

Jaime Garzón

Jaime Garzón was born on October 24th in 1960 in Bogotá, Colombia and was murdered on August 13th in 1999. Garzón studied Law at the National University in Bogotá from 1982 to 1988 and became a lawyer. He also pursued a master's degree in Political Science from Javeriana University in 1990. His job was to write about injustices in his country and to defend the poor and oppressed.

At the beginning of his career, he worked as a teacher in a poor neighborhood in Bogotá. Then, he served as the minor mayor of San Juan de Sumapaz, a village of the Capital District of Bogotá, during the administration of Andrés Pastrana (1988-1990). Also, he worked as a journalist, comedian, actor as well as a pedagogue. In addition to his work on television, he had a risky role as a peace negotiator in helping release FARC guerrilla's hostages.

Later on, during the 1990's, he became a popular and a well-known person on tv and radio. This funny man was really good at imitating politicians. So, he worked on several television parodies. In fact, he became famous for the TV show named "Zoociedad" (1990-1993), a show that criticized Colombian politicians and famous characters. Shortly after, he started working for the program called ¡Quac! El Noticiero (1995-1997) and then for "La Lechuza" (1997). This clever performer created many fictional characters such as "Heriberto de la Calle", a shoe shiner who interviewed Colombian celebrities and politicians throughout his career.

In 1999, unfortunately, he was murdered by right-wing paramilitary hitmen due to his denunciations and irreverent political satire. So far, the murder is still open and unsolved. It was declared a crime against humanity by the Council of the State of Colombia.

In conclusion, Jaime Garzón was a tireless human right's defender because he became a voice for poor and oppressed people in his country by criticizing Colombian politicians that stole the poor their opportunities. Also, he was a multifaceted and caring professional because he always thought about those who had less than him or were in an inferior situation. Finally, he was a



hard-core freedom-promoter since he devoted lots of his life to helping hostages find their way back home again.