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## US prosecutors charge Cuban exile over role in bombings

Luis Posada Carriles, 81, was charged with 11 counts of lying to US authorities over 1997 bombings in Cuba

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**Daniel Nasaw** in Washington  
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US federal prosecutors have charged an elderly anti-Castro Cuban exile and former CIA operative with lying to US immigration authorities about his role in anti-Castro bombings in [Cuba](#).

Luis Posada Carriles, 81, was charged with 11 counts of lying to US authorities over his involvement in the 1997 bombings at tourist sites in Cuba and other matters. An Italian tourist, Fabio di Celmo, was killed in the 1997 bomb blast at the Copacabana hotel in Havana. In addition, Venezuelan authorities have accused Posada of planning the 1976 bombing of a Cuban airliner off the coast of Barbados that killed all 73 people aboard.

A Venezuelan citizen, Posada was detained in 2005 for entering the US illegally. Aware that Cuban and Venezuelan officials sought his extradition, Posada applied to become an American citizen, which would have precluded his deportation. He had been living freely in Miami since 2007.

According to the indictment, during a deportation hearing Posada falsely told an immigration judge under oath that he had not been involved in anti-Castro bombings in Cuba, and that he had not arranged for an alleged accomplice to bring explosives into Cuba. The alleged accomplice, Salvadoran national Raul Cruz Leon, was convicted in Cuba of the bombings and sentenced to death. Among other accusations, prosecutors said Posada lied about how he had entered the US, and lied about holding a false Guatemalan passport.

Posada aided the CIA in the run-up to the abortive 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion by US-backed anti-Castro fighters.

Shortly before his 2005 arrest on immigration charges, Posada called a press conference and told reporters, "I am not renouncing violence."

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