

# A chronology of the Londoño abduction

## Thursday, July 26

Patricia Paredes de Londoño is last seen at 1:00 p.m., when she leaves for an appointment with an optician to have her contact lenses checked. Before going, she gives her passport and other documents to her husband Maximiliano, saying she is afraid of being robbed. She had planned to leave for a trip to Mexico on Sunday, and would need her passport for that. She does not take any personal belongings with her.

The optician reports that she never arrived for her appointment.

## Friday, July 27

The International Caucus of Labor Committees begins its mobilization to free her. The story of the abduction is covered on Colombian television on Friday evening, and press coverage increases throughout the weekend.

## Sunday, July 29

At 12:17 p.m., Patricia calls the office of the Anti-Drug Coalition (ADC) in Bogotá, says she is well and will come to the office on Monday with her lawyer. She tells the ADC to call off its mobilization of the press. When her husband asks a question, the line goes dead.

Radio Caracol reporter Héctor Hernando Trujillo quotes Patricia that she is leaving her husband but is still a member of the ADC and the Andean Labor Party (PLAN). She is just taking a rest, he says, from the threats and harassment she had been receiving for the past year.

## Monday, July 30

Arturo Cortés Cadena arrives at the ADC office, claiming to be Patricia's lawyer, but without Patricia. First he claims that she is fine; pressed to produce her, he insists that this is impossible because she is nervous and irritable.

The police arrive and take Cortés to headquarters for questioning. Cortés states that Patricia wants "rest," and a 30-60 day leave of absence from her political activities.

While at headquarters, Cortés makes a telephone call to Efraín Mantilla, the press secretary of the Colombian Senate, and tells him that if something goes wrong and the police do not release him, that Mantilla should contact Congressman José Vicente Márquez, secretary for the Seventh Commission of Parliament, which deals with social security and labor

affairs. Vicente Márquez, says Cortés, will "get me out of here" if need be. Márquez and Cortés are both members of the Gnostic Christian Universal Church.

The following individuals then arrive at the police headquarters: Mantilla; Jorge Octavio Fernández, a reporter for *La República* newspaper; and Juan Guillermo Rico, a reporter for Colprensa. Fernández reports that it was he who made the tape recording on which Sunday's Radio Caracol broadcast was made. He gives the tape to the police, declaring that he made it during a discussion with Patricia "over a few drinks." Patricia does not drink, according to her husband, relatives, and associates. *Nota bene*: This is the first of two times that Octavio Fernández refers to her as drinking, an indication of behavior modification.

Mantilla, Fernández, and Rico are overheard saying privately that Patricia has left Max for another man, that Max is "nuts," and that the PLAN has to be taught how to operate in Colombian politics, since it is "manipulating the press," which cannot be tolerated.

Patricia has had no contact with her family at all up to this point. Her immediate relatives are a brother Daniel who lives in Bogotá; and brothers Antonio and Rubén, and sister Milena, who live in the town of Cerrito.

The police, who are under great political pressure, accept the story of Cortés, et al., and release Cortés after he promises to produce Patricia the following day. They refrain from questioning Fernández, since under Colombian law he has immunity as a reporter.

## Tuesday, July 31

Patricia does not appear. Fernández states that she cannot be produced because she has a hangover from a birthday party the night before at which she was drinking heavily.

## Wednesday, August 1

Patricia arrives at the police station with Cortés, her "lawyer." She telephones Max and says she will be in Cerrito that night or the following day, but will say no more. Her lawyer and the police prevent the PLAN's lawyer from talking with her. After a lengthy argument, her brothers are permitted to speak with her for less than one minute. They describe her appearance as "emaciated and exhausted." She refuses to answer one brother's question about why she had put her family in agony by disappearing for six days. She just keeps repeating, "It won't help me now," and promises to see them in Cerrito later.

Patricia arrives in Cerrito later that night in a disassociated state and complaining of intense pain in her legs. She is taken to a hospital in Cali by her family. Dr. Ariel Calvo at the hospital of the University of Cali describes her as disassociated and suffering from deep anxiety which could lead to destructive behavior, requiring at least three days' total rest in the mental health ward of the hospital, under sedation. The doctor states that he does not know the cause of her illness.