

Hit ordered from cell?

By **BILL FARRELL**

Daily News Staff Writer

A Rikers Island inmate awaiting trial for murder allegedly tried to have his ex-wife killed to keep her from testifying against him, according to testimony in Brooklyn Supreme Court yesterday.

Hector Lopez' former co-conspirator, Margie Matos, told a stunned jury that Lopez also said that should his children be with his ex-wife when the killers found her, that they should be killed as well.

Matos testified that Lopez used her in the plot to kill his ex-wife, Christina Morales, 25, and her new boyfriend, Jose Rivera, 28, because they were going to testify.

According to Matos, Lopez was so determined to see the couple killed he ordered his four children murdered as well.

Lopez, charged with four counts of murder and arson and assault charges stemming from the June 1994 fire which he allegedly set in an attempt to kill Rivera, sat motionless as Matos explained the plot.

Two people, Sandra Lopez, 40, and Felix Rolan, 54, were killed in the fire at 2 Hope St. Lopez is not related to the couple.

Matos was arrested along with Hector Lopez last April after Lopez' cousin, Hector DeLeon, went to prosecutors with details of the scheme.

Matos had been charged with conspiracy, but last month cut a deal with prosecutors for a sentence of probation in exchange for her testimony.

Speaking in a soft voice, Matos told how Lopez hatched the plot shortly after Thanksgiving. During visits to Rikers Island and through numerous phone calls, it was Matos who found Morales and Rivera, and gave DeLeon — who was to commit the murders — a gun.

According to the plan, Matos was to bury the weapon in Morris Park in the Bronx.

"He told DeLeon he wanted Christina Morales and Joey Rivera killed because they were witnesses in his murder case," said Matos. "He said he wanted it done, and DeLeon said he'd do it."

Matos said she was scared when she first heard of the plan. "I told him, 'That's your kids' mother.'" Lopez and Morales have four children who range from 4 to 10 years old.

Lopez allegedly told DeLeon he wanted to "read about the killings in the paper," she said.

That's when the murder plot was expanded to include the children, said Matos. "He told me he wanted his kids killed too," Matos said. "He told me if the kids are there with their mother and Joey Rivera, to have them all killed."

The trial will continue today before Justice Anne Feldman.

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