

Colosio Widow Seeks to Revive Flagging Probe

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MEXICO CITY — The widow of slain presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio said her "demand for justice is undeniable," as she sought to reinvigorate the investigation into her husband's assassination two months ago in Tijuana.

Looking drawn and thin in her first news conference since her husband's death, Diana Laura Riojas de Colosio said, "I trust that our institutions will redouble their efforts so that very soon we'll know a clear and convincing truth."

In Mexico's closed society, where a single authoritarian political party known by the initials PRI has ruled for 65 years,



Diana Laura Colosio

Mrs. Colosio's remarks are likely to cause a political stir. The young widow, an economist with two small children, is frustrated with the pace and the energy behind what has become a politicized investigation, her friends say.

The inquiry appears stymied, and many Mexicans reacted with indignation to a special investigator's remarks this month that he is leaning more toward the theory that the confessed assassin, Mario Aburto, acted alone. Earlier, the special prosecutor had said he believed the murder was a "concerted action" as he announced the arrest of four security agents, hired by the ruling party for crowd control for the Tijuana visit.

Three weeks ago, Mrs. Colosio hired one of Mexico's top criminal lawyers, Juan Velazquez, as her legal representative. He has had full access to the files in the case.

Mrs. Colosio also announced she would keep her husband's ideals alive by heading an "independent and autonomous" foundation, named after her husband. She said it would also be involved in preserving peace and combating violence, which has been on the rise in Mexico.

While it remains to be seen how strong

a civic leader Mrs. Colosio will be, some analysts believe she could be a force in this nation of 85 million. "She is a danger to the dinosaurs," said private economist Rogelio Ramirez de la O, using the epithet here for PRI hard-liners. "This suggests that she wants to use the foundation to regroup and press for a clean investigation and keep [her husband's] commitments to reopen the political system."

After the assassination, the nation's attention was riveted on the frail-looking widow's emotional strength and resolve. In her husband's native Magdalena de Kino, near the Arizona border, she impressed Mexicans with a lengthy eulogy to her husband of 10 years in which she said he wanted a "Mexico without divisions, without violence and without rancor among brothers."

Mexican columnists quickly pitched her as a replacement presidential candidate for the ruling party. One columnist, Guadalupe Loaeza, even said, "She was on her way to becoming our Jacqueline Kennedy."