

## Colombia: Rebels push for hostage release

*by UPI*

BOGOTA - Colombian rebels have asked new French President Nicolas Sarkozy to help work out a deal for the release of French-Colombian politician Ingrid Betancourt.

Betancourt was abducted by the leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, in 2002.

A FARC representative said Sarkozy could help broker a deal for the release of Betancourt and other hostages, El Tiempo reported online Thursday.

FARC uses kidnapping and drug trafficking to fund its decades-long war against Colombian forces and right-wing paramilitary groups.

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