

Administration was behind an assault against Antonio José Cancino, Samper's defense lawyer.

Now, this same alliance is gearing up a Goebbels-style campaign, claiming that Gómez's assassination was carried out by the same "ultra-right" which presumably seeks Samper's downfall. Before his death, the Communists had pointed to Gómez as one of the heads of the conspiracy. Now, they are in effect saying that Gómez ordered his own assassination!

It is worth remembering that, in 1988, the then-illegal M-19 kidnapped Alvaro Gómez, murdering his bodyguard in the process. The person who ran that kidnapping was Otty Patiño, today one of the heads of Samper's flagship "Solidarity" welfare program. The M-19 used that kidnapping as pressure to force the negotiations that eventually led to its legalization as a political party. The FARC and ELN narco-guerrillas, in several letters to the M-19, had demanded that the latter not release Gómez, but "execute him."

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## The Lessons of Shakespeare's Macbeth

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# Who benefits from Alvaro Gómez's murder?

by Maximiliano Londoño Penilla

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If the material and intellectual authors of the murder of former Presidential candidate and Conservative party leader Alvaro Gómez Hurtado intended to eliminate the broad national movement opposed to Samper Pizano remaining in the Presidency because of his Presidential campaign's known financial links to the Cali Cartel, then, once more, the enemies of Colombia have failed. That horrible crime could be the straw that breaks the camel's back. In the recent months, Alvaro Gómez had become the most prominent figure to demand that the "corrupt system be overthrown." With all certainty, the assassination of Alvaro Gómez has deeply moved the national conscience; now, even the most misled people understand that one cannot continue to coexist with the regime of terror that has been imposed by the drug traffickers, the narco-guerrillas, the common criminals, and the corrupt politicians.

In editorials published by the newspaper *El Nuevo Siglo* and in his public speeches, Alvaro Gómez strongly criticized the Samper government, both for its vacillations in facing

down the narco-guerrillas as well as for its pretended ignorance of the infiltration of drug money into his Presidential campaign. Alvaro had further proposed the dissolution, yet again, of a Congress he considered corrupt and non-functional. With spirit, Alvaro tirelessly defended the Armed Forces from the slanders and defamations of the non-governmental organizations, the narco-guerrillas, the "People's Defender," and the Attorney General's office.

Alvaro Gómez demanded that the investigations of Samper be made public, to avoid any deals being struck between the investigated and the investigator. He criticized all the little tricks and legal games played by Samper's defense lawyer Antonio José Cancino. He repeatedly demanded the resignation of the "Cerberus," or watchdog, of the regime, Interior Minister Horacio Serpa Uribe, not only for his proclivities in favor of the narco-guerrillas, but for being a cover-up-artist regarding the "campaign of the ill-gotten money." In sum, Alvaro Gómez became the leading political prosecutor in the country of Samper's drug-financed electoral campaign.

In his editorials, Alvaro warned of the danger of the dismembering of Urabá from Colombia, as occurred with Panama, should the country fall into the trap of bringing in international inspectors and United Nations' "blue helmets." He stated in this regard: "The witnesses and the blue helmets would have to occupy all of geographic Colombia. The presence of the United Nations' forces in the ethnic war of Bosnia-Herzegovina achieved nothing. NATO had to militarily intervene, and the United Nations and other western powers had to propose a peace plan, still not perfected and still fraught with the occurrences of cruel confrontations, so that there could be talk of a cease-fire."

Alvaro added: "But this destroys national sovereignty, emphasizes the government's domestic inability to control public order, and could be an argument for splitting off from our territory one of the richest areas the nation possesses. That is, in the face of the ineptitude of our governments, the same rulers would promote another Panama."

Alvaro understood the importance of constructing a new interoceanic canal. "Urabá represents a zone of invaluable strategic importance. . . . Given its geographic location and because the world is always thinking in terms of trade and political strategies, the Chocó is seen as offering a new perspective for the construction of a new interoceanic canal, or what has been called a 'dry canal.' These circumstances have turned Urabá into a desirable place for those who think in terms of adventures that can procure them new wealth."

Alvaro slammed those who adopt "an attitude of moral indifference to the violence," and revived the notion of a "just war," so eloquently "expressed by those great theoreticians of the [Catholic] Church and of conservatism, St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, and the doctors Vitoria and Suárez, who have so influenced the formation of Colombian legal criteria."

Alvaro Gómez was a political and combative man who sought in vain, on three separate occasions, to rule the destin-

ies of Colombia. One could disagree with him, especially on economic matters, in which he defended the system of “free trade,” but despite this, one can categorically state that he deeply loved his country, vehemently defended it, and lived and died as a patriot. Unfortunately, few like him remain in the political class. The new generations of “politicians,” in the style of Samper Pizano, are bought and sold for a fistful of silver.

## Alvaro Gómez spoke up for Colombia

*The following is a chronology of Alvaro Gómez Hurtado's activities and statements in 1995.*

**Feb. 28:** Gómez Hurtado calls for the dissolution of Colombia's Congress. “The [congressional] chambers have returned to the same behavior that discredited them in 1991, to the point that they have even revived benefits banned by the Constitution.”

**April 5:** Gómez's newspaper, *El Nuevo Siglo* of Bogotá, publishes a photomontage showing Colombian President Ernesto Samper Pizano's head on the body of Panamanian Gen. Manuel Noriega, being led away in handcuffs by two Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents.

**April 5:** The Bogotá daily *El Espectador* publishes a statement by Gómez calling for the reconstruction of the Conservative Party: “The Conservative Party hardly exists any longer because it has no bloc in Congress, nor in the assemblies, nor in the city or district councils, nor does it have any opinions or programs.”

**April 28:** The opposition daily *La Prensa* reports that Gómez again called for the dissolution of the Colombian national Congress because it represents “a corrupt regime. To be able to have honest politics, the Congress must be dissolved.”

**May 10:** Gómez defends Samper during a Channel 3 television interview, saying he is “a good and honest man, but is prisoner to a regime that is corrupt.”

**July 28:** In a statement to radio network RCN, Gómez comments on Samper's decision to request an investigation of himself by the Accusations Committee of the House of Representatives, after his former campaign treasurer, Santiago Medina, and former campaign manager, Fernando Botero, are arrested on orders of the Prosecutor General: “The President faces a very difficult situation because he must clarify what happened in his Presidential campaign, and he has appealed to the only recourse to investigate his behavior, which is one of the most discredited commissions in Con-

gress, which is in no position to produce anything considered legitimate. Thus the commission has gained the nickname of ‘commission of absolutions.’ I propose that an Ad Hoc Court be named, with guarantees of impartiality, to be in charge of investigating and judging the President. Therefore, I insist that the system must be overthrown for the country to function.”

**July 28:** Gómez's brother, Sen. Enrique Gómez Hurtado, begins a fight in Congress to force the Conservative Party to withdraw support from the Samper government.

**Aug. 16:** In an *El Nuevo Siglo* editorial, Gómez Hurtado writes that all past Colombian Presidents, faced with similar circumstances—where their administrations were placed in doubt and it was impossible for them to govern—resigned “with humility and nobility.” He mentions Gen. Rafael Reyes, Marco Fidel Suárez, Alfonso López Pumarejo, and Gen. Gustavo Rojas Pinilla.

Enrique Gómez Hurtado wins the support of 40 congressmen, and of former Justice Minister Enrique Parejo González, to form a National Committee for Decency, dedicated to demanding Samper's resignation. Students affiliated with the group begin a signature campaign demanding that Samper's mandate be revoked.

**Aug. 21:** Alvaro Gómez writes an editorial in *El Nuevo Siglo* demanding that the same vigor be applied in pursuit of the leaders of the narco-terrorists as has been used to go after the heads of the Cali Cartel. In particular, he accuses Interior Minister Horacio Serpa Uribe of being “a permanent obstacle for effective action by the authorities against the seditious assault” against the nation.

**Aug. 22:** In statements to RCN radio, Gómez repeats his argument that the FARC and ELN guerrillas must be fought “with the same vigor with which the drug trade has been fought. Unfortunately, U. S. Ambassador Myles Frechette is not demanding the heads of the seditious groups as he is demanding the heads of the drug lords.”

**Aug. 22:** In an *El Nuevo Siglo* editorial, Gómez denounces those who equate the violence of the narco-terrorists with the necessary law enforcement measures of the police and military against them. “We conservatives and Christians in general cannot adopt an attitude of moral indifference in the face of violence. To try to equate them, as the decadent left does . . . is to evade an ethical obligation. . . . There is the great theory of Just War,” he explains, “so eloquently presented by those great theoreticians of the [Catholic] Church and of conservatism, St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, and doctors Vitoria and Suárez, who have so influenced the formation of Colombian legal criteria.”

**Aug. 30:** Gómez's *El Nuevo Siglo* newspaper publishes an EFE wire reporting on the threats to the lives of *EIR* correspondent in Colombia Javier Almario and Ibero-American Solidarity Movement leader Maximiliano Londoño.

**Aug. 30:** Gómez, in an editorial in *El Nuevo Siglo*, calls for the investigations against Samper to be made public.