RELEASED IN PART B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B3, T

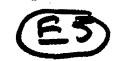
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INFO	LOG-00 CIAE-00 PERC-00 VC-00 L-00 OCS-03 PRS-00 TRSE-00 DRL-02	NP-00 COME-00 SRPP-00 H-01 CAC-00 OIC-02 ACE-00 USIE-00 G-00	AID-00 CTME-00 DS-00 TEDE-00 VCE-00 OMB-01 P-00 USSS-00 NFAT-00	AMAD-00 INL-00 EB-00 INR-00 M-00 DHS-00 SCT-00 ASDS-00 SAS-00	A-00 DINT-00 OIGO-00 INSE-00 AC-01 OPIC-01 SP-00 PMB-00 /011W 2 281639	CCO-00 DOEE-00 FAAE-00 IO-00 NRCE-00 PA-00 SSO-00 DSCC-00	CG-00 DOTE-00 FBIE-00 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 PM-00 STR-00 PRM-00
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P 281639Z NOV 02 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2679 INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA AMEMBASSY CARACAS AMEMBASSY LIMA AMEMBASSY PANAMA AMEMBASSY QUITO DEA WASHDC DIA WASHDC DIRONDCP WASHDC JOINT STAFF WASHDC NSC WASHDC SECDEF WASHDC USCINCSO MIAMI FL

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: APPEALS REVIEW PANEL APPEAL ACTION: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELEASED

REASON(S): B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B3, INA DATE/CASE ID: 04 AUG 2004 200201434

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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 10908 01 OF 02 C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BOGOTA 010908

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/27/2012

TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, PREL, PTER, SNAR, CO

SUBJECT: REAR ADMIRAL QUINONEZ RESIGNS FROM NAVY

CLASSIFIED BY: AMBASSADOR ANNE W. PATTERSON. REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D)

1. (C) SUMMARY: ON NOVEMBER 26, REAR ADMIRAL RODRIGO QUINONES RESIGNED FROM THE COLOMBIAN NAVY. MINISTER OF DEFENSE MARTA LUCIA RAMIREZ PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED THE RESIGNATION AND TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE GOVERNMENT NEEDED TO "PRESERVE THE MILITARY" AND TO ASSURE COLOMBIANS THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WERE "ABOVE ANY BLEMISHES." IN ADDITION TO HIS LINKS WITH DRUG TRAFFICKING, QUINONES HAS ALSO BEEN ACCUSED OF HAVING

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TIES TO PARAMILITARY GROUPS AND COMPLICIT IN MAJOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.

QUINONES RESIGNS "VOLUNTARILY"

2. (U) ON NOVEMBER 26, REAR ADMIRAL RODRIGO QUINONES RESIGNED FROM THE COLOMBIAN NAVY. HE WAS ONE OF THE MOST SENIOR NAVY CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 10908 01 OF 02 281639Z
OFFICIALS. QUINONES HAD BEEN SERVING AS COLOMBIA'S DEFENSE
ATTACHE IN ISRAEL. MINISTER OF DEFENSE MARTA LUCIA RAMIREZ
PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED QUINONES' RESIGNATION AFTER A MEETING WITH
THE AMBASSADOR. PUBLICLY, RAMIREZ PORTRAYED THE RESIGNATION
AS VOLUNTARY. SHE SAID QUINONES' RESIGNATION WAS ACCEPTED
BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT NEEDED TO "PRESERVE THE MILITARY" AND
TO ASSURE THE PEOPLE THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES
WERE "ABOVE ANY BLEMISHES." RAMIREZ TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE
GOC'S DECISION IN THIS CASE WAS RELATED TO THE USG'S DECISION
TO REVOKE QUINONES' VISA AND OTHER INVESTIGATIONS.

DRUGS AND MASSACRES

(U) QUINONES! VISA WAS REVOKED

OVER THE LAST DECADE, QUINONES HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF NUMEROUS OFFICIAL INVESTIGATIONS FOR ALLEGED GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND COLLABORATION WITH PARAMILITARIES. FOR EXAMPLE, QUINONES HAS BEEN CHARGED OFFICIALLY BY THE INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE IN CONNECTION WITH THE 2001 PARAMILITARY MASSACRE IN CHENGUE, SUCRE DEPARTMENT. THE GOC'S FAILURE TO CONVICT QUINONES, IN PARTICULAR, HAS OFTEN BEEN CITED AS EVIDENCE OF ITS LACK OF WILL IN PROSECUTING HUMAN RIGHTS CASES. ALTHOUGH ESTABLISHING QUINONES'S GUILT IN ANY PARTICULAR CASE IS PROBLEMATIC, AN UNMISTAKABLE PATTERN OF SIMILAR ALLEGATIONS HAS FOLLOWED HIM ALMOST EVERYWHERE HE HAS HELD FIELD COMMAND.

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 10908 02 OF 02 281639Z ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00.	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00	CCO-00	CG-00
	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00	INL-00	DINT-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00
	PERC-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	OIGO-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00
	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	IO-00	JUSE-00
	L-00	CAC-00	VCE-00	M-00	AC-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00
	OCS-03	OIC-02	OMB-01	DHS-00	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00	STR-00
	TRSE-00 DRL-02	USIE-00 G-00	USSS-00 NFAT-00	ASDS-00 SAS-00	PMB-00 -/011W	DSCC-00	PRM-00

P 281639Z NOV 02 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2680 INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
DEA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
DIRONDCP WASHDC
JOINT STAFF WASHDC
NSC WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCSO MIAMI FL



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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 10908 02 OF 02 281639Z C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BOGOTA 010908

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/27/2012

TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, PREL, PTER, SNAR, CO

SUBJECT: REAR ADMIRAL QUINONEZ RESIGNS FROM NAVY

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7. (C) COMMENT: QUINONES HAS BEEN ONE OF THE HIGHEST PROFILE	
TARGETS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS. THE LACK OF ANY	
DISCIPLINARY OR JUDICIAL SANCTIONS AGAINST QUINONES FOR HIS	
ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN THE CHENGUE MASSACRE IS FREQUENTLY	

SYSTEM.

END COMMENT.

CITED AS AN EXAMPLE OF IMPUNITY IN THE COLOMBIAN JUDICIAL

PATTERSON

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