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PB

THE STRUGGLE FOR ELIÁN

Another D-Day for Elián on complex asylum issue

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ATLANTA — Today is another D-Day in the international dispute over Elián González.

But as a three-judge panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals considers whether the 6-year-old can seek political asylum, the dynamics of the political sideshow outside the courtroom have changed.

No longer is the controversy

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ON 16A.**

confined to Miami, while a curious nation looks on.

From Miami to Los Angeles, hundreds of protesters gathered Wednesday for demonstrations outside federal buildings in 15 U.S. cities to decry communism and ask that Elián not be sent back to Cuba.

"It's like sending a child back to Hitler," said Rosie García Carreras, a Cuban-American who was one of

about two dozen demonstrators outside Atlanta's federal building. "That's what we're doing. The issue here is freedom."

At the same time, fathers' rights groups nationwide were urging the court to respect the wishes of Juan Miguel González, who wants to return to Cuba with his son.

One of the groups, the North Atlanta chapter of Fathers Are Parents Too, hopes to gather 100 of its

■ **ELIÁN continues on 16A**



FAMILY PORTRAIT: Elián González plays with his father, Juan Miguel, on Wednesday on Maryland's Eastern Shore. With them are Gonzalez's wife, Nercy, and Elián's half brother, Hianny. *AFP photo*