

Intercession of Our Lady Prevented War

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The Colombian daily *El Tiempo* revealed that: **On Holy Saturday a crisis that could have ended in an open conflict between Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela was averted by Colombian President Alvaro Uribe confiding the situation to the intercession of Mary under the three different titles by which She is the three countries' patroness.**

The crisis between Colombia and its southern (Ecuador) and northeastern (Venezuela) neighbors began when Uribe ordered a military raid into Ecuador's territory against a rebel camp used by Marxist guerrillas to launch terrorist strikes. The raid targeted and killed the No. 2 FARC rebel leader, Raul Reyes.

In response, Ecuador's President Rafael Correa cut all diplomatic relationships with Colombia. Venezuela's Hugo Chavez, Correa's political ally, ordered a massive military surge to the

Colombian border as well.

Fr. Julio Solórzano, Chaplain of Colombia's Presidential Palace, in *El Tiempo* revealed that when the rhetoric and blames between the presidents was increasing tensions, **President Uribe called for a Rosary to pray for the end of tensions.**

The Rosary, prayed at the Presidential Palace's chapel, was dedicated, upon Uribe's request, to Our Lady of Chiquinquirá, Our Lady of Coromoto and Our Lady of Mercy, respectively the patronesses of Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador.

Uribe invited all officials at the Presidential palace to the Rosary, as well as the Minister of Defense and the Interior.

"For believers — *El Tiempo* wrote — the prayer was more than effective, since only two days after, the presidents of the three countries shook hands during the Group of Rio summit, and for many the crisis was over." **EC**