

November 25, 2009

## ¿What is the controversial "DAS whistleblower" up to?



The tension between Colombia and Venezuela has again caused the resurfacing of former Head of Information Technology of the Organization, Rafael Garcia, who when no longer useful to Venezuela, began cooperating with the DEA.

Many stories are unraveling around the former DAS Head of IT, Rafael Garcia. Some depict him as a privileged DEA informant, others, as a paramilitary head that fell into disgrace. But there are also other stories that consider him to be a parapolitical star, the missing link between the Colombian and Mexican mafia, and even the one [feeding information to the Venezuelan authorities](#) to develop the story of a Colombian government plot to murder president Chavez.

The increase of tension between these two governments brought Garcia out of a sort of banishment and now his name has emerged not only in versions that shows his role as informant of Venezuelan authorities, but other versions that place him in the United States, in contact with the DEA. CAMBIO made its own investigation to try and establish his course since he left the country.

The Colombian intelligence services consider it clear that last August he defied the order of the Sixth Judge of Sentence Enforcement, who granted him probation, by clandestinely leaving the country to go to

Venezuela, where at the beginning of September he was placed under the protection of the Chavez administration and obtained an Identification Card under the name of Jose Antonio Sanchez. Thus it was revealed by CAMBIO in the [edition of October 29](#) where it also printed that he had been cooperating with Venezuelan authorities to develop the story of Alvaro Uribe's administration's conspiracy to murder president Chavez. The details of the alleged conspiracy, which has been used by Chavez to be on red alert and sound the drums of war with respect to Colombia, are included in a 57 page document held by the Colombian authorities, which they claim was drawn with the help of experts from the Military Intelligence unit of Venezuela under the direction of a Cuban Intelligence Official.

The document, which is known to CAMBIO, indicates that Garcia was under Venezuelan protection at the Military Fort of Tiuna and that he cooperated with Venezuelan authorities by providing information regarding the alleged relations that President Uribe had with paramilitaries and drug traffickers to attack the Venezuelan President.

The former Head of DAS Information Technology, who is an expert in Colombian Organized Crime, told Venezuelan officials, among other things, that President Uribe tolerated the existence of a drug trafficking cartel at DAS, which Garcia had formed part of as a bridge for the deployment of cocaine shipments to the Mexican cartels.

Additionally, the report contains versions of three low level detectives assigned to DAS Counter-Intelligence, who have been under investigation for six months based on a questionable report filed by the DAS Internal Control Office against them for corruption. For example, one of them says that he attended private meetings in the residence of the former Minister of Defense, Juan Manuel Santos, in office at that time, to design a plan that aimed to destabilize Venezuela. And another one states that Colombia had three foreign espionage projects: the 'Salomon' in Ecuador; the 'Falcon' in Venezuela and the 'Fenix' in Cuba, which monitored the Ecuadorian consulates in Southwest Colombia and infiltrated the indigenous protests of October 2008, because there was information pointing to the participation of Ecuadorian agents in such protests.

This information was presented by the Minister of Internal Affairs, Tarek El Aissami, on Wednesday, October 28, before the legislature of Caracas, as a major revelation that evidenced the criminal intentions of the Colombian Administration against Venezuela. Garcia contributed as a source of this information.

It is clear to the Colombian authorities that since he got out of jail, Garcia has been selling his services to the highest bidder and, to date, has offered information to at least three foreign agencies.

## **To the DEA**

When Garcia was no longer useful to Venezuela, he traveled to the United States. According to sources in Miami and New York, he is in direct contact with the DEA, which is investigating the illegal activities of "Cartel Azul" or "Las tres letras" (the three letters), which in agreement with the DEA, was composed of former Director Jorge Noguera; former Secretary General Giancarlo Auque de Silvestre (under investigation for illegal wiretaps); former advisor of Noguera, Jimmy Nassar; former Immigration Head Ana Padilla Vaca and García himself.

Based on DEA investigations, which is based on the cooperation of self-confessed Mexican drug traffickers and some former Colombian paramilitary leaders held in US prisons, "Cartel Azul" had assisted in the entry into the country of remittances of illegal currency in the millions coming from Mexico and the United States as a result of negotiations with the Colombian mafia. And this is the information that the DEA seeks to verify with the former Head of IT.

But that is not all the information that Garcia could provide to the DEA's investigation, which incriminates the above-mentioned former high-level officials of the DAS. The agency wishes to verify whether the cartel also rendered services to the Tayrona Resistance Block of the AUC (Colombian Self-Defense), under the direction of Hernan Giraldo, who was extradited and prosecuted for drug-trafficking. An attorney that is familiar with the case told CAMBIO that "the DEA is using very strong evidence to make its case."

CAMBIO contacted Garcia to find out his version. The former DAS official said that at this point in time he is unable to talk about his situation in the United States, but that he was willing to appear before any judicial authority in Colombia or abroad.

¿How likely is it that this man may have been of assistance at the same time to both Chavez and the DEA? ¿Why did he never reveal any of this to the Colombian Court or Attorney General? ¿Is it possible that Garcia is doing all of this to find a spot in another country after losing his credibility? There are too many questions and very few answers.

### **The money path and the leads of the "Las tres letras" Cartel**

What the US authorities are now investigating regarding the existence of "Cartel Azul" or "Las tres letras" was confessed by Garcia himself during his time in Venezuela. This is an excerpt of the statement he gave there:

"In 2003 and 2004, the money laundering network made up of DAS officials, Aerocivil and DIAN, brought into Colombia approximately 100 million dollars and between 50 and 60 million euros. Due to the above, starting in 2003, paramilitaries and drug traffickers started to talk about the Cartel of "Las tres letras", alluding to the "three letters" of the acronym DAS, and to refer to those of us who were in this organization and participated in these illegal activities. Actually, each of our

relationships with drug traffickers began under different circumstances. In my case, the relationship began when I worked for Sociedad Portuaria de Santa Maria, where I met the traffickers that used the port. Afterwards, I participated in drug trafficking into Europe under a fruit company that I had with two friends)..."

**Cambio.com.co**  
Ver Términos y Condiciones.