

WHY COLOMBIA?

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238 HRCB

HIS EXCELLENCY

FRANCISCO SANTOS CALDERON

COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S.

His Excellency Francisco Santos Calderon is the former vice president of Colombia under Alvaro Uribe Velez's administration. Santos served as the Democratic Center Party's head of debate in 2017 and ran in the 2015 mayoral race for Bogota on the Democratic Center Party ticket. He was kidnapped by the Medellin Cartel in 1990, led by narcotrafficker Pablo Escobar, and after eight months of captivity was released and created the world's first NGO to fight kidnapping: Fundación País Libre (Free Country Foundation). Santos received a degree in journalism from the University of Kansas in Lawrence and a degree in Latin American Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. He and his wife, Maria Victoria García, are the parents of four children.