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## **Latest Poll on Cuban-American Political Attitudes Show Shifts**

**MIAMI (March 9, 2006)**--About a third of Cuban-Americans would support an American military invasion of Cuba and an additional third support tightening the embargo in order to bring democracy to the island, but the majority rate other issues, such as the economy, as bigger concerns, a recent poll unveiled at Florida International University has found. Further, 15% stated that they were looking from some new option to bring freedom and democracy to Cuba.

During a panel discussion about the poll results sponsored by FIU's Metropolitan Center, the researchers who conducted the study said the military action response may be the result of frustration in the Cuban-American community with current American foreign policy toward the island.

The questions on attitudes toward Cuba policy were part of a comprehensive study conducted by researchers from the University of Texas Pan-American and the University of California-Irvine.

"This study sheds light on the political attitudes of the Cuban and Cuban-American community in Miami-Dade," said Dario Moreno, the FIU Metropolitan Center director. "This group has exuded political influence and it is important to study that influence over time."

The telephone poll of 600 adult Cubans and Cuban-Americans in Miami-Dade was conducted from February 6-19, 2006 in both English and Spanish by Jessica Lavariega Monforti, from University of Texas Pan-American, and Lisa García Bedolla, from the University of California-Irvine. The researchers found significant social and political changes, which they say not only signal an evolution, but further support the fact that the community is not monolithic. The poll was funded by the University of California-Irvine.

Other findings included:

- The war in Iraq and the U.S. campaign against terrorism outrank concerns about Cuba almost two to one

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- About 21 percent of respondents said that they had taken part in a protest, march, or demonstration in the last year
- A majority of those polled state they speak Spanish rather than English most of the time
- Only 21.6 percent of respondents said the most important political issue for them personally was Cuba

“If you had asked this last question five years ago, no matter how you had asked the question, the answer would have been Cuba for the majority,” said Jessica Lavariega Monforti, a political scientist at the University of Texas, Pan American.

When asked which measure they would most support by the U.S. government in order to bring about a free and democratic Cuba, one-third of respondents said a military strike to eliminate the dictator; an additional one-third said tightening the embargo.

For more information call Vanessa Brito at the Metropolitan Center at 305-349-1251. To view the poll results log on to [URL HERE](#).

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