

Press kit – march 2011

DFBI COLOMBIA PRESENTS

Claudia Julieta Duque



Claudia Julieta Duque is a correspondent for the Colombian human rights Internet radio station Radio Nizkor and a former researcher for the José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CCAJAR). In her 22 years as a journalist she has investigated and reported on issues of forced disappearance, forced recruitment of children by legal and illegal armed actors, the impact of impunity and the right to justice, and infiltration of paramilitary groups in government agencies. She has also been following the 1999 murder of journalist Jaime Garzón¹.



Michelle Zumofen (PBI) and Claudia Julieta Duque.

DAS Wiretapping²

Duque is one of the journalists that have been extensively watched by the President's Administrative Department of Security (DAS). A report by the Prosecutor General's Technical Investigation Unit (CTI) reveals a number of cases of espionage and threats made against Duque by the DAS. These revelations coincide with reports that Duque has submitted to the Foundation for Freedom of the Press (FLIP) over the past several years.

Duque began receiving threats in 2001, the year she began working with the José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CCAJAR) on an investigation into the murder of journalist Jaime Garzón that occurred in August 1999. Her work following the Garzón case led her to conclude that DAS agents allegedly were involved in a cover-up in order to divert the Prosecutor General's investigation into Garzón's murder. Since then, the threats have intensified and she has been forced to leave the country on several occasions. Moreover, Duque began to notice that different cars and taxis were constantly monitoring her whereabouts.

Because Claudia Julieta Duque recorded the numbers of these vehicles' license plates, she eventually discovered that some of them had followed her on

previous occasions.

According to a CTI report, the information seized from the DAS contains a complete log of Duque's activities during different time periods including specific dates, times, places and people she had met with. There was also a six-page report containing Duque's biographical details, work experience, documentation of the complaints that Duque had submitted about her protection measures, and communications about her from 24 February and 22 November 2004. Furthermore, CTI also found a memo in which the DAS requested carrying out counterintelligence work due to a possible leakage of information on Duque and a list of license plates that had followed her.

Claudia Julieta Duque's name also appeared in espionage reports on the José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective due to the work she had done with the organisation. The special group within the DAS, known as G-3, had carried out intelligence work on CCAJAR which was known as "Operation Transmilenio." Inside Operation Transmilenio documents there was evidence of interception and monitoring of 14 people belonging to the Lawyers' Collective, especially CCAJAR's president, Alirio Uribe Muñoz. There was biographical data, phone numbers, addresses, emails, photocopies of identification documents, immigration records, fi-

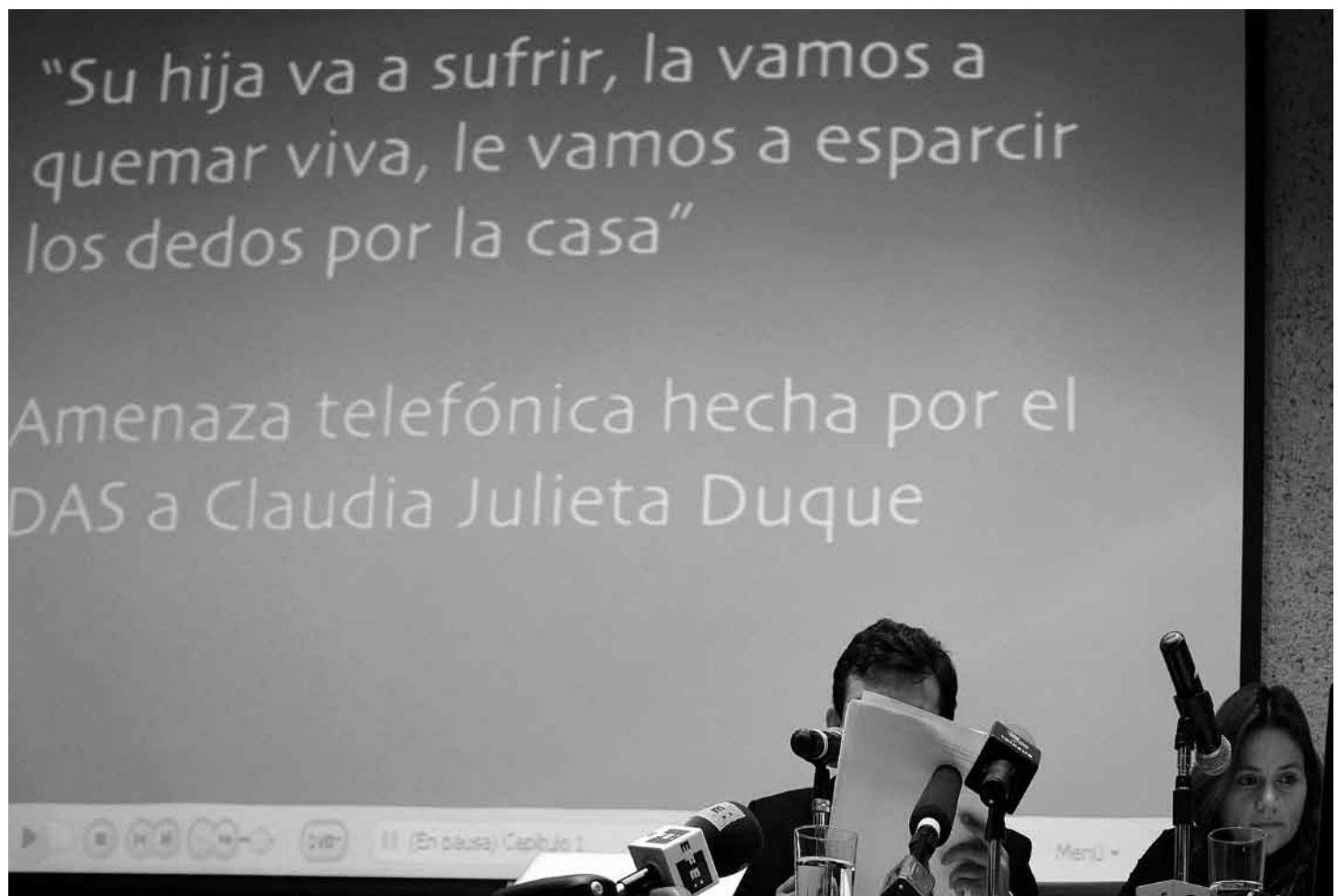
DUQUE BEGAN RECEIVING THREATS IN 2001, THE YEAR SHE BEGAN WORKING WITH THE JOSÉ ALVEAR RESTREPO LAWYERS' COLLECTIVE (CCAJAR) ON AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE MURDER OF JOURNALIST JAIME GARZÓN THAT OCCURRED IN AUGUST 1999.

nancial information from reporting centres (Data Credit, CIFIN), background checks, and information on the parents, siblings, spouses and children of those being monitored. There were also photographs of their relatives, including Claudia Julieta Duque's daughter.

Duque had a security detail from the governmental Protection Program and she had previously expressed her suspicions that some of her bodyguards were spying on her. Duque finally confirmed this fact when she learned of internal reports that showed that her bodyguards informed the DAS about her activities

and made false allegations against her. Although her bodyguards were switched several times at Duque's request, these practices continued. In addition, the bodyguards reported her alleged misuse of the security scheme and the Ministry of Interior decided to suspend her protection measures.

In October 2007, journalist Claudia Julieta Duque filed a lawsuit against the Ministry of Interior requesting that her security measures be reinstated. The case ruling ordered that the Ministry re-implement her security measures.



Press conference by Hollman Morris and Claudia Julieta Duque in which they speak out against the surveillance carried out by the DAS. February 2010.



Claudia Julieta Duque has investigated and reported about forced displacement in Colombia. Photo: Jesús Abad Colorado/Fundación Dos Mundos.

In December 2008 the Constitutional Court reviewed two previous requests that ordered the Ministry of Interior to restore Duque's security measures. In the ruling, the Court not only upheld both previous decisions, but also established jurisprudence on various fundamental issues associated with the Protection Program and the security measures for journalists. In December 2009 Duque corroborated information from the Prosecutor General's office stating that the DAS had been behind threats she received in 2004 that forced her into exile.

In 2009, 16 renowned journalists³ were the targets of emails interception, wiretapping and illegal surveillance by DAS agents. The victims include Alejandro Santos, director of the magazine *Semana*; Julio Sánchez Cristo, the director of the national radio station W Radio; Hollman Morris, journalist and news producer for *Contravía* on Channel One; and Duque, correspondent for the Colombian human rights radio station Radio Nizkor⁴.

Protection Measures

In 2003 Claudia Julieta Duque was included in the Protection Program for journalists run by the Ministry of Interior⁵ due to the grave state of her security situation. The physical protection measures include a security door and security cameras at her home, an armoured car and an Avantel telephone.

Due to her work and the high profile of the cases she covers, the continuous attacks forced her into exile abroad three times between 2004 and 2008.

In December 2009 the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) issued precautionary security measures for her and her daughter.

Acknowledgments

Claudia Julieta Duque received several awards for her journalistic work in 2009 and 2010:

→ Reporters Without Borders Award, Sweden section, 2010



Claudia Julieta Duque has also reported about cases of forced disappearance in Colombia: Photo: Action against forced disappearance commemorating the International Week of the Disappeared organized by ASFADDES in Bogotá in May 2009.

- Journalistic Courage Award, International Women's Foundation (USA)
- Hilaria Alpi Prize (Italy)
- In July 2010 she was named an honorary member of the British and Irish trade union of journalists.

International accompaniment

PBI has accompanied Claudia Julieta Duque intermittently since 2003. In October 2009 a raid on her home led to emergency activation both nationally and internationally by PBI. Since June 2010 she has been officially accompanied by PBI.

1. <http://www.womensconference.org/claudia-duque/>
2. The information is based on "Interceptaciones y seguimientos ilegales: grave intimidación al periodismo colombiano Informe sobre el estado de la libertad de prensa en Colombia en 2009," Foundation for Freedom of the Press (FLIP), 2010
3. According to FLIP, so far there is evidence that at least 16 journalists have been intercepted.
4. "Attacks on the Press 2009 - A Worldwide Survey by the Committee to Protect Journalists", Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), New York, February 2010
5. The Ministry of Interior's Protection Program was established in 1997 to serve at-risk populations such as human rights defenders, trade unionists and journalists. The program is headed by the Minister of Interior and are part of several public entities: the vice presidency, the police, DAS, Prosecutor General's office, Inspector General's Office and Human Rights Ombudsman, among others, and civil society representatives attending as guests.

IN 2003 CLAUDIA JULIETA DUQUE WAS INCLUDED IN THE PROTECTION PROGRAM FOR JOURNALISTS RUN BY THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR