

1-18-1990

## Colombia: Drug Ring Leaders Ask For Amnesty, Admit Defeat

John Neagle

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/notisur>

---

### Recommended Citation

Neagle, John. "Colombia: Drug Ring Leaders Ask For Amnesty, Admit Defeat." (1990). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/notisur/4212>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiSur by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [amywinter@unm.edu](mailto:amywinter@unm.edu).

## Colombia: Drug Ring Leaders Ask For Amnesty, Admit Defeat

by John Neagle

Category/Department: General

Published: Thursday, January 18, 1990

On Jan. 17, Patricia Echavarria and her daughter, Dina, were released after being kidnapped Dec. 16 by drug traffickers. They were set free in a neighborhood built by drug ring leader Pablo Escobar Gaviria for the poor of Medellin. Echavarria is the wife of a prominent doctor in that city. Echavarria was carrying a communique by the drug ring leaders who call themselves "The Extraditables" asking the government for amnesty, and admitting defeat in the "drug war" commenced by President Virgilio Barco's administration in August. The communique came in response to a call on Jan. 16 by the Catholic Church and leaders of political parties for the drug traffickers to release their hostages and end the drug trade. President Barco said on the same day, for the first time, that he would not rule out the possibility of negotiations to end the drug war. The communique follows: "The Extraditables to the people of Colombia: 1. We have taken note of the patriotic invitation contained in the document signed by Monsignor Mario Revollo Bravo, the illustrious former presidents Alfonso Lopez, Julio Cesar Turbay and Misael Pastrana, and the president of the Patriotic Union, Diego Montana Cuellar. 2. In order to respond to the exalted aims (of the document) we reiterate our already well known desire for peace within the framework of our most sincere and frank statements. 3. We fully share the criteria expressed (by the above) regarding the survival of the state and the democratically elected government vis-a-vis organizations and persons such as us who live outside the law, fighting the institutions and the very existence of the established juridical order. 4. Submitting our conduct to the above concept we are desirous only of peace, tranquility and democracy for our fatherland and our people. 5. Consequently, we accept the victory of the state, of the institutions and the legitimately established government. We will thus lay down our arms and the purposes of our struggle for the benefit of the highest interests of the fatherland. 6. We submit to the existing legal establishment in the hope of obtaining from the government and from society respect for our rights and our return to our families and communities. 7. As absolute proof of our intentions we resolve immediately to set free Mrs. Patricia Echavarria and her daughter, to the extent circumstances allow, stressing that we are not responsible for all the kidnappings attributed to us. 8. We offer ourselves as mediators for the achievement of peace with the groups of emerald traffickers, the so-called paramilitary groups and...bands of hired assassins, for the sole purpose of ending the violence which harms and shatters our Colombian fatherland. 9. We have decided to suspend the shipment of drugs and surrender the weapons, explosives, laboratories, hostages, clandestine landing strips and other effects related to our activities at such time as we are granted constitutional and legal guarantees. 10. We undertake that there will be no bombings in any part of the national territory and have ordered the suspension of all types of executions of political figures, government and labor officials, members of the judiciary, journalists, police agents and soldiers. 11. The essential cause of our struggle has been and will continue always to be our families, our freedom, our people, our lives and our national and patriotic rights. Late Wednesday, in a television interview, Interior Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds said that the government's position of refusing negotiations with the traffickers will not change: "I don't see why we have to change our position when our own enemies have declared that our position has won out." He added

that the law "will determine through its judges the degree of responsibility of each person and if he should be punished." According to AP, the drug traffickers have made such requests in the past and were turned down. The main difference this time is that the drug ring leaders have admitted in their "war" with the government. (Basic data from several reports by AP, Notimex, 01/17/90)

-- End --