



## Throwing Stones at the Moon: Narratives From Colombians Displaced by Violence (Voice of Witness)

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For nearly five decades, Colombia has been embroiled in internal armed conflict among guerrilla groups, paramilitary militias, and the country's own military. Civilians in Colombia have to make their lives despite the threat of torture, kidnapping, and large-scale massacres—and more than four million have had to flee their homes. The oral histories in *Throwing Stones at the Moon* describe the most widespread of Colombia's human rights crises: forced displacement. Speakers recount life before displacement, the reasons for their flight, and their struggle to rebuild their lives. Among the narrators:

JULIA, a hospital union leader whose fight against corruption led to a brutal attempt on her life. In 2009, assassins tracked her to her home and stabbed her seven times in the face and chest. Since the attack, Julia has undergone eight facial reconstructive surgeries, and continues to live in hiding.

DANNY, who at eighteen joined a right-wing paramilitary's enormous training camp in the Eastern Plains of Colombia. Initially lured by the promise of quick money, Danny soon realized his mistake and escaped to Ecuador. He describes his harrowing escape and his struggle to survive as a refugee with two young children to support.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"Here are the real and unforgettable voices of Colombia's long nightmare. They tell us of normal lives shattered by trauma, suffering, violence, and redeemed by love, resilience, courage or hard-earned wisdom. I read these oral tales with a knot in my stomach, frightened and moved, and finally amazed by this lesson: when people find the strength to tell us what has happened to them, no matter how horrendous, a terrible yet universal beauty somehow emerges, always casting light on the mystery of being human."

—Francisco Goldman, author of *Say Her Name*

"Outside the U.S. media's lights and whir, the largest crisis in the world of forced displacement from home is taking place in Colombia. *Throwing Stones at the Moon* makes it personal through these narratives of loved and difficult life, vivid and specific to Colombia's places and to the families torn and struggling amid the long war. Brodzinsky and Schoening convey these people's tender and bitter stories, of resilience and loss, of cruelty and solidarity, in their own full voices. Stories that don't end with an act of violence, but that call out for compassion, and for justice."

—John Lindsay-Poland, Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Fellowship for Reconciliation

"Poignant."—*Kirkus*

"Human rights journalists Brodzinsky and Schoening geographically organize intimate oral histories from individuals living through pervasive violence among Colombia's drug cartels, military forces, and rebels. Often astonishing quotes double as headings...piquing readers' curiosity and conscience...Readers concerned with human rights and Latin American politics will find this account of violence and survival both sad and inspiring."—*Publishers Weekly*

#### Praise for the Voice of Witness series:

"These books are amazing ... beautifully produced, with incredible editing and literary sensibility. Voice of Witness has done a better job than I've seen anybody do with having people tell their stories in a way that really engages you."

—Rachel Maddow

"The series does not so much weave a tapestry from different experiences as braid a rope, a lifeline by which we might haul ourselves into a less ignorant, more actively compassionate future. In them, the specific illuminates the general, destroying preconceptions, stereotypes, and cop-out responses along the way."

—Richard Vernon, *Sojourners Magazine*

"In a time when history is told in cheap television re-enactments, if at all, and personal tragedy is gobbled up in rapidly digestible magazine photos and reality shows, this project goes against the grain."

—*Guardian UK*

"The soon-to-be-released book, *Throwing Stones At The Moon* (Voice of Witness, 2012) reads like a collection of literary short stories, but, in this case, the stories are both real and horrifying. The stories of

those gathered in Moon are told by the Colombian victims of human rights abuses themselves...Given that these voices are rarely heard, this book is invaluable.”

—*Huffington Post*

#### About the Author

**Sibylla Brodzinsky** has spent more than twenty years writing about Latin American politics, human rights, and social issues. She is a freelance journalist in Colombia, contributing regularly to *The Economist*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and *The Guardian*.

**Max Schoening** is a researcher and writer on human rights in Colombia. He contributed research to *Violentology: A Manual of the Colombian Conflict*, a forthcoming photography book documenting the history of the Colombian conflict by Stephen Ferry.

#### Users Review

##### From reader reviews:

##### **Eleanor Hayes:**

Do you have favorite book? In case you have, what is your favorite's book? Publication is very important thing for us to understand everything in the world. Each book has different aim or perhaps goal; it means that reserve has different type. Some people really feel enjoy to spend their the perfect time to read a book. They may be reading whatever they have because their hobby is usually reading a book. Think about the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, man feel need book when they found difficult problem as well as exercise. Well, probably you should have this *Throwing Stones at the Moon: Narratives From Colombians Displaced by Violence (Voice of Witness)*.

##### **Christopher Hairston:**

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##### **Donna Vazquez:**

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book particularly book entitled *Throwing Stones at the Moon: Narratives From Colombians Displaced by Violence (Voice of Witness)* your brain will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe unidentified for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a guide then become one type conclusion and explanation in which maybe you never get prior to. The *Throwing Stones at the Moon:*

Narratives From Colombians Displaced by Violence (Voice of Witness) giving you one more experience more than blown away your thoughts but also giving you useful data for your better life in this particular era. So now let us show you the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished reading it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary spending spare time activity?

**Timothy Lumpkin:**

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