

FARC Rebels Free Captive Soldier in Colombia



Bogota, April 18 (Xinhua—RHC) -- The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) Thursday released a Colombian army soldier abducted two days ago from an indigenous community in southwest Cauca department, Colombia's El Tiempo daily reported online.

Thanks to the "actions of the indigenous authority, in their efforts ... in defense of life, soldier (Miguel Angel) Gonzalez was delivered by the guerrilla group to the town council," the daily said, quoting the local ombudsman.

Gonzalez was given a medical checkup and then taken "to the 29th Army Brigade command based in the (southeast) city of Popayan, " the daily said.

The soldier was kidnapped at the Mosoco indigenous reserve located in the municipality of Paez, in Cauca.

FARC guerrillas have stepped up their activity in the past month in the Colombian departments of Narino and Cauca, where at least eight members of state security forces have been killed.

The government of Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos has been in peace talks with the FARC since November 2012, in an attempt to put an end to five decades of fighting between the leftist rebels and state forces.

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