

## **“Burned” Cuban Agent Moves From Miami to the Big Apple**

**Dr. Lisandro Pérez**, formerly a Sociology professor at Florida International University (FIU), has moved to John Jay College in New York City. Identified as a Cuban Intelligence agent by no less than three separate sources, Perez was first “outed” 32 years old.

In 1974, the trimester Areito magazine was founded, which boasted of its support for Castro's Cuban Revolution. Four founders and collaborators of Areito magazine were Jorge Dominguez, Carmelo Mesa-Lago, **Lisandro Pérez** & Marifeli Perez-Stable. In 1980, Committee of 75 leader, Reverend Manuel Espinosa, publicly denounced Areito as front organizations for DGI espionage and recruitment campaign in the United States. In March 1982, a Florida Department of Law Enforcement Special Agent testified before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Security and Terrorism, that Areito magazine was "DGI propaganda." Then, in July 1983, **DGI Captain Jesus Perez-Mendez** defected to the United States and also confirmed Areito's ties to Cuban Intelligence.

### *Background*

**Pérez** was formerly a Sociology professor at Florida International University (FIU) and the founder of the Cuban Research Institute (CRI). He established CRI in 1991 and developed it into the premier academic center in the US for the study of Cuba and Cuban Americans. He served as its director until 2003. CRI has a relationship with the influential Inter-American Dialogue and they co-sponsor Cuba-related events in DC. He is also a long-time supporter of dialogue w/dialog with Cuba.

**Pérez** has a lifelong interest in Cuban migration to the U.S., the dynamics of the Cuban-American community, and social change in Cuba. For several years, he was the author of the journal *Cuban Studies*, which has been published annually by the University of Pittsburgh Press since 1985. It is the preeminent journal for scholarly work on Cuba. He has contributed to several edited collections and has written articles for journals such as *Columbia Journal of World Business*, *International Migration Review*, *the Latin American Research Review*, *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Journal of Latin American Studies*. He has appeared on PBS' *Frontline*, at the Woodrow Wilson Int'l Center for Scholars, at the Inter-American Dialogue, and the Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy (ASCE).

He is the co-author of the book *The Legacy of Exile: Cubans in the United States*. During 2004-2005, **Pérez** received a Fellowship to the Center for Scholars and Writers of the New York Public Library, where he carried out research for his book on the Cuban community in New York City during the nineteenth century.

From 1997 to 1998 he was a Visiting Scholar at the Russell Sage Foundation. As one of the nation's foremost experts in the Cuban exile phenomenon, **Pérez** wrote during the trial of the **Wasp Network** that: “the possibility of selecting twelve citizens of Miami-Dade County who can be impartial in a case involving acknowledged agents of the Cuban government is virtually zero.”

In 1992, FIU received a grant to study United States-Cuba relations. This grant led to the "Cuba in Transition" study, which was headed by **Pérez**. Within weeks, the *Miami Herald* reported that the "Cuba in Transition" study consists of 17 project members. At least three members of this highly influential team, to include **Pérez**, were/are Cuban spies.

**Pérez** was on the *Miami Herald's* Board of Contributors from 1985 to at least 1990.