

## **Priest murdered in Colombia**

By Kenneth D. MacHarg

Miami—A Roman Catholic priest in Colombia has been found dead two days after he was kidnapped.

Fr. Jaime Orlando Acevedo Rojas of the San Miguel Arcangel church of Chinacota was taken from his home on Sunday June 21 and found the following Tuesday with two gun shots to his head.

Police officials said they had no suspects and refused to speculate about whether the kidnappers were leftist rebels or right-wing paramilitary groups.

The 25 year old priest was described as very dedicated to the church and loved by all of his parishoners. He was buried on March 24.

Other priests and church officials have been kidnapped and killed during Colombia's long-running guerrilla insurgency.

Colombia has the highest rate of kidnappings of any country in the world. Two foreign engineers, a German and a Swiss national, were kidnapped the same day that the priest's body was found, bringing to 17 the number of foreigners missing in the South American country.

Three U.S. human rights workers were found murdered in February after being kidnapped from an Indian reservation where they had been working on indigenous workers. Various reports charged guerrillas with their murder, and officials of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) said that the killing was an error and blamed a low-ranking official for the deaths.

Three missionaries of New Tribes Mission, Dave Mankins, Mark Rich, and Rick Tenenoff, remain missing after being kidnapped by presumed guerrillas more than six years ago. NTM officials still hold out hope that the men are still alive although FARC officials say they have no knowledge of the men's situation.,

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