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Captive Radio

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Jungle aerals

RADIO VOICE, It is 5:21 in the morning. And in the jungle the sun begins to shine through the trees. We accompany you as the day breaks on Caracol Radio's program, *The Voices of Kidnapping*.

Music Cue #1

Title card over aerals: "Captive Radio"

Archival News.

ANCHOR: The military and police are searching for a policeman in Florida Valle kidnapped by FARC guerrillas. Major Guillermo Solorzano was at this pool with family. He was off duty when six men arrived, carrying guns and dressed in camouflage.

Music Cue #2

Cartagena, Colombia. Cartagena city, woman reading newspaper, birds overhead.

Solorzano's parents house

SOLORZANO'S MOTHER, (vo) A family friend called me and asked (on cam) 'how is the family?' I said we were fine. He said, 'what do you mean fine, if I just heard news that your son Guillermo was kidnapped?'

Solorzano's mother opens folder with letters and documents

SOLORZANO'S MOTHER, (on cam) This was the first proof-of-life. It arrived in August. About two months after the kidnapping.

SOLORZANO'S MOTHER, (reads letter) Mom, Dad, siblings, I'm living one of the means of violence in this country. A risk of my chosen profession. I hear you all on The Voices of Kidnapping. Those messages give strength to all of us in captivity, in this country.

Bogotá city, Bolivar statue, radio antenna tower.

Radio station, radio meters, technician at sound board.

RADIO TECHNICIAN, I go with this audio or we start with Helmut?

HOST, Start with the audio. Is Maria Pardo on the line?

TECHNICIAN, Yes.

HOST, Tell her we're ready to go, okay?

HERBIN HOYOS, Technical team, please bring the officials in.

Bedoya working in station, ON AIR sign.

BEDOYA, Take these. Start calling them, please.

HERBIN HOYOS, (on radio) The kidnapped have this appointment with life, with hope. With faith, with strength. We will be here until the last kidnapped person is free. That will be the last day of The Voices of Kidnapping. We'll move heaven and earth to free you. Remember, your only obligation in captivity is to stay alive.

Officials sit in studio, technician at sound board.

HERBIN HOYOS, (vo) The Voices of Kidnapping began 17 years ago (on camera) when I was kidnapped by the FARC here in the station. Three armed men took me to the jungle. (vo) They took me to a camp where I met a farmer that was tied to a tree by a chain. (on cam) When he realized I was a journalist he asked me, 'why don't journalists more for kidnap victims? It would be good to hear my family on the radio. That my kids speak to me on the radio.' (vo) I told him that if I got out of there I would do that. The military rescued me and when I got back to the station I started this program, so families could speak to the kidnapped.

OFFICER, (on cam) This message is for Yesid Lopez Londono, kidnapped in Cartagena on February 26, 2002. Mrs. Elvia Lodono sends this message. Go ahead Mrs. Elvia.

Radio meters, speaker, guests listening in studio.

ELVIA, (audio only) My dear son, I love you. I miss you. I ask God for a beautiful gift this Christmas. That you return to us, dear son.

Music Cue #3

Radio meters, antenna.

TEXT CARD 1: Guerrillas, paramilitaries and criminal gangs have kidnapped more than 20,000 people during four decades of civil conflict in Colombia.

TEXT CARD 2: Most hostages are taken for ransom or political bargaining.

FARC Archival

HERBIN HOYOS, (vo) Kidnapping is a way that guerrillas finance themselves. There is also political kidnapping when the guerrillas take military or police to force

the government to free guerrilla prisoners. At one time (on cam) we had 3,173 kidnappings in one year. We are two generations of Colombians with the fear of being kidnapped. Most Colombians have a family member who's been kidnapped or a neighbor, or a friend. But all of us have felt kidnapping very close or in our own skin.

Archival News

ANCHOR, FARC guerrillas sent proof-of-life videos of two hostages. It was on Caracol News that Noemí Julio first saw the new proof-of-life videos of her son, Major Guillermo Solórzano.

SOLORZANO's MOTHER, It was a miracle because most of the kidnapped don't send messages or proofs-of-life. (vo) He sent the card and three videos. He said he would be gone a long time. No one knew how long. He told us to be patient. (on cam) And told his brothers to take care of us.

SOLORZANO (proof-of-life), Mother, I hear you on the radio programs. I am punctual, as you are. Your messages give me strength to endure this difficult struggle.. Through the magic of radio, I hear about your lives.

Music Cue #4

Radio antennas

Inside radio station, staff working

HUBER HOYOS, (on radio) Welcome to this new dawn. We'll overcome the cold jungle and the indifference. With these words of strength and hope. You must be given radios. You must be given batteries. They must allow you to listen to the program. We go to more calls now.

RADIO VOICE, (audio only) Welcome Mrs. Myriam de Mora and Mr. Rafael Mora from Bogotá. Parents of Juan Camilo Torres kidnapped on January 19, 2008 in Bogotá.

Caracol building, Bogotá at night, people Christmas shopping.

MYRIAM de MORA, (audio only) My Juan, these 70 months without you have been difficult. We decorated the apartment for Christmas. And with every detail, we think about you. About how happy you'd be with your daughter and all who love you. I leave you with God and a message from your father.

Timelapse day to night, Bogotá day.

RAFAEL MORA, (audio only) Son, I hope that when you hear these words you are well. That you have peace and faith we'll be reunited. Finally, Santa Fe (soccer team) is among the eight finalists again.

Mora's apartment building

RAFAEL MORA, (on cam) My son was a huge fan. When we went to the stadium, he had the shirt and flag. The three of us went, with my wife. (vo) It's important to tell him about the team on the radio.

Moras looking at photo album, photo of Juan as boy

MYRIAM de MORA, (vo) I shared a lot with him. (on cam) Simple things like going shopping with him and his daughter, eating ice cream. Normal daily things. Those are the memories that sustain us, with the hope he will return.

Moras looking at photo album

MYRIAM de MORA, (on cam) These are the last photos of Juan Camilo.

RAFAEL MORA, (vo) I remember he was wearing a green sweater, grey shoes, brown pants. (on cam) That's the last memory I have of him. When he walked out that door, he said he'd be back.

Photo of Juan, parking lot where he was kidnapped.

RAFAEL MORA, (vo) He went to the Santa Cecilia neighborhood. There is a parking lot at a residential complex. When he arrived, two men were waiting. When he got out of his car, they took him. They left the car on the road toward Choachi. It's a town close to Bogotá.

Road to Choachí, driving on foggy road.

RAFAEL MORA, (vo) Our only hypothesis is from the authorities. At that time six years ago, that's where they took hostages to the guerrilla controlled area. From there they took many to the jungle.

MYRIAM DE MORA, (on cam) I cannot describe what that day was like. And his daughter asking 'what happened to my dad, where is my dad? They told me he is lost in the mountains.' What can I tell a seven year old? I don't have the answer.

Moras in taxi.

Music Cue #5

RAFAEL MORA, (vo) Everywhere I go, I see memories of him. He was my university student. I was his professor. (on cam) I go to the university everyday. When I arrive and see the classrooms, I see him. I see his memory, his image. And the pain in my heart. I can't avoid it. When I go to a restaurant, I was there with

Juan. I haven't returned to the stadium because of that. Because my heart cannot handle going to the stadium and not have him by my side.

Moras' apartment at night, Christmas in plaza, family playing in plaza, crowd at vigil.
HERBIN HOYOS, (audio only) For all of you, in the jungle, we are here in Plaza Bolivar, to accompany you tonight. Welcome to this broadcast. They last program of the year. At this vigil.

Moras at vigil, women singing.

Music Cue #6

Plaza at dawn, Herbin Hoyos at podium

HERBIN HOYOS, (on cam) When I name the kidnapped person we will all say 'Free Them Now.' Yesid Lopez Lodoño
CROWD, Free them now!
HERBIN HOYOS, Jaime Silva Duque.
CROWD, Free them now!
HERBIN HOYOS, Juan Camilo Mora.
CROWD, Free them now!
HERBIN HOYOS, Juan Carlos Posada Arias.
CROWD, Free them now!
HERBIN HOYOS, And to the more than 3,700 kidnap victims.
CROWD, Free them now!

Solorzano proof-of-life with text: Major Guillermo Solorzano, Freed on February 16, 2011

Archival Solorzano and Sanmiguel Liberation.

ANCHOR, The truck arrived at 4pm with Captain Antonio San Miguel and Major Guillermo Solorzano, dressed in camouflage. The humanitarian mission came behind them. Major Solorzano greeted his mother first.

SOLORZANO, Thanks Mom. I can't wait to see her, hug my family. Thank you journalists. The freedom machine, finally.

SOLORZANO, (on cam) I was freed on February 16 of this year, 2011.

Archival Solorzano hugging family.

SOLORZANO, (vo) I could finally embrace them (on cam) and thank them for waiting for me, for helping me survive through their messages.

Music Cue #7

Cartagena city, details inside Solorzano's car, Solorzano driving.

SOLORZANO, (vo) Being kidnapped in the jungle is being dead alive. I had to struggle within my mind to resist that kind of death. They tied a chain around my ankle. And around my neck. I created strategies to avoid feeling alone. I made a doll out of fabric. In order to feel alive. I named him Rodolfito. And he never left my side.

Tree, church detail. Solorzano praying in church

SOLORZANO, (vo) For hostages, who stripped of all freedoms, listening to the radio keeps their hope alive. They won't get sick or die. At least they'll be distracted. For the kidnappers it has another meaning. It's not a favor for the captive. It's to keep him alive. I won't become crazy or desperate as the years pass.

Antennas at dusk.

Solorzano arrives at radio station

SOLORZANO, (vo) I try to go the last Saturday of every month to The Voices of Kidnapping. I go and send messages on those nights.

HUBER HOYOS, (on radio) We are joined by Major Guillermo Javier Solorzano. He was freed and helps the kidnapped and their families. Here, he continues his support. More calls at 1:23 am. Major Solorzano will accompany us.

Radio staff working, On Air sign turns off. Radio studio.

RADIO VOLUNTEER, Amalia de Marquez is on line one.

RADIO GUEST, Any stories? When you enjoyed a moment?

SOLORZANO, Out there? Yes, of course? A guerrilla captured a monkey. And tied the monkey by a rope. We decided to free it. I had to release him quickly. So we pushed him with a branch, and he went slowly. Of course, they became angry. And they gave us half ration of food. For freeing the monkey.

SOLORZANO (on cam) The first time I heard my family was August 12 that year. It was a Saturday. (vo) I heard my mother, my father, my brothers and my daughter. (on cam) I will never forget that day.

Jungle shots, butterfly.

RADIO HOST, (audio only) We are listening to Mrs. Noemí.

SOLORZANO, (on cam) To be tied up in the jungle. And hearing loved ones affects the heart. (vo) It makes you dream and think about returning to see your loved ones.

Solorzano with family

SOLORZANO, (vo) I listened to other families. And since my liberation, I have been able to embrace many of them. (on cam) And tell them that I heard them. And how much their words helped me.

Guillermo and Moras meet and greet at station.

SOLORZANO, How are you?

MYRIAM de MORA, How is your family? And Mrs. Noemí?

SOLORZANO, My mother is great. She sends her greetings. She thinks of you. Always concerned about you. How have you been?

MYRIAM de MORA, Well, we're hanging in there.

SOLORZANO, The most important thing is to keep your faith. You are always together. I'm sure Juan Camilo hears you, and it gives him strength.

MYRIAM de MORA, (on cam) He encouraged me, gave me strength to continue sending messages. (vo) To see him free, made us so happy. And I hope to experience that with my son.

Solorzano and Moras in studio

HOST, (on radio) We have a beautiful couple in the studio. And they are very welcome here.

MYRIAM de MORA, (on radio) My Juan, I don't know where you are. But wherever you are, feel the love of a family that waits for your return. You cannot imagine, what it's been like, these these 71 months and 25 days without you. My Dear, please remember the beautiful memories. As always, I send a special greeting to all the civilians and military who are in the mountains waiting for the day to return home. Son, now I leave you with your Dad.

Solorzano listening in studio, radio meters, radio technician.

RAFAEL MORA, (on radio) January 19 of this year, will be six years without you.

RAFAEL MORA, (vo) Sometimes I try to image him when I send the message, what he would be like today, after five years.

Photo of Mora family

RAFAEL MORA, (vo) What is he like? What is he thinking? (on cam) And the message we send is what Herbin always says. They must stay alive until we are together again.

Antennas, series of proof-of-life videos.

Music Cue #8

ARCIA, I am First Captain, Luis Arturo kidnapped eleven years ago, during the capture of Villar.

MORENO, I send this message, as always, with care, love and respect.

LASSO, We hear your greetings. They help us continue after so many years in captivity.

SALCEDO, Thank you Caracol and RCN for the spaces that allow our families to communicate with us. And I want to thank all of Colombia for waiting for us. Thank you.

Jungle aerals.

TEXT CARD: In 2012, the FARC released their last military and police hostages, renewing a possibility for peace talks.

TEXT CARD: Hundreds of civilians are still in captivity. Thousands have disappeared.

TEXT CARD: Rafael and Myriam Mora have no information about their son, Juan Camilo, but they continue sending him weekly messages.

CREDITS

Source List:

Caracol TV News
Guillermo Javier Solórzano
Myriam and Rafael Mora
Herbin Hoyos
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