How a bit player in Miami’s bad-old-days drug wars got a life sentence while leaders received lesser punishment. And how she finally got a break.

BY JAY WEAVER
Portland Tribune

A couple of days after a federal witness committed by a Colombian hit team, Willy Zúñiga was making a meal in her Kendall apartment when she heard a loud bang on her door. It was the knock that Zúñiga, who went by the name Tocayo, had feared. They had just watched the news of the 1993 killing of Bernardo Gonzáles — grunted down outside his North Miami-Dade home — she had mentioned. Tocayo, grinning as the TV flashed images of accused Miami drug lords Sal Magluta and Willy Falcon, who were in prison in Colombia. Ramirez did not know the man pictured in the prison uniform — the infamous Miami Senior High School dropout charged with smuggling 75 tons of cocaine into the country — their connection to the murder victim.

VENEZUELAN MIGRATION

Chávez put stamp on S. Florida

Miami Has had ties to South Florida for decades, but the community’s presence blossomed during Hugo Chavez’s 14-year presidency.

BY MORI WHITEFIELD
and PATRICIA HOLLIS
mwhitefield@MiamiHerald.com

Pablo Lazo’s parents had long planned to move to South Florida from Caracas. But their plans accelerated in early 2003, when a prosperous work trip convinced President Hugo Chávez paroled Venezuela.

As February, Lobón, then 13, and his family had picked up and left, concerned about high crime and political and economic instability. They moved to a furnished Fort Lauderdale apartment — owned by his grandparents at a vacation home. It was typical, a life sentence while leaders received lesser punishment. And how she finally got a break.

The party girl and the drug lords

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Sea-rise appears to accelerate

**ENVIRONMENT**

Sea-rise poses serious problems for coastal communities, as rising sea levels threaten the survival of many species and put pressure on human settlements. The acceleration of sea level rise is a concern for environmentalists and policymakers alike, who are working to mitigate the impacts of climate change and adapt to the new coastal realities.

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**WORLD BRIEFS**

Britain: Stonehenge may have origins as burial site

British scientists say new evidence suggests that Stonehenge, the famous stone circle in southern England, was originally built as a community graveyard, rather than as a monument to the dead. The discovery, which could rewrite the history of the monument, was announced on the eve of the 20th anniversary of its World Heritage status.

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**KENYA**

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**

ODFAS to reject defeat

KEITH MUGUMO

ODFAS – Kenya – ODM supporting3rd candidate in Kenya’s presidential election: ODFAS has invited opposition leader Raila Odinga to a meeting on Wednesday and will decide on his fate then.

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**THOUSANDS PROTEST PLANNED GOLD MINE**

The United States has won the right to protest against a plan to establish a large gold mine in the country's northern region of the Northwest. The Mine, which is the subject of a $5,000,000 lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, has been ruled by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to violate the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act.

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**U.S., ASIA TOUGHEN TURTLE SAFEGUARDS**

The U.S. has announced new measures to protect sea turtles in Asia, following a series of incidents in which hawksbill turtles were illegally caught and sold for food.

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**BRITAIN**

Stonehenge may have origins as burial site

British scientists say new evidence suggests that Stonehenge, the famous stone circle in southern England, was originally built as a community graveyard, rather than as a monument to the dead. The discovery, which could rewrite the history of the monument, was announced on the eve of the 20th anniversary of its World Heritage status.

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**LONDON**

British researchers have prepared a new theory for the origin of Stonehenge. They say the stone circle was built as a community graveyard, rather than as a monument to the dead. The discovery, which could rewrite the history of the monument, was announced on the eve of the 20th anniversary of its World Heritage status.

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