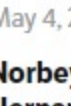


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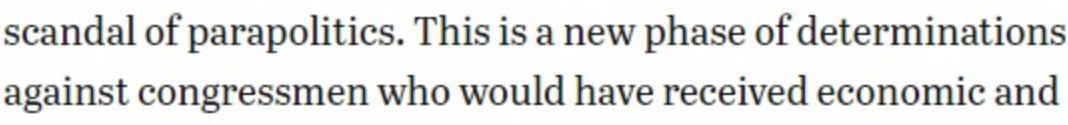
Norbey Quevedo  
Hernandez

## The last laps of alias 'Martín Llanos'

He denounces before the Court, but those involved show evidence that details an extortion operation from prisons.



Héctor Germán Buitrago, alias 'Martín Llanos', former paramilitary chief captured in February 2012. / EFE



In the next few days the Supreme Court of Justice is preparing to make new decisions within the forgotten scandal of parapolitics. This is a new phase of determinations against congressmen who would have received economic and electoral aid from the illegal armed group and who until now had gone unnoticed by the authorities. One of the first parliamentarians who is already in the sights of the high court is the lawyer José Rodolfo Pérez Suárez.

He is a representative to the Chamber for Casanare, who was elected in 2010 with the second highest vote in his department. A result that he ratified in the last March elections when he was re-elected. However, a recent testimony from Héctor Germán Buitrago, alias Martín Llanos, against the politician, has him on the ropes in court. However, Congressman Pérez says he has evidence with which he intends to demonstrate that the complaint by Llanos and other members of his organization is due to an extortion of which he has been a victim for almost two years.

It was on April 4 when Martin Llanos gave, perhaps, one of the most anticipated statements by the authorities. The reason is that it was previously known that the former paramilitary chief was going to testify against at least 50 civilians, soldiers and congressmen with the commitment that the Government would include him in the Justice and Peace Law, which offers legal benefits to the demobilized.

Llanos recounted that his organization was created by his father Héctor José Buitrago —now in prison— in 1981 as a peasant-political movement in response to the Farc and ELN, who arrived in Monterrey (Casanare) and attacked his father and his properties. In 1988, the former paramilitary chief joined the movement as a political director managing communities and political leaders in the departments of Casanare, Boyacá and Meta. "We had a close relationship with most of the candidates who held different positions, such as councils, mayors, governors and assemblies," he pointed out.

In 2002, the paramilitary organization did not accept the invitation of the brothers Vicente and Carlos Castaño to be part of the negotiation table in Santa Fe de Ralito, which led to a confrontation that left dozens of victims. Martín Llanos lost that war and fled to Venezuela. But in February 2012 he was captured and today he is being held in La Picota prison.

During the interrogation, Llanos specified that he first met former Casanare governor Miguel Ángel Pérez and that he was financed both in the first and second campaigns in which he was elected. For these facts, the former president was sentenced. And he explained that the person who coordinated the money deliveries was brother José Rodolfo Pérez, today a congressman of the Republic. According to the former paramilitary chief, they gave Pérez \$2,000 million for the campaigns. "He was a liaison with the gubernatorial candidate who was campaigning. The benefits were mutual, they received votes and we received contracts".

After an hour and ten minutes of statement before auxiliary magistrate Raúl Gutiérrez, former paramilitary chief Martín Llanos concluded that he would expand his statement to denounce crimes of blood and that he would request a meeting with the president of the Supreme Court of Justice, while categorically refused to respond to the concerns of the defense of congressman José Rodolfo Pérez.

Given the serious accusations against Llanos, Pérez's lawyers filed a document with the Supreme Court of Justice in which they requested the taking of evidence and reported that the former paramilitary chief has several investigations against him for the crime of extortion. "The lying statements and unrelated to reality, made by alias Martín Llanos, have as their genesis the refusal of my stepdaughter to give money to the paramilitary convicts," reports the document delivered to the magistrates of the Criminal Chamber.

One of the extortions against Pérez was reported to the Attorney General's Office on July 30, 2012. According to the filed text, a man known as Dúmar, in Yopal, introduced himself as a relative of Martín Llanos and through José Hernán Niño and Marco Tulio Ruiz , friends of the congressman, to whom he expressed that he was sent by the paramilitary in order to help him: "Since I needed financial help or if not, I would face the consequences."

In another communication, dated March 2011, addressed to then-prosecutor Viviane Morales, Congressman Pérez denounced being a victim of the crime of personal threats. According to the complainant, as a result of disclosing the dubious budgetary and contractual manipulations that the then governor Óscar Raúl Iván Flórez was doing: "I have learned that the people I have denounced would be forging a plan to attack my physical and moral integrity, for which which they would make use of people who belonged to illegal armed groups and who today are demobilized, perhaps in processes that are being carried out in the National Unit for Justice and Peace".

A third complaint, filed on April 2 before the office of the attorney general, Eduardo Montealegre, again Congressman Pérez indicates that he is a victim of aggravated extortion. He points out that on August 20, 2013, a letter arrived from the inmate Milton Hidalgo, confined in the Espinal prison (Tolima), asking him to contact him so that he would know about matters that he had refrained from telling the Prosecutor's Office. Also several text messages with the phrases: "Mr. Representative, we need a ticket or we count, don't play the faggot, we will damage your political career." "Don't make us count, collaborate."

Official records of the National Penitentiary and Prison Institute (Inpec) show that Milton Hidalgo was known in the self-defense groups under the alias El Pájaro. According to his own testimony, expressed in one of the threats, he reported that he was the head of security for Martín Llanos in 2001 and 2002.

Likewise, on November 29, 2013, Congressman Pérez denounced that he received a vote at his residence, located in the north of Bogotá, with the expression: "Dr. Rodolfo Pérez, representative of the Chamber, alias El Negro Pérez, we have been asking you for Please take care of me because of the things I know about you, here we are sending you a detail so that you realize that your political death is going to begin if you do not collaborate financially, we will begin to tell the public what we know about you. Cordially, former member of the Casanare ACC department.

In the complaint filed with the prosecutor, the congressman also describes the text messages he received on his cell phone on December 2, 2013. "Be careful, you don't play with us, we're going to say everything." "We are not playing things are seriously his political career is at stake." "Remember, the political thing is no longer at stake." "The quota is 500000000 five hundred million." Due to these facts, parliamentarian Pérez filed a criminal complaint against an undetermined person for the crime of aggravated extortion.

Within the process of verifying the threats in the case, a forensic opinion was obtained from the congressman's phone. According to the results of the work, prepared by the Defense Criminal Investigation Unit, the group of special analysts found that when using the Ufed Ultimate forensic equipment with the Physical Analyzer application, 259 text messages were detected, of which 25 had content derived from the threats. They were received between October 10 and December 9, 2013.

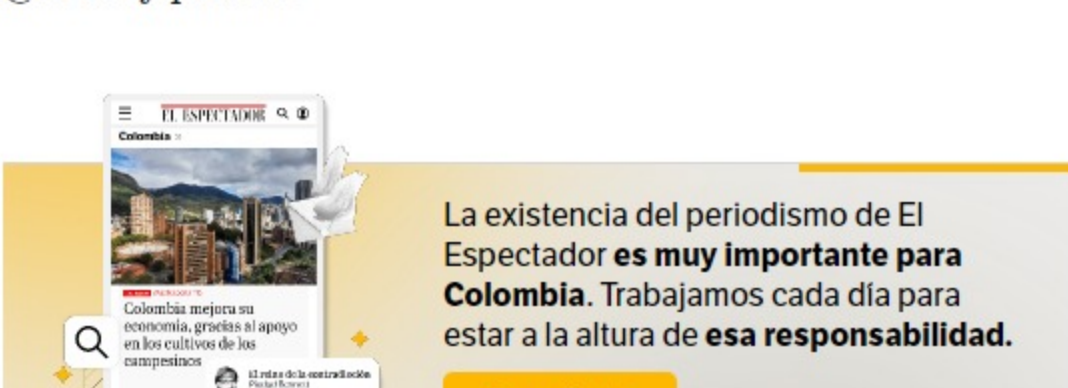
The body of evidence with which Congressman José Rodolfo Pérez wants to prove his innocence and that Martín Llanos's statements are retaliation for not giving him millionaire resources is extensive. Forensic reports, letters to justice agencies, file of complaints, a video in which an individual leaves a vote in his apartment in Bogotá, envelopes with threats, handwriting studies, photographs of members of the self-defense groups, detailed analysis in various planes of the messages of the suffrage and reports on the processes in force against alias Martín Llanos.

The former paramilitary chief responded in his most recent statement. He insists that he is going to turn on the fan again and affirms that to continue in the process of expanding his statement depends on what he speaks with the president of the Supreme Court of Justice. When the auxiliary magistrate insisted on whether congressman José Rodolfo Pérez Suárez was part of those groups, he replied: "Yes sir, he was part, along with his brother, and they received funds from the structure of the movement for their political campaigns and received the votes that the organization had in the departments to be elected".

They are the two sides of the coin that Congressman Pérez and ex-paramilitary Llanos aired. In a few days the Supreme Court will determine if it is a case of extortion by members of the extinct self-defense groups or if, on the contrary, a Casanare parliamentarian was part of a group that won elections due to the management of the paramilitaries.

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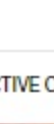
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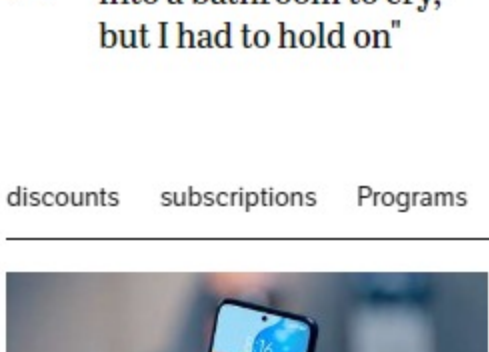
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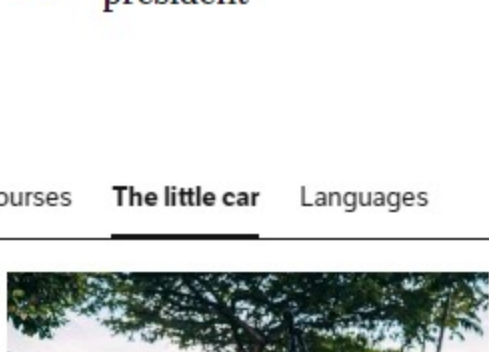
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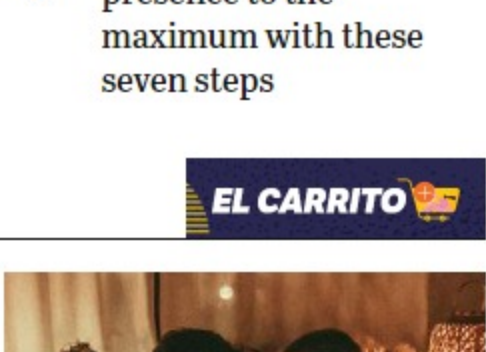
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