

COLOMBIA,

The country of 30.000 hostages

Current Affairs
52°



There are some 30,000 hostages, mostly Colombian, being held in both the jungle and in nearly total indifference, waiting to be freed.

Ingrid Betancourt has been held in captivity by the FARC revolutionary group for the past five years.

The former presidential candidate has become a symbol and icon of a Colombian speciality, i.e. hostage taking.

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Taken from every corner of the country and from all social classes (sometimes even kids), they have become the pawns in the joust between government and rebels. The ransoms demanded are astronomical.

The Colombian state has now mobilised against this plague and has invested in considerable means, e.g. permanent military action, commandos specialising in rescue operations and preventive action, even as early as primary school. Hostage taking in Colombia has become one of the darkest aspects of the endless war.

Directed by
Sébastien Deurdill

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