

Celia Center's [National Adoption Conference 2020](#)  
COLOMBIAN ADOPTEE PANEL  
Sunday, Nov 15, 2020  
1:00-2:30pm PST / 4:00-5:30pm EST



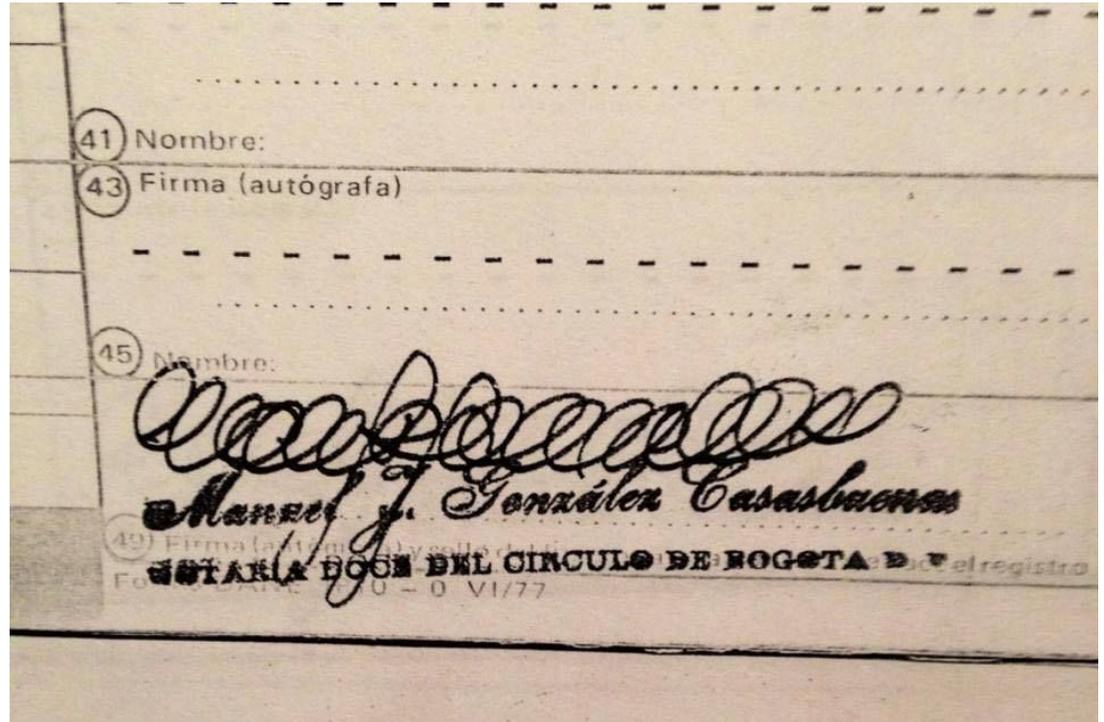
RESOURCES:

**a. TOPIC 1: Extra Complicated Search & Reunions**

For adoptions particularly from the mid-1970s to the early '90s, many Colombian doctors, lawyers, nurses, hospitals, notaries, adoption agencies, orphanages, and religious organizations were allegedly responsible for **trafficking minors** for personal profit, under the guise of legal adoptions. This applies to many but not all adoptions.

- Sources for more info:
  - November 2019 Colombian Adoptee's [Keynote](#)
  - October 2016 Vice News [article](#)
  - August 2012 HuffPo [article](#)
  - November 1986 Colombian newspaper [article](#)
  - August 1981 New York Times newspaper [article](#)
  - July 1977 NY Daily News article [part 1](#) & [part 2](#)
  - Tons of experiential evidence from Colombian Adoptees in reunion (Facebook groups below)

- Finding the following officiants, entities, or narratives in your adoption documents is a **red flag**:
  - Lawyer: Roberto Vásquez Morales
  - Notaries: Luciano Moreno Uribe; Darío Caicedo Trujillo; Manuel José González Casasbuenas\*



- FANA Adoption Agency: Mercedes Rosario Pineda de Martinez
- La Casa Adoption Agency: The post below is from an “Adopted From Colombia” Facebook group...

## ◀ La Casa - Last Names Assigned to Adopte...

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This past summer (2012) La Casa for the first time publicly admitted to having created this system in order to erase Adoptee's identities. When asked if they would at least share the full list (last name / year), they said it would be too difficult to computerize the list - makes one wonder. It took only a few minutes to this up.

Please let me know what corrections, additions, deletions need to be made to the list.

1970: Fajardo /

1971: \_\_\_\_\_ /

1972: \_\_\_\_\_ /

1973: Mejía / Uribe

1974: Vargas /

1975: Zea / Uribe

1976: Ordóñez /

1977: Arias /

1978: Buendía, García, Giraldo /

1979: Garzón / González / Martínez / Mosquera, Peña /

1980: Ochoa, Rojas /

1981: Gómez /

1982: Ortiz / Herrera /Riviera Montano

1983: \_\_\_\_\_ /

1984: \_\_\_\_\_ /

1985: Alfonso / Rincón / Rodríguez / Guzmán

1986: Corredor /

1987: Durán /

- Told records are missing: Upon requesting a copy of adoption files (despite city, year, or presiding entity), officials often claim they were destroyed by "fire" or "flood"
- Your records show a "copy/pasted" birth family story: Check for language that reads like this side-by-side comparison of 2 different adoptees' personal adoption histories:

e Colombia.-  
 e natural del menor mencionado me abandono  
 or antes del nacimiento de dicho menor y  
 na que tiene legal custodia sobre mi hij  
 acidades no alcanzan para atender las ne  
 ituales como materiales de mi hij .  
 entrego a mi hij a la Fundación para l  
 Abandonada "FANA" con Personería Jurídica  
 brero de 1972 del Ministerio de Justicia  
 opción a padres nacionales o extranjeros  
 len una mayor protección moral, espíritu  
 económica.  
 a mi hij y doy la autorización para la  
 i a cualquier país extranjero y entiendo  
 to que mi hij será adoptado según la ley  
 olombia y según la jurisdicción del país  
 so que l niño sea adoptado por no resi  
 presente autorizo el cambio de nombre de  
 cualquier nombre que puedan escoger los s  
 ros.  
 lo que es posible que mi hij sea educad  
 i que no sea la mía.  
 o que mi hij sea educado dentro de una  
 a, como los supuestos padres adoptivos  
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 ción para la Adopción de la Niñez Aband  
 umente facultada para adelantar las dili  
 rias del caso, como Solicitar el Permi

natural del menor mencionado me abandono  
 nacimiento de dicho menor y que yo soy  
 stodia sobre mi hij .  
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 iales de mi hij .  
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 NA con Personería Jurídica No. 262, de  
 de Justicia, para que l do en adopció  
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 ente autorizo el cambio de nombre de  
 e puedan escoger los supuestos padres  
 ue es posible que mi hij sea educad  
 ia.  
 o mi hij sea educado dentro de una  
 upuestos padres adoptivos con prudenc  
 a para la Adopción de la Niñez Abando  
 para adelantar todas las diligencias  
 solicitar el permiso judicial de ado  
 pasaporte ante el Ministerio de Rel  
 a del país de mi hij , como Repres  
 las autoridades judiciales para ade  
 ón en Colombia y el otro país de mi

**AUTENTICO**  
**SECRETAS**  
 Oficina del Director  
 de la Niñez Abandonada  
 Bogotá, D.C.  
 1972

- You were adopted in 1985 or 1986 and are from The City of Armero (or suspect you were): If this applies to you, contact [The Armando Armero Foundation](#) to see if the [volcanic eruption](#) may have separated you from your Colombian family
- Support/resource groups for Colombian adoptees:
  - [“Adopted from Colombia” Facebook Group A](#)
  - [“Adopted from Colombia” Facebook Group B](#)
- [Colombian Birth Mothers searching for their children](#)
- Hire a Colombian Private Investigator: The following are some resources that may assist you (as of 2020, the average cost is \$500 USD). This is not an endorsement of any kind; please research them for credibility before proceeding:
  - [Plan Angel](#)
  - [Colombia tu Pais](#)
  - [Jorge Ivan Restrepo](#)
  - [Colombia Adoptees Family Search](#)
  - [Searching for My Biological Mother in Colombia](#)
- The language barrier can motivate learning Spanish
  - Spanish Practice Group [for Colombian Adoptees](#)
  - Learn Spanish free with [Duolingo](#)
  - [Google Translate](#)
- Recommended DNA testing path for Colombians:
  - First, test with ancestry.com and 23&Me, then [upload](#) the “Raw DNA” file to MyHeritage, FamilyTreeDNA, GedMatch, Geni & Geneat, to “fish in every pond”
  - Join [DNA Detectives](#) FB Group for Searching Tips
  - If you don’t find close family right away, you can wait for closer matches to appear or ask DNA cousins if they’ll help get additional family members tested at your expense to find closer relationships (DNA tests are not available in Colombia but you can reliably ship them between Colombia & USA via DHL or FedEx)
- [Endogamy](#), or marrying within a community, was historically common in Colombia and can make DNA cousin matches appear closer than they actually are (though the more shared DNA = the more accurate prediction). Still, you *can* learn how to do the challenging work of sorting

endogamous matches. Or, you can hire [experts](#) to do the work for you (as of 2020, the average price starts at \$2,500+)

## ● TOPIC 2: Growing Up with a Stigma

a. The antidote is to fuel Colombian pride:

- Colombia is a chief exporter of the world's most treasured emeralds, coffee, and orchids
- [Fernando Botero](#), Renowned Painter/Sculptor
- [Gabriel Garcia Marquez](#), Nobel-prize winning author
- [Egan Arley Bernal Gómez](#), 2019 Winner of the Tour de France

b. Visit Colombia to experience its beauty:

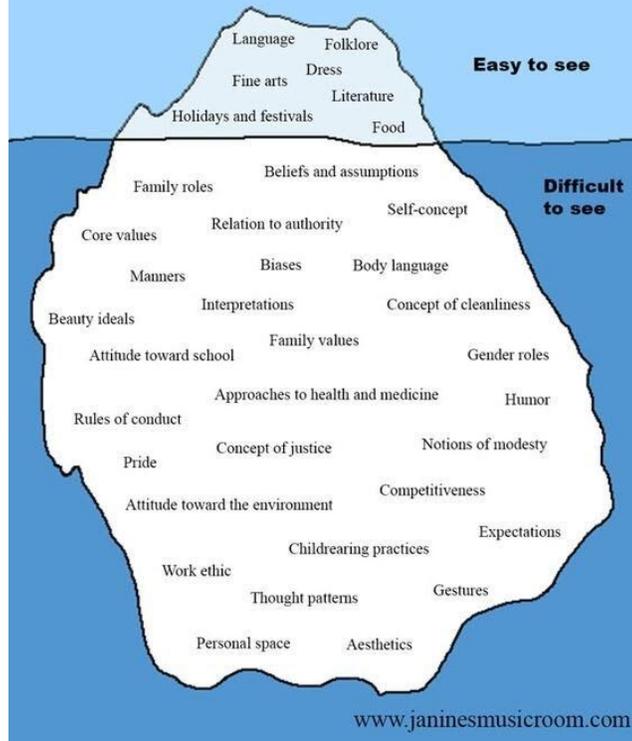
- As peace & safety continuously grow in Colombia, tourism has increased by 250% in 10 years (source: NYT, April 10, 2018)
- Colombia's violent [crime rate](#) is now lower than that of many US cities, including [Hartford, Connecticut](#) for example
- Conde Nast Traveler's "[17 Reasons to Visit Colombia](#)"
- "[Is Colombia Safe for Travel in 2020?](#)"
- "[21 Reasons Why Colombia Should Be Your Next Holiday Destination](#)"
- Colombia is 2nd on New York Times' "[52 Places to Go in 2018](#)"

## ● TOPIC 3: EXERCISE: List 5-10 Ways You Are Proud to be Colombian!

### MISC RESOURCES:

- Seek support during search & reunion...it's too much to go it alone!
  - Celia Center [Support Groups](#) (currently on Zoom)
  - [Yoffe Therapy](#) and other [Adoption-Competent Therapists](#)
  - "[Adoption Healing](#)" book by Joe Soll
  - [Adoption Healing Network](#)
  - "[Adoptees On](#)" podcast
  - "[Decoding Our Origins](#)" book by & for Colombian Adoptees
- Angela Tucker's "[Adoptee Manifesto](#)"
- How to [reclaim](#) your Colombian citizenship & passport
- [How to](#) request a copy of your [Colombian adoption file](#)

# The Cultural Iceberg



Si quiere conocer el océano  
Pacífico... vaya a **Chile**.

Si quiere conocer el océano  
Atlántico... vaya a **Jamaica**.

Si quiere conocer los Andes  
Americanos... vaya a **Bolivia**.

Si quiere conocer las llanuras  
del Orinoco... vaya a **Venezuela**.

Si quieres conocer las Selvas  
del Amazonas... vaya a **Brasil**.

Si quieres conocer las Culturas  
Precolombinas... vaya a **Mexico**.

Pero si quiere conocer todo ello  
junto... venga a **COLOMBIA**.