

PRESS KIT - JUNE 2010

FBI COLOMBIA PRESENTS



Manuel Cepeda Vargas
Foundation

The Foundation was created following the murder of Senator Manuel Cepeda Vargas on 9 August 1994¹.



Nadia Akmoun (PBI) and Iván Cepeda (Manuel Cepeda Foundation)

The Foundation's Executive Committee is made up of Iván Cepeda —son of the murdered senator, Foundation director, and coordinator for the National Movement of Victims of State Crimes (MOVICE) — and Claudia Girón, psychologist and project coordinator for the Foundation.

The Foundation works for the construction and promotion of human rights-related historical memory.

ITS PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Promoting the collective acquisition of the historical past as a fundamental component for constructing democracy in Colombian society.
- Generating social organising processes for historical memory by creating and developing theoretical concepts and models, educational instruments, public spaces and art work for the process of collective remembrance.
- Organising forums, marches and press conferences on issues concerning impunity, truth and justice.

- Pursuing the conviction of the intellectual masterminds of the murder of Manuel Cepeda Vargas.
- Demanding justice and reparation for the genocide committed against the Patriotic Union.
- Participating in the project: «Colombia: No More Impunity».
- Participating in the National Movement of Victims of State Crimes (MOVICE) and strengthening the organising work of the victims of State-sponsored crimes in several regions of the country.
- Participating in the Sons and Daughters Victim's Movement for Remembering and Against Impunity.
- Raising public awareness on the failures of Law 975 —also known as the Justice and Peace Law, the demobilisation process for paramilitarism.
- Publishing articles nationally and internationally. Iván Cepeda is a columnist for the *El Espectador* newspaper.
- Teaching courses at universities on psycho-social intervention with a human rights approach. Claudia Girón is a professor at the Universidad Javeriana and the Universidad Nacional.

PBI HAS ACCOMPANIED THE MANUEL CEPEDA VARGAS FOUNDATION'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SINCE APRIL 2004, WHEN IVÁN CEPEDA AND CLAUDIA GIRÓN RETURNED TO COLOMBIA AFTER FOUR YEARS OF EXILE IN FRANCE (RESULTING FROM THE DEATH THREATS THEY RECEIVED IN 2000)

Recognition

In June 2007, Human Rights First —a human rights organisation based in New York— presented Iván Cepeda with the Roger N. Baldwin Medal of Liberty Award for international human rights defenders. The Award is presented by Human Rights First every other year to a human rights organization or activist outside of the

United States that has made a distinguished contribution to the protection and promotion of human rights.

Protection measures

Claudia Girón does not have precautionary measures. She has a security detail provided by the Administrative Department of Security (DAS).



Claudia Girón (Manuel Cepeda Vargas Foundation) and Rokko Fermo (PBI).



Claudia Girón advises the indigenous community Wiwa.

International accompaniment

PBI has accompanied the Manuel Cepeda Vargas Foundation's Executive Committee since April 2004, when Iván Cepeda and Claudia Girón returned to Colombia after four years of exile in France (resulting from the death threats they received in 2000). In November 2009, PBI suspended its accompaniment of Iván Cepeda when he announced he would run for congress in March 2010. Due to PBI's mandate of non-partisanship, it does not accompany candidates for office or elected officials.

Publications

«Las perlas uribistas»², Random House Mondadori, March 2010

«A las puertas del Ubérrimo», Iván Cepeda and Jorge Rojas, Random House Mondadori, Bogota, Colombia, 2008

Contact

Telephone: 273 8560

Email: fm_cepada@yahoo.fr

Web page: <http://manuelcepeda.atarraya.org/>

1. Senator Manuel Cepeda Vargas (Patriotic Union) was murdered in Bogotá on 9 August 1994. In 1999, the Third Criminal Court of the Bogota Specialized Circuit convicted two army sergeants from the 9th Army Brigade as co-perpetrators of the murder of Iván Cepeda's father. Creo que tenemos que actualizar esto, no? había la decisión de la corte interamericana que obligó al estado pagar a Iván...no me acuerdo bien la decisión pero creo que tenía algo que ver con omisión del estado en el caso del asesinato de su padre. Habría que agregar esta parte a la versión español tb.

2. This publication is a compilation of texts by different authors, including Ramiro Bejarano, Daniel Coronell, León Valencia, Alfredo Molano, Cecilia Orozco, Vladdo, Hollman Morris, and Iván Cepeda, among others.