

***Belisario
Betancur,
95,
Colombia
President
During
Rebel
Siege,
Dies***

By Stephen Kinzer

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Belisario Betancur, a Colombian president in the 1980s whose efforts to end a guerrilla war in his country were undermined by a spectacular rebel attack on the Palace of Justice in Bogotá that led to more than 100 deaths, died on Friday in a hospital in Bogotá. He was 95.

His death was announced by the hospital, Fundacion Santa Fe de Bogotá.

Mr. Betancur (pronounced bet-an-CUR) was an unusual figure in Colombian politics. He came from a working-class family in the provinces, rather than from the Bogotá elite. During the period of dictatorship in the 1950s, he was repeatedly jailed on political charges.

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