

Colombia: 3 Hostages May Be Freed Soon

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President [Hugo Chávez](#) of [Venezuela](#) confirmed that he had received a statement from the Colombian rebel group [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia](#), or FARC, saying it would release three hostages to him or whomever he chooses. Earlier, Prensa Latina, a Cuban news agency, reported that the group had ordered the release of Clara Rojas, the running mate of [Ingrid Betancourt](#), a presidential candidate when both were kidnapped in 2002. Also to be freed are Consuelo González, a congresswoman kidnapped in 2001, and Ms. Rojas's young son, Emmanuel, whose father is one of the guerrillas who have been holding Ms. Rojas. The rebels' statement, dated Dec. 9, did not indicate when they would be released.