

EIR Feature

Colombia hostage to drug mafia 'extraditables'

by Robyn Quijano

At 7 a.m. on Jan. 25, 1988, the "extraditables," the Medellín Cocaine Cartel bosses, kidnaped Colombia's attorney general, Carlos Mauro Hoyos Jiménez, in a shoot-out that left his two bodyguards dead. One week earlier, the drug mob had kidnaped the front-running candidate for mayor of Bogotá, Andrés Pastrana, from his campaign headquarters.

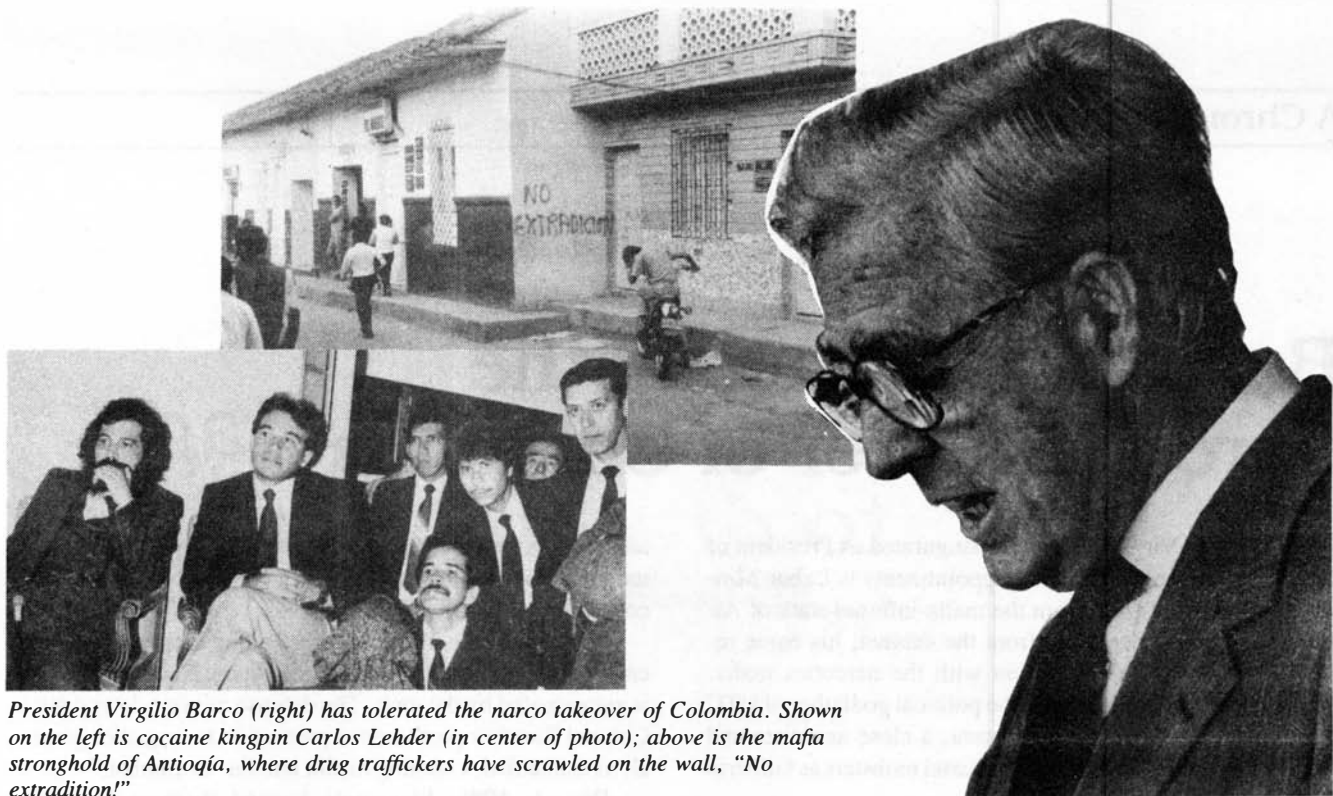
On the afternoon of the 25th, police rescued Pastrana, who was being held at the ranch of Gonzalo Rodríguez Gacha, wanted for murder and drug trafficking by U.S. authorities. Hours later the "extraditables" announced to the Toledar radio chain that "we have executed the attorney general for the crime of treason to the fatherland." They gave the exact place the body would be found, near the Rodríguez Gacha ranch. "The war goes on. I repeat, the war goes on," their spokesman threatened.

Two days before, in a communiqué on their negotiating position with Pastrana's father, ex-President Misael Pastrana and his family, the kidnapers declared "total war" against all those in agreement with the extradition treaty. "We will try them as traitors and sell-outs," said the communiqué, which also demanded that Pastrana's TV news station cover "citizens who are not in agreement with the surrender of Colombians to North American imperialism."

The "extraditables" had taken the Colombian nation hostage. Their demands: the end of any attempt to extradite the drug traffickers who are facing charges in the United States, and the abandonment of any effort to confiscate the multibillion-dollar properties of the mob.

The attorney general was found blindfolded, tied, and handcuffed, and shot several times in the head. Anyone who threatens the narcotics mafia's takeover of the nation will get the same treatment, they say. Carlos Mauro Hoyos had said that the extradition treaty had to be enforced after Medellín Cartel boss Jorge Luis Ochoa walked out of jail on Dec. 31, having bought judges, lawyers, and jailers. "The country is besieged by fear, and we cannot allow justice to be besieged by the power of money," he warned two weeks before he was executed.

The "extraditables" announced their intentions to blackmail the nation two



President Virgilio Barco (right) has tolerated the narco takeover of Colombia. Shown on the left is cocaine kingpin Carlos Lehder (in center of photo); above is the mafia stronghold of Antioqía, where drug traffickers have scrawled on the wall, "No extradition!"

months before. On Nov. 23, immediately following the arrest of Medellín Cartel chief Jorge Luis Ochoa, the cartel issued a warning that, in the event of Ochoa's extradition to the United States, it would "declare total and absolute war against the entire political and leadership class of the country. We will execute, without any considerations of any kind, all leading political chiefs of the political parties."

The M-19 narco-terrorists, who were originally thought to have carried out the Pastrana kidnaping for the mafia, issued a communiqué on Jan. 22, denouncing the extradition treaty: "The oligarchy is presenting a pathetic scene, groveling on its knees before the will of the U.S." The communiqué described the present crisis as "an intense point in relations among those who govern the republic: the drug mafia, the political class, and the U.S. government." The M-19 had been paid \$5 million by the Medellín Cartel for their assault on the Justice Palace in 1985.

Then, too, it was the battle against extradition, in which communist forces joined their "anti-imperialist" drug-trafficking friends in an assault on the nation. But back then, the President, Belisario Betancur, pulled the plug on what was designed to be a drawn-out blackmail of the nation. The military mounted a nearly immediate offensive to retake the Justice building. Instead of international support for fighting war with the arms of war, the international media backed the human rights of terrorists who had been executing Supreme Court Justices one by one while they set fire to the extradition files of the nation.

Today President Barco has demonstrated indecision and paralysis, in effect, tolerance of the narco takeover of the

nation. In a nationally televised speech on Jan. 26, President Barco presented his plan to "defend democracy," in the wake of the assassination of the attorney general. He did not mention either the extradition treaty, nor the decree to confiscate illicit wealth which the mafia so fears.

On Jan. 12, Enrique Gómez Hurtado, Conservative Party leader, called upon Barco to head up a "civilian coup" to take control of the nation's institutions corrupted by the drug lords, and impose "a state of siege, as in a state of war," to end the "absolute dissolution of the nation." While Barco rejected this call, the population is demanding moral courageous leadership to deliver them from the terror of the mob's impunity. But Barco has instead expressed fear of falling into "totalitarian" measures against a satanic force that has openly declared total war against a nation and a civilization.

This is the "final offensive" of an invading international force. The Medellín Cartel is a crucial link in Moscow's drive to destroy the West from within. If the "extraditables" succeed in blackmailing the Colombian nation into surrendering to their unconditional demands, the takeover of the nation by the Moscow-run narco-terrorist guerrillas is assured.

The battle to save Colombia from takeover by this international force, is thus a battle that requires the backing of every nation of the West. Without the complicity of the international banking system that depends on nearly \$500 billion of dirty drug money a year, the infrastructure of the mafia, and of the Moscow-run narco-terrorists would soon collapse. Any Western nation that truly wishes to end the drug scourge must start by jailing the bankers that launder the blood-stained profits of Dope, Incorporated.