

= Manuel Buendía =

Manuel Buendía Tellezgirón ( 24 May 1926 ? 30 May 1984 ) was a Mexican journalist and political columnist who last worked for the daily Excélsior , one of the most @-@ read newspapers in Mexico City . His direct reporting style in his column Red Privada ( " Private Network " ) , which publicly exposed government and law enforcement corruption , organized crime , and drug trafficking , was distributed and read in over 200 newspapers across Mexico .

Born in the state of Michoacán , Buendía first wrote for La Nación , the official magazine of the National Action Party ( PAN ) . After losing interest in the party , he left to work for La Prensa and became the editor @-@ in @-@ chief in 1960 . He left the newspaper in 1963 and worked for several different media outlets in Mexico throughout the 1970s and ' 80s , including the Mexico City @-@ based newspapers El Universal and Excélsior . Buendía was recognized largely for his investigative reporting , and particularly for his coverage of the CIA 's covert operations in Mexico , the rise of ultra @-@ rightwing groups , fraudulent businessmen , corruption in Mexico 's state @-@ owned petroleum company Pemex , and the role of organized crime in Mexico 's political system . He was also famous for breaking news on controversial political subjects thanks to his access to top Mexican officials . His investigative reporting , however , angered many and made him a frequent target of death threats , which he took very seriously .

On the afternoon of 24 May 1984 , Buendía left his office in Mexico City and was walking to his car when a man shot him from behind several times , killing him on the scene . For over five years , the murder case remained unsolved and with several irregularities , including the loss of evidence . In 1989 , several members of the extinct Federal Security Directorate ( DFS ) , Mexico 's top police force that was very close to the Central Intelligence Agency , were arrested for their involvement in the murder of Buendía . The murder case was closed after the perpetrators were arrested , but several journalists doubt the probe 's results and believe that the masterminds behind Buendía 's murder were never arrested .

= = Early life = =

Manuel Buendía Tellezgirón was born in Zitácuaro , Michoacán , Mexico on 24 March 1926 . He was the third child of José Buendía Gálvez ( father ) and Josefina Tellezgirón Tinoco ( mother ) , both from the State of Mexico . Buendía attended a religious elementary school located in front of Teatro Juárez de Zitácuaro , a former theatre in his hometown . At the age of 12 , his parents moved to Morelia , Michoacán and enrolled him at Seminario Menor , where he studied for three years . As a teenager , Buendía contributed to La Nación , a magazine of the National Action Party ( PAN ) . Though he sympathized with the PAN during his early life , Buendía later lost interest in the party . His mother died of natural causes on 21 June 1941 , and Buendía returned to Zitácuaro . After a few years , he was awarded a scholarship at Instituto Patria , a Jesuit high school in Mexico City . Upon graduation he attended the Escuela Libre de Derecho , a private Law school in Mexico City , but dropped out to take care of his family following the death of his father in 1945 .

= = Journalism career = =

From 1949 to 1953 , Buendía worked for La Nación and met the magazine 's secretary Dolores Abalos Lebrija , whom he married on 19 January 1955 . Though he first wrote for La Nación , his professional journalistic career began at the newspaper La Prensa in 1953 . He worked as an editor , crime reporter , and political columnist for the newspaper until he became the editor @-@ in @-@ chief in January 1960 . Around that time Buendía started his daily column Red Privada ( " Private Network " ) , where he wrote about the alleged collusion of organized crime in Mexico 's political system . In 1963 , he left to work at the newspaper El Día and wrote at the political column Para Control de Usted ( " For You to Control " ) under the penname " J.M. Tellezgirón " . From 1964 to 1965 , Buendía directed the weekly Crucero and wrote the column Concierto Político ( " Political Concert " ) under the penname " D. I. Ogenes " . On 1 January 1971 , he was appointed as the head

of the Press and Public Relations of Mexico City alongside Alfonso Martínez Domínguez . However , Buendía turned down the position in June following the massacre of student demonstrators . A year later , Buendía worked as an advisor to Guillermo Martínez Domínguez , the former head of Nacional Financiera , a bank of Mexico 's Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit ( SHCP ) . In Nacional Financiera , Buendía befriended Gerardo Bueno Zirón , who shortly after being appointed as director of the National Council of Science and Technology ( CONACYT ) offered him a position as director of the institution 's Press and Public Relations department in 1973 . That year , Henrique González Casanova , the former head of the Political Science department at the National Autonomous University of Mexico ( UNAM ) , invited Buendía to work as a part @-@ time professor , a job that the journalist held until his death in 1984 .

On December 1976 Buendía left his post in CONACYT to become a full @-@ time columnist . He then worked at El Sol de México , a newspaper owned by Organizacion Editorial Mexicana . After facing some differences with the owners of the print media company , Buendía left on 17 August 1978 to work at El Universal , a newspaper based in Mexico City . Only lasting until December of that year , he left to work at Excélsior , a daily newspaper with one of the largest circulations in Mexico City . At this newspaper , Buendía wrote for the column Red Privada , which was distributed and read in over 200 newspaper across Mexico . In his column he wrote about the covert operations of the CIA in Mexico during the Cold War , ultra @-@ rightwing groups , crooked businessmen , and corrupt government officials involved in drug trafficking . His investigations angered many in Mexico 's political elite and made him a frequent target of death threats . Buendía took the death threats he received very seriously and thereby carried a pistol , either on his belt or in a leather pocket . Prior to his death , Buendía wrote extensively on the alleged corruption within Mexico 's Petroleum Workers Union ; the allegations of wrongdoings of Jorge Díaz Serrano , former leader of Pemex , the national oil company ; and Arturo Durazo Moreno , the former head of Mexico City 's police force . Buendía also criticized the role of the U.S. government and the CIA in Mexico , and often published names of American officials involved in secret operations . Although he was quick to publish controversial reports , Buendía 's direct reporting was respected and generally considered reliable given his access to top Mexican officials . He was the most @-@ read journalist in Mexico 's print media , and is often cited by newspapers and journalists as the most influential political columnist in Mexico of the second half of the 20th century .

= = Death = =

On Wednesday , 30 May 1984 , Buendía left his offices in Colonia Juárez at around 6 : 30 p.m. and headed towards his car in a parking lot near Insurgentes Avenue at the Zona Rosa neighborhood in Mexico City . As he got closer to his car , a tall man wearing jeans , a black jacket , and a baseball cap approached him from behind and violently grabbed his coat before shooting him four times with a .38 Super . Buendía was carrying a handgun on his waist but he was not able to defend himself at the moment of his death . After killing him , the assailant fled on a motorcycle with another man . There were several bystanders who witnessed the murder and managed to see the faces of the assassins , including Juan Manuel Bautista , a colleague of Buendía ; Rogelio Barrera Galindo , a man who had parked his vehicle close to the journalist 's ; and Felipe Flores Fernández , a bus driver . Among the first to arrive at the murder scene was José Antonio Zorrilla Pérez , then @-@ head of the Federal Security Directorate ( DFS ) , Mexico 's equivalent of the FBI , and one of Buendía 's main sources for his political publications . Photos of Buendía 's corpse circulated across Mexico and the rest of the world .

Suspicious first fell on Los Tecos ( " The Owls " ) , an ultra @-@ rightwing group of the Autonomous University of Guadalajara who were largely criticized by Buendía for terrorizing their campus . However , suspicions turned to drug traffickers and high @-@ level government officials , specifically those of the DFS . According to local media reports , once Buendía was killed , DFS agents went into the columnist 's office and stole several files .

= = = Investigation = = =

The murder of Buendía , alongside the killing of other journalists in Mexico that year , sent a chilling message to newspapers across the country . " The bullets that killed Manuel Buendia ... were not directed at one man but at freedom of expression , " said Excelsior 's front page read on the day after the killing . The killing was immediately condemned by the administration of President Miguel de la Madrid , who promised to bring the perpetrators to justice through a thorough investigation . However , the investigation dragged for over five years with no arrests and several inconsistencies , including the loss of evidence . On 11 June 1989 , Zorrilla Pérez himself was charged with planning the murder ; Juan Rafael Moro Ávila , also a DFS agent and great @-@ grandnephew of former President Manuel Ávila Camacho , was charged of being a co @-@ perpetrator with José Luis Ochoa Alonso ( alias El Chocorrol ) , who shot Buendía at point @-@ blank . Another hypothesis was that Moro was only responsible for driving the motorcycle used by the real assassin , Juan Arévalo Gardoqui , then Secretariat of National Defense , to escape . Three other DFS agents were also arrested : Juventino Prado Hurtado , Raúl Pérez Carmona and Sofía Naya . At least two main suspects , José Luis Ochoa Alonso and Juan Arévalo Gardoqui , were reported murdered in unclear circumstances before being formally charged .

The perpetrators were apprehended in 1989 under the administration of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari . Moro and Zorrilla were sentenced to 25 and 35 years in prison respectively , but were released from prison in February 2009 for good conduct after serving at least half of their sentences . Several public intellectuals , journalists , press freedom organizations , newspapers , and politicians protested their releases . Zorrilla returned to prison later that year after he failed to provide a formal letter petitioning his release . On 10 September 2013 , Zorrilla was released from prison after a Mexico City judge granted him the opportunity to fulfill the remaining years of his sentence at his residence due to unstable health conditions . The Mexican government closed the case after the arrests , but many journalists doubted the results of the investigation and believed that the masterminds behind the murder case remained at large .

= = Published books = =

La Santa Muerta ( " Saint Death " , 1967 )

La CIA en México ( " The CIA in Mexico " , 1984 )

La Ultraderecha en México ( " The Far @-@ Right in Mexico " , 1984 )

Ejercicio Periodístico ( " Journalistic Exercise " , 1985 )

Los Petroleros ( " The Oil Dealers " , 1985 )

El Humor ( " The Humor " , 1986 )

Los Empresarios ( " The Businessmen " , 1986 )

Pensamiento y acción de la derecha poblana ( " Thinking and action of the right in Puebla " , 1987 )

El Oficio de Informar ( " The Job of Informing " , 1988 )