelligence Agency, May 7, 2008



COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ATTORNEY GENERAL OFFICE OF PUERTO RICO
ORGANIZED CRIME AND DRUGS DIVISION
P.O. BOX 9020192, SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO 00902-0192

September 26, 2005

Luis Fraticelli
Federal Bureau of Investigation
P.O. Box 366269
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-1069

Att: Michael Faries
Chief Division Counsel

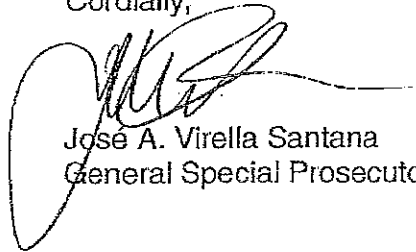
Dear Mr. Fraticelli:

The Department of Justice of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is conducting an investigation of the murder of Santiago Mari Pesquera on March 25, 1976.

The deceased Mari Pesquera was the son of prominent leader of the Puerto Rico Socialist Party, Juan Mari Bras, who at that time was candidate for governor on behalf of that Party. Although one Henry Walter Coira was charged and convicted for this murder there exists the possibility that this murder was of a political nature and that other individuals or organizations were involved.

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 5USCA552, we request your cooperation and disclosure of any pertinent information of the assassination of Santiago Mari-Pesquera and other related matters.

Cordially,



José A. Virella Santana
General Special Prosecutor

9/27/05
11/05
[Handwritten signature]

ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE PUERTO RICO
DEPARTAMENTO DE JUSTICIA
OFICINA DEL FISCAL GENERAL DE PUERTO RICO
APARTADO 9020192, SAN JUAN, PR 00902



Tel: (787) 729-2199/729-2400
Fax: (787) 977-2245

26 de diciembre de 2007

David M. Hardy
Section Chief
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Records Management Division

Request No. 1032283-000
Subject: Mari-Pesquera, Santiago

Dear Mr. Hardy:

The Department of Justice has recently referred this case to the undersigned attorney.

Our Department addressed a Freedom of Information Act Request to the FBI in San Juan, Puerto Rico on September 26, 2005. We were informed that the Request was referred to the FBI Headquarters and to this date, it has not been answered.

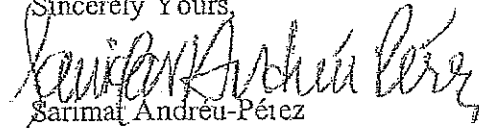
In order for you to make an accurate search in your records, enclosed is the death certificate of **Santiago Mari-Pesquera**, assassinated March 24, 1976 in Río Piedras, Puerto Rico. As mentioned before, the deceased was the son of a prominent leader of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, **Juan Mari-Bras**, who at the time of his son's death was a Governor candidate on behalf of his political party. It is very likely that the FBI has information about this murder as part of the intelligence work gathered regarding terrorist acts on the island.

We would also like any information in your records pertaining to **Henry W. Coira-Story**. This is the person who was held responsible for the assassination. In light of the circumstances leading to the murder of Mari-Pesquera, there is a possibility that Coira-Story did not act alone. It has been inferred that the crime was of a political nature and part of a conspiracy of the Cuban right wing.

Henry W. Coira-Story was born on Santiago de Cuba, December 15, 1952 and his social security number is 583-50-3782.

Do not hesitate to contact us if you need any other information to process our request.

Sincerely Yours,



Sarimat Andreu-Pérez

Prosecutor

Attorney General Office of Puerto Rico

Department of Justice

Enclosure



Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico
Departamento de Salud

NUMERO DE CERTIFICADO (CERTIFICATE NUMBER)
152-1976-00132-000000-001606-00687912

NOMBRE DEL FALLECIDO (DECEASED NAME)
SANTIAGO MARI PESQUERA

SEGURO SOCIAL (SOCIAL SECURITY)
DESCONOCIDO (UNKNOWN)

SEXO (SEX)
M

ESTADO CIVIL (MARITAL STATUS)
NUNCA SE CASO (NEVER MARRIED)

NOMBRE CONYUGE (SPOUSE'S NAME)
XX

FECHA DEFUNCION (DEATH DATE)
24 MAR 1976

FECHA REGISTRO (REGISTRATION DATE)
12 ABR 1976

LUGAR DEFUNCION (DEATH PLACE)
CAGUAS, PUERTO RICO

FUE EMBALSAMADO? (WAS EMBALMED?)
SE DESCONOCE (UNKNOWN)

FECHA NACIMIENTO (BIRTH DATE)
26 AGO 1952

EDAD (AGE)
23 AÑOS

LUGAR NACIMIENTO (BIRTHPLACE)
ESTADOS UNIDOS

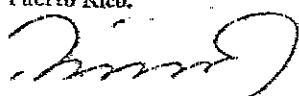
NOMBRE DEL PADRE (FATHER'S NAME)
JUAN MARI BRAS

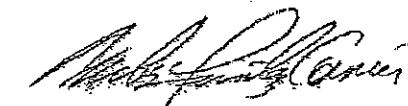
NOMBRE DE LA MADRE (MOTHER'S NAME)
PAQUITA PESQUERA

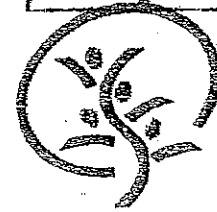
FECHA EXPEDICION (DATE ISSUED)
27 DIC 2007

CERTIFICAMOS: que la que antecede es una copia fiel y exacta de un certificado original archivado bajo nuestra custodia en el Registro Demográfico del Departamento de Salud de Puerto Rico y que las correcciones que puedan aparecer en dicho certificado original aquí fotografiado son correcciones Bona-Fide hechas de acuerdo a las leyes que para tales fines rigen en Puerto Rico.

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Néstor Pérez Pardo, MD, MPH, PHD
Secretario de Salud
Secretary of Health


Nicolás Fernández Cornier, M.S.
Director, Registro Demográfico
Director Demographic Registry



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- Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1: Article Addressed to: *2.8.2001 Criminal*
Mr. David M. Hardy
Record Management Division
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature Agent
 Addressee
X

B. Received by (Printed Name) C. Date of Delivery
D.W. Jones/D *12-3-01*

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? Yes
 if YES, enter delivery address below: No

3. Service Type
 Certified Mail Express Mail
 Registered Return Receipt for Merchandise
 Insured Mail C.O.D.

4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee) Yes

2. Article Number
 (Transfer from service label) *7007 0220 0000 5443 3223*

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DEPARTAMENTO DE JUSTICIA
OFICINA DEL FISCAL GENERAL DE PUERTO RICO
APARTADO 9020192, SAN JUAN, PR 00902

Hon. José M. Delgado Rodríguez
Sub. Fiscal General



Tel: (787) 729-2199/ 729-2400
Fax: (787) 977-2245

January 28, 2008

Information and Privacy Coordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505
Facsimile (703) 613-3007

Dear Coordinator:

The Department of Justice of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is reviewing the criminal investigation of the murder of **Santiago Mari-Pesquera**, which occurred on March 24, 1976 in Río Piedras, Puerto Rico. The victim was the son of a prominent leader of the *Puerto Rican Socialist Party*, Juan Mari-Bras, who at the time of his son's death was a Governor candidate on behalf of his political party.

10
Although a man named **Henry W. Coira-Story** was convicted for assassinating Mari-Pesquera in 1981, in light of the circumstances leading to the murder, there is a possibility that Coira-Story did not act alone. It has been inferred that the crime was of a political nature. Therefore, we believe it is possible that the CIA has information about this murder as part of the intelligence work gathered regarding terrorists acts on the island and the efforts for the containment of communism during the past decades.

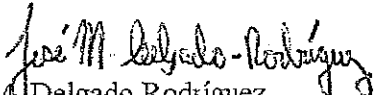
Under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. subsection 552, we are requesting information or records related to **Santiago Mari-Pesquera** and **Henry W. Coira Story** or any other matter related to this case.

In order for you to make an accurate search on your records, enclosed is a copy of the Death certificate of Santiago Mari-Pesquera.

Regarding Henry W. Coira Story, we know that was born on Santiago de Cuba, December 15, 1952 and that his social security number is 583-50-3782.

If you have any questions about handling this request, you may telephone us at (787) 729-2400 or (787) 729-2199.

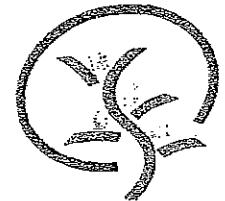
Sincerely,


José M. Delgado-Rodríguez
Deputy, Chief Prosecuting Attorney

Sarimar Andréu-Pérez
Assistant District Attorney

Enclosure

Enclosure



Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico
Departamento de Salud

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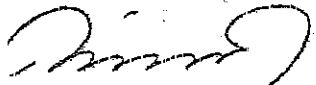
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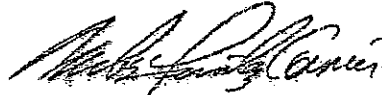
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FECHA EXPEDICION (DATE ISSUED)
27 DIC 2007

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Rosa Pérez Párdomo, MD, MPH, PHD
Secretario de Salud
Secretary of Health


Nicolás Fernández Cornier, M.S.
Director, Registro Demográfico
Director Demographic Registry



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Departamento de Salud

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Hon. José M. Delgado-Rodríguez
Sub. Fiscal General



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Fax: (787) 977-2245

May 7, 2008

Mr. Scott Koch
Information and Privacy Coordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505
Facsimile (703) 613-3007

Reference: F-2008-00820

Dear Mr. Koch:

On March 25, 2008, the office of the Chief Prosecuting Attorney received your response to our January 28 FOIA request.

Regarding the additional information you need about Coira-Story in order to process our request, we inform you that his full name is **Henry Walter Coira-Story**. He is a U.S. citizen and his social security number is 583-50-3782.


With regard to the privacy waiver, the Department investigated that Coira-Story is currently living in Florida, USA. The arrangements to obtain the privacy waiver on behalf of Coira Story are being coordinated. We trust that your Agency "will balance the privacy interests that would be compromised by disclosure against the public interest in release of the requested information". It should not be forgotten that it is as part of a murder investigation that we ask the release of the information.

On the other hand, the Department of Justice for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is committed to pay any fee necessary to process our request nonetheless, we were under the impression that the payment of fees did not apply to government instrumentalities.

Finally, we are conscious that the CIA is primarily concerned with foreign intelligence – not domestic- matters. The reason we addressed the request to your Agency, in addition to the Federal Bureau of Investigations, is that it is probable that the assassination occurred as part of the Cuban Exile terrorism on the island. The matter being related to the anti-Castro movement and the efforts for the containment of communism in the past, we thought it was pertinent to ask for your cooperation.

Please be assured that our department is going to comply with the requirements necessary to process our petition. In light of the circumstances stated above, we ask for the FOIA request F-2008-00820 not to be closed.

Sincerely,


José M. Delgado-Rodríguez
Deputy, Chief Prosecuting Attorney