

# 真劍 SHINKEN



REVISTA LATINOAMERICANA BUJINKAN

The Bujinkan in Columbia

Columbia Visited by Great Teachers

Shihan Van Donk:  
Help Along The "Way / Do"

Interview: Nestor Iscovi Shihan

Shihan Pedro Fleitas in México

Bujinkan Theme: Togakure Ryu Ninpo

Techniques: Daisho Sabaki Gata  
Takagi Yoshin Ryu

Volume

5

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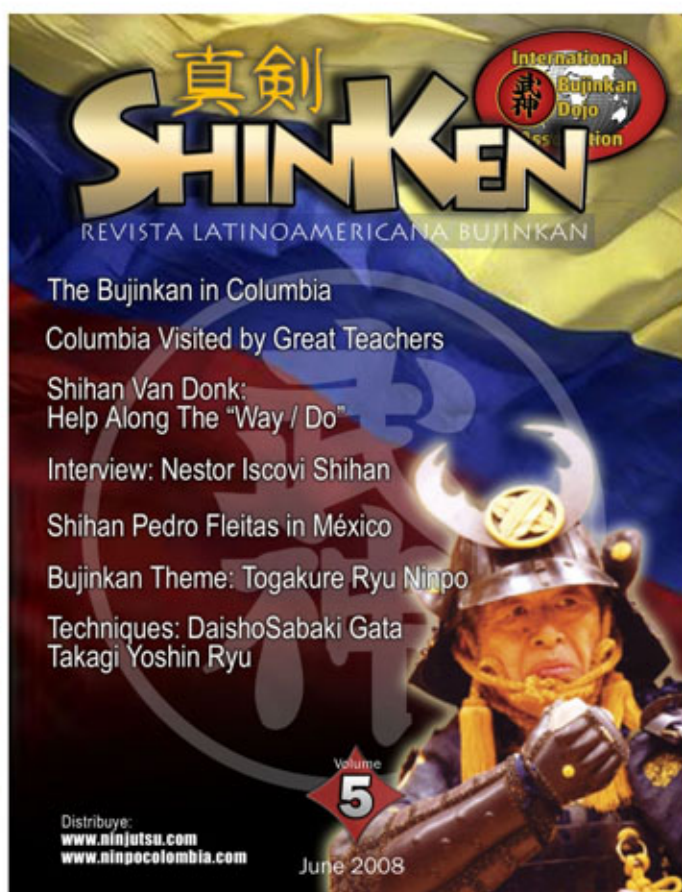
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## To Work on our Weakness is to Work on a United Bujinkan

By Ricardo Zapata  
Chief Instructor of IBDA Columbia



In 2008, Soke Hatsumi has dedicated his teachings to Togakure Ryu. The art of escape (Tonsogata) along with Ninja Biken (Sword) will be the focus of the teachings.

Shihan Van Donk informed us that Soke had said we need to be aware of our hidden weaknesses, which need be surpassed. He also informed us that we need to work on our balance, as well as our natural self in 2008.

The Bujinkan is in a state of beauty and is on the road of maturity. This should be the conscience of each practicing Bujinkan member of high or middle rank, as instructed by Soke Hatsumi in a recent Daikomyosai... "This year is the year of the Jugodan...this carries us into thinking about the maturity of the Bujinkan."

Hatsumi also stated that in Japan and other cultures a 15 yr. old (U.S. is 16 yrs. Old) is the age to which a boy becomes a man. At 15, you are filled with experiences of the world and yet, still hungry to explore the world as a young adult...."the Bujinkan has reached the level of Jugodan. This is the model of example that someone who is a Jugodan should follow."

Shihan Van Donk and Soke Hatsumi invite us to build a strong Bujinkan community, speak well of others (even if you do not understand the customs of others), create new friends every chance presented to you, enjoy your training, and enjoy the experiences on the way.

Train with teachers that are aligned to the guidelines proposed by Soke Hatsumi instructors that have peace in their heart, without malice and hatred. These are the kinds of people that you should train with.

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# TEACHINGS

## HELP ALONG THE “DO / WAY” 道

By Richard Van Donk, Shidoshi Judan Kugyo Happon Biken

The following is taken from the rules of participation in the Bujinkan:

The tradition of the Bujinkan recognizes nature and the universality of all human life, and is aware of that which flows naturally between the two parts:

**“The secret principle of Taijutsu is to know the foundations of peace.”**

**“To study Ninjutsu is the path to the immovable heart (fudoshin).”**

Also: “We must put the heart of the warrior first, working together for self-improvement and for the betterment of the Bujinkan.” Masaaki Hatsumi Soke

How many people in our training really absorb what is written here? It seems that most students are more interested in chasing the next waza and learning it without ever understanding the very nature of the teachings of this art. Falling into this trap will leave them still empty and searching inside. The desire you feel to fill the void inside is the Do/Way speaking to you somehow.

In understanding the 'nature' referred to above in the quote we must find our way on the path of life itself as well as within the dojo. Through the teachings of the Bujinkan Ninjutsu path you are invited into and freely offered the opportunity to grow deeper into your own human nature. Yet somehow, perhaps because it is hidden right in plain sight like a Ninja in the night, many students never find their way to the deeper teachings.

Do you know the real history of the Ten, Chi, and Jin that formulate the Ninjutsu teachings? Do you know the real history of the Godai or 5 elements in the Ninjutsu training? Do you really know what it means to be a Shidoshi? Or what it means when you bow in to the training?

Within these teachings is an opportunity to grow beyond just being a fighter, to transform yourself into a more awakened human being that uses all of themselves to grow to their highest potential. Some part of you must quest the inner powers of the ancient masters or you would not be studying the arts of the Ninja, you'd be doing Tae Kwon Do or pole-vaulting instead. You must at least be curious about the Ten Chi Jin, or the 5 elements methods, or the influence the ancient Chinese masters had on the Ninjutsu schools, or perhaps you want to know more about why kuji-in was used by the Ninja. I go much more deeply into a fuller explanation of all of this in my Shidoshi Training Course but here in this limited space I would like to give you a glimpse of the deeper knowledge.

Have you ever really thought about what these terms mean that you use in everyday in your training?

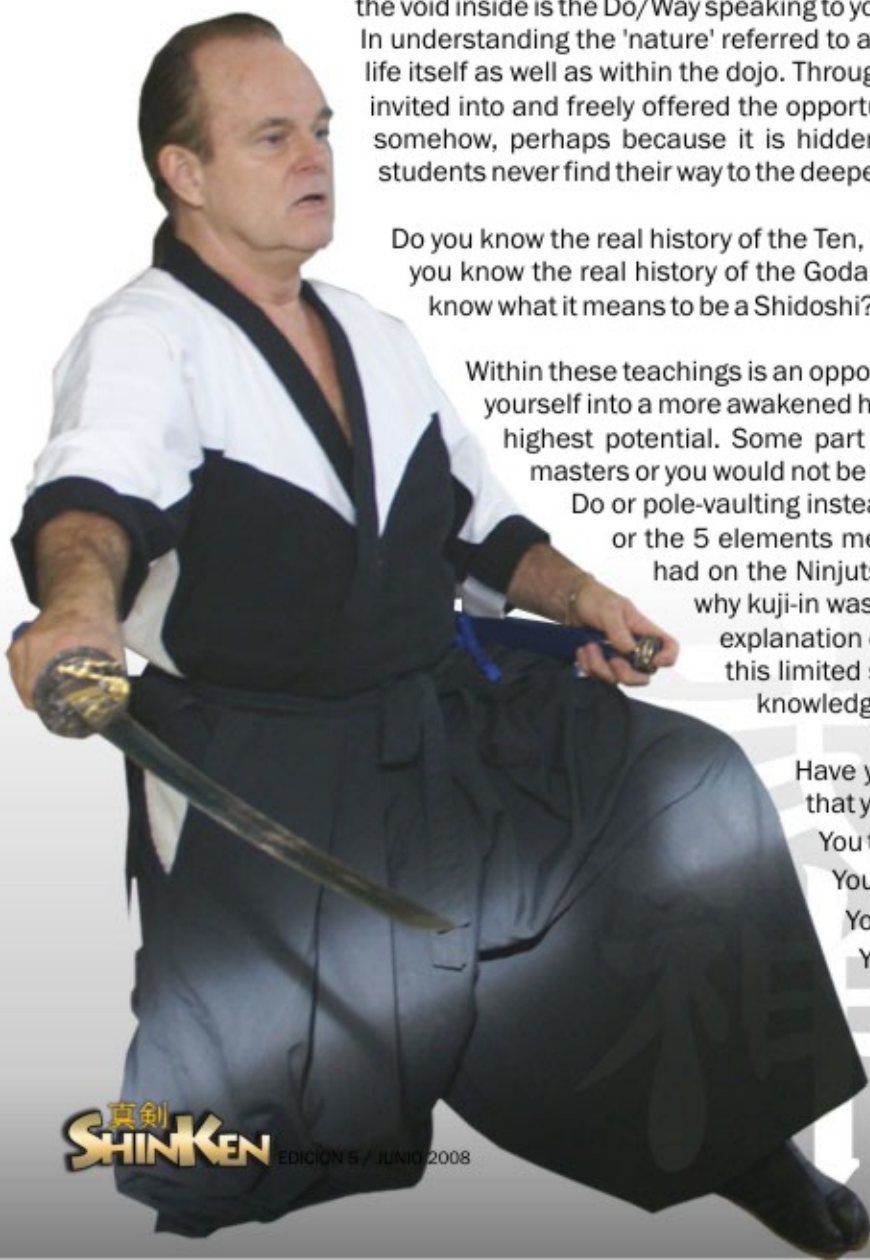
You train in a Dogi 道着 Uniform used to train in the Way

You train in a Dojo 道場 Place used to train in the Way.

You are learning Budo 武道 Way of the warrior

You learn from a Sensei - 先生 Sen: one who is ahead

Sei: birth or life so the definition of Sensei is one who is ahead of you on the path of life.





# TEACHINGS

You or your teacher is a Shidoshi 士道師 which means a teacher of the warrior ways of enlightenment.

These terms all describe teachings about the Way. In Japan it is called the Do. In China it is the Dao or more commonly written Tao. We need to be aware of the Do 道 (Tao/Dao/Way) in everything we do. Recognizing this is just the beginning and the inner teachings of the path become very clear once you are in the flow.

The Masters of the ancient Do teachings used them to develop incredible physical and non-physical strengths and great inner powers. They used them to evolve their lives and to become healers. They used them to become attuned to God and Nature. They used them for inner peace. I want you to be able to travel the Path any way you want, to be able to stay as long as you like at any particular place along the Path, and for you to always know where you are at all times on your journey knowing that I (and others) will be there waiting to help you if you desire help.

The teachings of the Way have been in place for thousands of years. Some teachers mark this path well for their students and others do not. Up to now in the Bujinkan it seems to have been left up to an individual student to find their own way to the door of enlightenment.

However, in my new Shidoshi Training Course (and future Enlightened Warrior™ teachings) I will guide you and light this path well for you. I think that anyone who has achieved the level of being teacher in this art should be able to share the Way with their students. If they cannot do this they are not really a teacher of this art.

To me there are 5 Gates (Tori) or Stages along the Warrior's Path:

Tori 1, Practitioner; Tori 2, Teacher; Tori 3, Scholar; Tori 4, Healer; Tori 5, Shihan/Sage. For this short article I must

be brief yet I feel it is very important to share this with you as it may give you a deeper insight into your progression along the Path.

**1st Tori** - You decide to travel the Path by entering a Dojo training and become a practitioner of the martial arts. This is the beginning of the Way for you. Many stop here.

**2nd, 3rd, 4th Tori** - In time you begin to share the art with others, and you develop into a teacher. Being a teacher naturally creates a desire to learn more details of the art (scholar) so you can share them with others. The more you understand about the Path and its teachings the more you begin to heal the inner and outer aspects of yourself. Others will witness this new ability and change in you and want your help. Students will bring you their troubles to be healed and they will trust your judgment as you have traveled this path yourself (healer). You may even learn (as Soke Hatsumi states) that Budo and Amatsu Medicine are one and the same.

**5th Tori** - Very few will continue this on as a life practice but if you do, after many years you will have trained enough as a practitioner, taught enough as a respected teacher, helped in the healing process of other students enough that you will be referred to as a Role Model for which the Japanese word is Shihan. The Chinese word for this would be translated as Priest or Sage. At this point the wisdom you have gained on the Path to becoming a Shihan/Sage will teach others as much or even more than your taijutsu does. In fact, they will become the same. The Path is infinite and the evolution of your human potential

道





# TEACHINGS

is unlimited. Living the Way fills my destiny and enriches my soul.

## What I Encourage You To Learn as a student or a teacher - Shidoshi?

### FEEL THE TEACHINGS GET OUT OF YOUR OWN WAY

Learning the feeling of the taijutsu and not over-thinking is key in our budo. In reality what you are doing in your action is stopping and healing all possible harm. Even when someone is coming at you attacking with a sword or a punch or a knife or a gun or whatever, you are simply removing harm, you are removing danger. You are acting as a healer in the world, realizing that you are really just healing everything in your presence and you have choice of what to do, of how to heal that body, or heal that mind, or heal that consciousness of that being that is attacking you.

### HEAL YOURSELF

Learn how to heal your body. Start by learning Junan Taiso and then try drinking some herb teas and taking some good supplements. Learn some basic Amatsu Reiho self-healing teachings. Hatsumi Sensei says his Budo and the healing arts known as Amatsu in our teachings are one and the same. At a basic level with your taijutsu learn to read the energy of the person attacking you and apply the proper distancing. You don't fight the fight, instead, you attune to the feeling and intent of the attacker, you control the space, redirect the energy and strike a kyusho (energy point), then subdue the attacker in whatever form is necessary.

### EXPERIENCE STILLNESS

I encourage you to learn to meditate or to sit quietly in prayer if that suits you better. Study the deeper aspects of the Ten Chi Jin. Immerse yourself in a spiritual practice and keep your light clear so that you can become a great example for others to follow. Be very clear about what

your path is and what makes you excited to live and train in the arts. Learn stories that inspire you and share them with your students. Be an example for others to follow.

### GET SO GOOD YOU DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT

The better your martial art skills are the more of a professional you can be in handling difficult situations. A beginner would have to fight with all their might to survive whereas a Judan should be able to handle the same situation without hurting the attacker. Did you know that the kyusho points come from Chinese healing systems and are actually used for healing a person who is out of balance? And yet these same points can be struck in a fight to shut down a person's energy flow and drop them to the ground. Masters learn to be able to see these out-of-balance points on an attacker's body and to strike them in a fight as well as being able to feel them when healing someone of an imbalance. This is all part of Ninjutsu as well.

### SHARE

Your responsibility in being a teacher, even at the beginning level of a Shidoshi- ho, is that you need to realize and understand that you are going to have some out-of- balance people come to you wanting to learn Ninjutsu. This is especially true with Ninjutsu, the art of the Ninja. You would not believe - well maybe you would- the kind of calls that we get at IBDA about the most wild and crazy things, ranging from how to make smoke bombs to how to disappear with a kuji-in so their girlfriend will not see them in her room at night. Very few want to hear the truth but be ready to do your best to help people with their lives.





# TEACHINGS

## EVOLVE IN EACH MOMENT

You may be at a level in your own evolution where the training is really only about kicking and punching and fighting and trying to beat up other people while not getting beat up yourself, and so maybe that is the only kind of student you are attracting to come to train with you. But I have got to tell you - and I have been doing this most of my life - that there are other reasons that people come to martial arts. Self defense is actually a very small part of why people end up in martial arts. It is a very, very small piece.

Yes, people want to learn how to defend themselves and to fight a good fight but that is only a small piece of it. It is a very small piece. You must ask yourself what being able to beat everyone else in the universe would really do for you inside. Is it just about feeling safe? After feeling safe, I think that we all really want to heal what is going on in our hearts that is unsettled. Everyone wants to feel stronger somehow and they also want to be loved. They want to be more connected and they want to be able to belong to something greater and worthwhile. Part of being human is that you want to be able to be a part of something. You want to be able to be recognized and appreciated. You want to be able to be involved in crazy things with your body. You want to be able to learn really wonderful things. You want to have more self discipline - but most of all you want to have more strength inside.

A person training in martial arts wants to be stronger in every aspect of themselves. They want to be able to handle the things they are afraid of and training in martial arts helps give people the strength to handle those fears. That could be the fear that their mother or father is getting older and they don't know how they will be able to take care of them. It could be they have an injury in their own body and they are afraid they'll never

be the same. It could be that they are just afraid to go out and talk to somebody new or to try to get a better job or to do something that they love to do but they think is too hard. Training in martial arts helps the person to overcome those things. It helps them to overcome the obstacles and the fears that they have in their lives and to be stronger in their mind, to be resolved so that they do not have to fight that fight.

They really want to overcome having to fight the fight. They want to get rid of their anger issues by creating more power in themselves to be able to handle the things that come up in their lives. This is all part of traveling The Way. That is what it is to become a Shidoshi. That is what it means to become a teacher of these ways. So learn them and practice them well no matter where you are on the path because you are representing the art as you travel the Path. I hope to see you soon on the Way. I will keep the light on.



Shihan Richard Van Donk

Menkyo Kaiden Judan Kugyo Hapko Hiken



## Hon Tai Takagi Yoshin Ryu

### Tsuka Kudaki - Daisho Sabaki Gata

By Ricardo Zapata, Shidoshi ho



The creator of this school was Umon. His father, a servant of the Daimyo, was attacked in a dark alley at night and murdered. His father had always told him, "A willow is flexible, but a large, stiff tree can break. Umon changed his name to Takagi Oriuemon Shigenobu after the death of his father. He sought to improve the techniques and incorporate them into Takagi Yoshin Ryu. The "Yo" means willow while "Shin" signifies heart. Takagi Yoshin Ryu takes its techniques from Judo and Aikido. When these techniques are applied, they are performed so that the opponent cannot escape by running or leaping away. The style of Jujutsu stems from training inside buildings, therefore different from other styles which originate outdoors. Thus, the techniques involve throwing the opponent, immobilizing, or keeping the opponent close to one's body to fight effectively in confined spaces, as well as having the option in fighting in large areas (outdoors). Takagi Yoshin Ryu teaches to study the eyes and use speed, while utilizing the opponent's weight against him when appropriate.

Today, I will share an advanced technique of the long and short sword (Daisho Sabaki Gata).

Takagi Yoshin Ryu is a complete sword school, possessing the following levels of study:

1. Shoden no Kata - 14 techniques
2. Chuden no Sabaki Gata - 10 techniques
3. Chuden no Tai no Gata - 15 techniques
4. Okuden no Kata - 15 techniques
5. Eri Shime Gata - 8 techniques
6. Moguri Gata - 11 techniques
7. Daisho Sabaki Gata - 14 techniques

### TSUKA KUDAKI

1. Tori and Uke start in Shizen No Kamae. Uke initiates an *lai* (from the *saya*) towards Tori (*Dogiri*).
2. Tori leaps towards Uke (*Zenpo Tenchi Tobi*), blocking with his right hand ...the *tsuka* of the sword and right hand of Uke.
3. Tori controls the right hand of Uke and throws a *shuto* with his left hand so that Uke frees the sword, withdrawing the arm holding *tsuka* (handle).



# Hon Tai Takagi Yoshin Ryu

Tsuka Kudaki - Daisho Sabaki Gata

Por Ricardo Zapata, Shidoshi ho

## TECHNIQUES



4. Tori seizes the sword while throwing a KinGeri (kick to testicles) to Uke.



5. Tori immediately strikes Uke in the face with the tsuba using the sword and saya (scabbard) as a lever to throw Uke to the floor. The points of leverage to support this lever (see red points in picture) are located in the obi (belt) that holds the saya.



6. Tori throws Uke on his back: Uke falling backwards applies Koho-Ukemi.



## PEDRO FLEITAS **Tai Kai in Macpec, Puebla, Mexico (May of 2008)**

By Shidoshi-Ho Fernando Fábrega R.  
Bujinkan Panamá - Ninjutsu Budo Taijutsu  
<http://bujinkanpanama.ffabrega.com>

This Tai Kai (Great Encounter) was hosted by the famous Shihan Pedro Fleitas of the Canary Islands and organized by Shihan Gustavo Rojas of Bujinkan Mexico. Divine techniques of Ninpo Taijutsu were demonstrated, including techniques with weapons and without, as well as the thousand year old healing art called Amatsu Tatara. Also, for the first time outside Japan, Shihan Pedro Feitas performed the "Sakki test" with the full authorization of Soke Hatsumi to a Shidoshi-Ho of Mexico. In the seminar were other famous teachers such as Shihan Christian Petrocello of Argentina and David Palau of Columbia. Also present was Shidoshi Luis Bernal of El Salvador, as well as Dr. Jorge Fernandez who was promoted to first Kyu. Truly, aside from being a great teacher, Shihan Pedro is a great person.



## Annual Retreat YAMAGAKUREKAI 5 Ninja Gassuku/March 2008

By Shinken Dojo Group - IBDA Columbia

In the tenth anniversary of the Shinken Dojo, Sensei Ricardo Zapata celebrated by having a special retreat for budoka in the area. Imagine! It has already been four years since Shinken Dojo has become a member of the International Bujinkan Dojo, delivering authentic Budo Taijutsu and a total of ten years since teaching the Budo Arts. This seminar was a three day training, with an attitude of total immersion while training in the sounds of the harvest bugs, birds, and fragrances of the surrounding foliage. This gassuku was based in the themes of peace and harmony, not on force.

The retreat introduced the participants to techniques based on interior harmony inton no jutsu, gotonpo, metsubushi, shinkentaijutsu, among other appropriate techniques of the art.

Alfonso gave an excellent lesson on living like Nagare (flowing or being in the current) in one's life. He elaborated on this by explaining it through the metaphor of life as a river, describing the power of this element of water.



山隠会  
忍者合宿





# EXPERIENCES

## Comments on Ninja Camp, May 2008

By Dojo Makoto Students, IBDA Cali



忍者合宿

The camp was very enjoyable. I loved tameshigiri cutting with the sword and the part concerning noborigata. Unfortunately, the weather was not what we expected. Although there were only a few of us, we trained hard. We were practicing techniques for our 7th kyu test. I would like to attend the next ninja camp.

Att:  
Buyu David Zapata  
Dojo Makoto Cali

It was a camp that demanded some intense training, with techniques involving some serious agility and dexterity. It was nice to share with other people, despite the fact that we train twice a week (we take that for granted). In general, the camp was productive having the chance to enter the world of the Ninja. We will patiently wait until the next time we can be part of this

world once again and learn a little bit on the way.

Thank You

Johnathon Yusti  
Dojo Makoto Cali

It was an opportunity for the boys to interact and practice techniques they did not know they could perform. Each person experienced some personal growth, as well as had an opportunity to make some friends. Yes Johnny, I am fine...just fine.

Thank you...Ana Milena C.

A student's mother



## Comments on Ninja Camp, May 2008

By Dojo Makoto Students, IBDA Cali

The Ninja Camp training was an event that allowed us to deepen our understanding of the techniques and learn how to act in the dojo. It was an experience that involved a transmission of physical techniques, as well as spiritual techniques. We shared moments of friendship, as well as times of seriousness. We discussed new forms of interacting with nature, as well as learning to take advantage of resources offered to us. We touched on the themes of the nine schools, as well as the history of Ninpo.

Gerardo Monroy  
8th kyu

Sensei Roberto Zapata.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to participate in this marvelous Gassuku that we had in Pance to be with friends and study techniques provided by Roberto. I only hope that we can do this again.

Alejandro Alvia Lleras  
8th kyu



忍者合宿



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# THE BUJINKAN AT COLUMBIA

## The Life and Budo

Por Gustavo A. Sanín M.  
Shidoshi 8th Dan Bujinkan.  
Bujinkan Basso Dojo Budo Taijutsu of Colombia.  
Bogotá -Colombia

I began to practice Chinese Martial Arts in 1978, with Master Wong Reads. He was a master of Chang-Chuan, Chinna, Hsing-I, Chi Kung, Choo Him Fat, Wuchinhisi, among others. After 10 years of continuous study, my Sikung returned to his country of origin, China, but not before advising me to continue my studies in the martial arts....specifically, Aikido. I persisted to find an aikido instructor's school in Columbia, but to no avail. I then decided to search outside of my country, looking to Spain for the solution.

In 1988, I arrived in the Parks Airport (Madrid), where I remained for some days seeking an Aikido school. I eventually found it, as well as a friend by the name of Jose Maria Alcala. He practiced a style

**"I was the first Bujinkan Instructor in Columbia."**

called Bujinkan Ninjutsu. In 1982, I had seen a program called "Ripley's Believe or Not" about this art...was it Hatsumi and his art of Ninjas?

They were organizing a Tai Kai in the area and many instructors were speaking about it. Much of the discussion was regarding "Soke..." which was a word I did not understand at the time. I decided to go to the place, seeking best route to the City of Torremolimos. After spending some time practicing Aikido, I travelled to Malaga in the direction towards my destiny.

I registered in the Armaragua Hotel, located on Carlota Alessandri Avenue. From here I began my search, finding the "Dojo Tora," where I trained for several months in the company of Ruide Mendoza.

After practicing for several months, I returned to Columbia where I had a Martial Arts Dojo teaching different groups since 1985. In 1988, through the blessing of my teacher, I began teaching the Bujinkan arts. I was the first Bujinkan instructor in Columbia.

The years went by very slowly. Then in 1993, a professor by the name of Victor Goldstein arrived in Columbia (ranked



武神

Foto: Matsuri Colombia 2001  
Gustavo Sanin con  
Daniel Hernandez



# THE BUJINKAN AT COLUMBIA

at Godan). I continued my studies while instructing; I received my Shodan in 1995, being the first Columbian to be ranked by the Hombu Dojo, as well as Shidoshi-Ho. When Goldstein planned to return to Argentina, I withdrew from his dojo in February of 1996. Once again, I was without a teacher.

In search of a new instructor, I sought the advice of Soke Hatsumi...asking him to help me find a new teacher. I received my answer a month later, advising me to seek Shihan Daniel Hernandez in Argentina. I wrote to him as soon as possible. Fifteen days later I received a response and acceptance to be a student. I traveled to Argentina in 1997. I arrived in Buenos Aires, from which I contacted a teacher by the name of Shihan Sakanashi Masatumi (a great instructor of Aikido Aikikai); he permitted me to remain in his dojo and study.

This was a hard trip, since I practiced 3-4 hours of Aikido and then left to practice Ninjutsu for 2-3 more hours any day for 2 months.

The first time that I met with Shihan Daniel Hernandez we sat down to discuss about life, the themes of life, as well as philosophy.

When I returned to Columbia, I tried to organize everything that I had learned; Ninjutsu in Columbia had been an art focused on business, super teachers, with styles that had been invented by action movies and fiction.

When I arrived to Argentina, I wanted to experience all the styles I could, concerning Ninja, Ninjitsu, Ninjutsu, Shadows, Dragons, Clans, Belts, and many others. This of course was not possible, so I abandoned this idea and continued to study. In the following year of 1999, I proposed to Shihan Hernandez the idea of hosting a seminar once a year to complement my training, as well as having private lessons.

In 2002, with the blessing of my teacher I went to Japan to take the Sakki test during Daikomyosai. As performed by Soke Hatsumi, I became Shidoshi. As the year passed, I have consecutively traveled to Japan in 2003, 2004, and 2005, learning each time about technique and spirituality.

Shodan Promotion in 1995  
with Jorge Goldenstein



Training with Daniel Hernandez,  
Argentina 1997



# THE BUJINKAN AT COLUMBIA

In 2004, I invited Shihan Nikolaos Stefannidis, a very special person whom I met in Japan. He has taught me a lot about technique, as well as about life. This year, I plan to bring Nikolaos to Columbia for the theme "Togakure Ryu."

This is a brief summary with regards to the practice of Ninjutsu...this Budo has taught me to observe life in a different way. To not forget my limitations, and fight for what I believe in through overcoming obstacles. It has fortified me physically, mentally, and spiritually.

About the Picture: Matsuri Colombia 2004  
Gustavo Sanin and Nikolaos Stefannidis

[www.bujinkandojocolombia.com](http://www.bujinkandojocolombia.com)



# THE BUJINKAN IN COLUMBIA

When Ricardo asked me to write an article on the Bujinkan in Columbia, I thought a lot about what to write. Truthfully, I do not know about all the authors that have formed the history to the present, nor of how many people they have coached or with which instructors or when.

What I can say is that time has passed and yet I still remember my first time travelling down this road. For me, training began in September 1998 with my teacher Gustavo Sanin. I am eternally grateful for him, for if it was not for him I would not be anywhere near where I am today. At the time, Gustavo was the only person that had travelled out of the country and had been certified to teach Budo Taijutsu. There were many people in the country that trained in Ninjutsu or as Ninjas, but the theoretical bases for these styles were not of the Bujinkan. Gustavo organized national and international courses, which permitted the introduction of authentic Ninjutsu. Because of this, Shihan Daniel Hernandez was accustomed to visiting our country and was perhaps the first person whom we had met that had trained with Soke Hatsumi. In 2000, I began to coach with Alejandro Estrada, an instructor of Bogota. Alejandro, along with

Arnoby Sinam Alba had searched for Shihan Pedro Fleitas, hoping to find the true feel of the Bujinkan. In 2001, I travelled to Venezuela where I met Shihan Pedro Fleitas in a seminar, where I remember him telling me "I'm going to take you with me to the Canaries."

In the blink of an eye, I was in the Uryu Dojo in the Canaries training. I have been really lucky to have been called a student of Shihan Pedro Fleitas.

I passed my Godan test in the summer of 2005 at the Hombu Dojo. I travelled by myself to Japan with nothing more than a letter by Pedro Fleitas, as well as a guide of where to eat, sleep, and get things of necessity. This was my trip alone to Japan. Now, I always try to go with Pedro Fleitas, at least once a year. This February marked my fourth

trip to Japan.

Travelling with my teacher to Japan has permitted me to understand the teachings of his teacher, which in turn are incomprehensible to me. During the past few years, we have had some marvelous instructors come from outside Columbia and visit: Liberto Gala of Venezuela, Christian Petrocello and Nestor Iscovi of Argentina, Nikolaos Stefanidis of Germany, Richard Van Donk of the United States, and Carlos Morales of the Canary

## The Bujinkan In Columbia, My Perspective, My Lineage.

By David Palau M.D, Shidoshi Bujinkan Kamurozan Dojo, Bogota Columbia



[www.kamurozan.com](http://www.kamurozan.com)



# THE BUJINKAN IN COLUMBIA

Islands. This year, we are lucky to say that five international seminars have been organized the first one was that of Shihan Carlos Morales in Bogota this April. We also will have the honor of Shihan Nikolaos Stefanidis in September, here in Bogota Shihan Juan Manuel Serrano in October, and finally Shihan's Nestor Iscovi and Christian Petrocello in December. We have much training in the months to come, due to the efforts of five Shidoshi and 20 Shidoshi-ho. This year, we had a Colombian reach the rank of 10th dan, Shihan Arnoby Sinam Alba and Godan promotion, Janeth Fragozo. Congratulations for your accomplishments and endeavors. Shihan Pedro Fleitas stated in the Taikai in Mexico this past May that in order to be a complete martial artist, five things are required:

1. Confidence
2. Courage
3. Solidarity
4. Commitment
5. Patience

I wish you all the best of luck, blessings and health to you and your families.  
From Bogota on a fresh afternoon,

David Palau, M.D.  
Bujinkan Shidoshi



武神



# THE BUJINKAN IN COLUMBIA

## My Walk in the Bujinkan

By Ricardo Zapata, Shidoshi ho  
Shinken Dojo, IBDA Columbia

Ninjutsu was the art I always wanted to practice. In 1985, here in Cartagena, it was impossible to obtain information on this art. I began in Karate Do and trained for many years in the art, until receiving my Shodan. I was well aware of places that practiced Ninjutsu, but fellow martial artists of the area advised me not to join these schools since they were not part of an organization. In my first martial arts school (Karate), I trained with a fake instructor of ninjutsu who had us walking stuck to walls all very humorous. We all knew it was a farce; not surprisingly, the school disappeared after people realized it was

**“When I started my studies in Ninjutsu, I invested in a good education and vision through the wonderful training methods of Shihan Richard Van Donk”**

all lies. I continued my martial arts practice with only serious Karate practitioners, trying to abstain from drinking Sake with the Ninja. We had a friend who would travel to New York often, and we would feed off his magazines, toys, etc. Continuing my training in Karate, the art became nothing more than a practice based only on the physical - nothing more transcended here. I yearned for something more complete, therefore that is when Ninjutsu came to my mind. In 2002, I found something good, something that would fulfill my expectations. Married with three children and at my age, I

just could not tolerate something fake something not real. Through much research and many recommendations, I found Master Richard Van Donk. After viewing his website and learning about his mission, I realized that this is where I should begin. He was close to my country, dominated by English, and I knew he offered written and video training material to help a person grow

Foto: Linda y Richard Van Donk, Sebastian Zapata y Ricardo Zapata en la sede Shinken Dojo IBDA Colombia, Octubre 2007.

[www.ninpocolombia.com](http://www.ninpocolombia.com)



# THE BUJINKAN IN COLUMBIA

in the art. I wrote an email to Shihan Van Donk expressing my interests in becoming part of IBDA and starting his distance learning courses. I first asked him about how to receive rank with this method, since I was accustomed to sparring, breaking boards, kata forms which seemed necessary at the time. Shihan Van Donk responded simply by saying, "you simply have to demonstrate your knowledge of the art to pass to each level." In October of 2003, I contacted Sensei Estrada of the Bujinkan Bogota Dojo. He is a student of Shihan Arnoby Sinam who was providing a seminar in the capital (Santa Fe de Bogota). I went to see what was happening in the Bujinkan at the time, to make new friends, and meet some leaders in the art here in Columbia who would support my growth. I met David Palau who at the time was a Shodan and I still talk to him to this day. I recall training in a dojo with Alejandro Estrada in Bogota, as well.

In a short time, I came to understand the method of IBDA, the rigors of its evaluation system and the flexibility of learning at one's own pace while studying the basics of the art. While training, I passed all my tests to 2nd kyu, and was given a chance to test for Shodan from this level, which had to be done in person. In 2005, I passed my Shodan test in front of Shidoshi Luis Bernal and four of his students, who served as ukes. They were all excellent people, who were very polite and helpful. My school was already up and running by then, having been authorized by Shihan Richard Van Donk in 2004 to share my techniques of the art. This was the year the doors officially being opened to Bujinkan Budo Taijutsu in Cartagena for those who wanted to learn the true art of

the ninja. Once it was made public that I was teaching Ninjutsu in Cartagena, certain individuals initiated a series of death threats. The authorities were able to



In the photo right to left Ricardo Zapata next to David Palau. Seated Arnoby Sinam along with Alejandro Estrada.



# THE BUJINKAN IN COLUMBIA

track down these letters as having come from the capital, as well as from Bucaramanga.

In 2006, I was able to enjoy the company of some friends from the Bujinkan in El Salvador, where I was able to meet up with Master Richard Van Donk and with Shidoshi Luis Bernal who attended to me like a brother in his home. It was at this meeting that Shihan Van Donk granted me my license of Shidoshi-ho sent by Soke Hatsumi along with a drawing by Soke of the Bujin kanji (shoho). I also received my Nidan (second degree) at this time. In 2007 I organized an international event



with Shihan Richard Van Donk: the Enlightened Warrior Sword Event 2007. Students from Bujinkan Panama, Columbia, and United States all participated. This event consolidated my relationship with Shihan Van Donk, which brought many blessings that will help my studies for Yondan. At this event, I was presented with my Sandan (third degree black belt) upon observing my excellent Taijutsu and progress in Budo. On behalf of my teacher, I received my Yondan (fourth degree) in June 3, 2008. I was also told that I could take the Sakki test in six months with Sensei Hatsumi in Japan.

The Bujinkan community is growing day by day and each leader should reach for growth amongst brothers: there should be no space of emptiness in our hearts, becoming guides, beacons of light to reorient this world which is plagued by conflicts, hatred, ignorance, and intolerance. I personally try to work on projects that point me towards those horizons and follow those teachings that my teacher has given me, where we should become protectors of the past as well as of our community. When I started my studies in Ninjutsu, I invested in a good education and vision through the





# THE BUJINKAN IN COLUMBIA



In the photo from left to right  
Shidoshi ho Ricardo Zapata,  
Shihan Linda and Richard Van Donk,  
Sensei Roberto Zapata,  
during the 2007 event in Columbia.

wonderful training methods of Shihan Richard Van Donk. The media and teaching have created an everlasting relationship, not solidified by a piece of paper, but solidified in the heart teachings kept in the heart and called upon when the time is needed to reveal true Budo.





# THE BUJINKAN IN COLUMBIA

## IBDA in Cali

By Ricardo Zapata, Shidoshi ho  
Shinken Dojo, IBDA Colombia

The idea to share the teaching was growing and in 2005 Roberto Zapata (my brother) joined the organization, officially opening a training group after my first event in Santiago of Cali. Roberto is scheduled to test for his Shodan this November, becoming the second IBDA black belt in Columbia.

Sensei Roberto is organizing a local event during the month of November 2008. He is inviting all those interested near the Valley Cauca to take part in studying techniques of the Bujinkan. IBDA groups are characterized as small groups of students dedicated to the practice of Budo.

IBDA Columbia has private study groups in Barranquilla where they study the arts of Bujinkan which encompasses techniques, as well as philosophy.



Private class with Shidoshi -ho Ricardo Zapata while visiting the Cali Makoto IBDA Dojo in 2007.

These web links can help you find a school near you:

<http://www.Ninjutsu.com/dojos-links.php>

<http://ninpocolombia.com/directorio.php>

In the next edition, we will continue with more installments and hear from the experiences of Bujinkan practitioners in Columbia.

Sensei Roberto applying Onikudaki to Uke Gerardo



**www.ninpocolombia.com**



## SHIHAN

# NESTOR ISCOVI

### Bujinkan Argentina



**Shinken Magazine:** Hello Nestor, it is a pleasure to have you with us on this edition of Shinken Magazine.

**Nestor Iscovi:** Thank you for having me here to discuss my experiences in the Budo that we practice and love.

**Shinken Magazine:** How do you see the "echo" that Soke Hatsumi has made in today's Latin America?

**Nestor Iscovi:** I don't think that Soke has one specific intention in Latin America, and I feel that Sensei limited his Budo to be naturally transmitted on its own. It's like a stone that is dropped in still water, creating ripples that expand throughout the entire lake. I feel that the Bujinkan is growing in Latin America, thanks to the excellent and diligent work of instructors who seriously comply with the rules of the Bujinkan.

**Shinken Magazine:** Soke Hatsumi's vision of the Bujinkan always involved an organization united with great respect and tolerance for others. How do you go about finding people with these qualities within your ranks?

**Nestor Iscovi:** Sensei always tells us that we must share; this creates a sort of union when people share with a noble heart, therefore allowing to control the poisons of ego, envy, arrogance, etc... all things are possible...I believe the "form" in sharing with an open heart is performed by simply practicing it, but I strongly believe that practitioners should be united through the link that is Hatsumi Sensei. What do I mean by this? Those who train with Soke should get together and share with others therefore not severing the connection that they provide between Soke and those that cannot make it to Japan. If the connection is severed, then the transmission is lost or does not arrive correctly. Like in all families, there will always be differences in opinion therefore, this is where the test of tolerance and respect should prevail. Time alone and the attitudes of the Bujinkan's members will determine the fate of our union.



# INTERVIEW

**Shinken Magazine:** We are aware that you have had several opportunities to visit Columbia. How many times have you visited our country?

Nestor Escovi: Alone, I have been to Columbia once...suffice to say I have found great Budokas and great people here, such as David Palau...who is a student of Shihan Pedro Fleitas of the Canary Islands. They have also shown me the great human love that there is in this country.

**Shinken Magazine:** This year, 2008, you will visit again to another recognized teacher here, Shihan Christian Petroccello. Tell us about this event.

Nestor Iscovi: In December, I will be beside Christian sharing with all the people of your country. This is all thanks to the invitation of David Palau. The truth is that David is doing tremendous work in your country, concerning the Bujinkan. This event came about from when I returned from Daikomyosai. It will be a festival where we will try to share all the experiences that we have had in budo every time we have been with Soke, as well as techniques from this year in Japan.

**Shinken Magazine:** The Bujinkan is an organization that is in constant growth and change. How do you project the way the Bujinkan will grow in Latin America in the years to come?

Nestor Iscovi: It's difficult to project such situations, as you have said, the Bujinkan is in constant growth and change. Thus I have learned not to project, but just to share with all who want to listen to my experiences in training.

**Shinken Magazine:** The Budo Taijutsu of Sensei Hatsumi is of total adaptability. How do you believe it should be contextualized as to our culture?

Nestor Iscovi: The only context that I believe one must give to the teachings of Soke Hatsumi is that of life and the protections of life. There are no geographical barriers in the Bujinkan. The differences in cultures do not matter in the Bujinkan. Budo Taijutsu is much more than learning how to strike, it aides us to continue in our endeavors by helping us surpass the darkness that may be within ourselves or society. It helps us to find the power to adapt and be in harmony with everything that surrounds us. This implies that we must pass unnoticed without ego and live as simple people. We all have studied from the same origin...Soke Hatsumi...and from there, arises all.

**Shinken Magazine:** Thank you Shihan Iscovi for your participation and lending your time to the faithful followers of the Bujinkan of Soke Hatsumi. Would you be able to give your last thoughts and final reflections to the readers of Shinken Magazine?

Nestor Iscovi: Thank you for inviting me and allowing me to discuss my ideas with you in all, my advice is simple...first, keep moving forward, persevere, be sincere with each other and remember that your diligence will benefit others who are learning. This is why it is so important that you have a direct or indirect connection with Soke. Keep going!!! This concept involves many aspects of our Budo. This should be in each one of you in discovering what is behind the mysteries of our art.





# THE NINJA SOURCE VAULT

What's a Ninja Vault? It is exactly what it you would think it would be: a privately kept, secure hidden area filled with information that is accessible only to a select few - our IBDA Ninjutsu Members!

You might be wondering what kind of things would get stored in the Vault.

Well, there are all kinds of cool stuff like free Wallpapers, Video training clips, Audio stories and archives of various Shihan Talks, Photos from some of our Japan trips, photos of Soke Hatsumi, and of Takamatsu Sensei, photos from some Shihan Van Donk Events, Histories, Soke Lineages, Waza lists of the 9 Bujinkan Ninjutsu schools - Togakure Ryu - Gyokko Ryu - Koto Ryu - Takagi Yoshin Ryu - Shinden Fudo Ryu - Kukishinden Ryu - Gokushin Ryu - Kumogakure Ryu and Gikan Ryu, Training Tips, Ninjutsu and self improvement articles, Newsletters, back issues of Shinken Magazine, back issues of Hanako magazine, Archives of Shihan Van Donk, latest news from Japan, and much, much more is being added all the time.

In the Ninja Vault you'll find an incredible library of information just for those who train with us at IBDA. The info in the vault will be constantly added to, so let us know if you have something to add that you think others would like or feel free to let us know what else you would like to see added to our Ninja Vault. Sounds good, doesn't it?

More Info at:

<http://www.ninjutsu.com/membership.shtml>



# TOGAKURE RYU NIPO

## Hidden Door School

### SPECIALITIES

Ninpo, Katana, Ninpo taijutsu, Shuko and Ashiko, Bisento, Sakkijutsu, Metsubushi, Shinodake, Senban shuriken, Kyoketsu Shoge (thought to be developed before the Kusarigama), Saaki jutsu

### THREE SECRETS OF TOGAKURE RYU

#### 1. SENBAN SHURIKEN

A four pointed throwing star, the design of which is exclusively unique to the Togakure Ninja.

#### 2. SHUKO

Also known as Tekagi. These are metal bands around the palm of the hand with four metal spikes projecting from the palm; another metal band is around the wrist. A piece of leather joins the two metal bands

together. This was a climbing tool, and also used in defense against sword attacks. To use the shuko correctly you must master the Koshijutsu from Gyokko Ryu.

#### 3. SHINDAKE

This is a small, short bamboo tube 4 foot long (1.20m) used to aid breathing when hiding under water. It was also used as a blowpipe. Sometimes a broken scabbard was used for this purpose.

These three items were known as "SANPO HIDEN" (Three secret ways).

On New Year's day in 1891 Soke Toda Shinryuken wrote the following wisdom:

1. Know the wisdom of being patient during times of inactivity.
2. Choose the course of Justice as the path of your life.
3. Do not allow your heart to be controlled by the demands of desire, pleasure, or pain.
4. Sorrow, pain, and resentment are natural qualities to be found in life. Therefore, work to cultivate an immovable spirit.
5. Hold in your heart the importance of family loyalty, and pursue the literary and the martial arts with a balanced determination.



戸隠流忍法体術



# COLOMBIA Visited by Great Teachers

Columbia has had the honor to have been visited by esteemed practitioners of Soke Hatsumi's Budo Taijutsu.

In 2007, we had the honor to train with Shihan Van Donk of the United States, as well as Shihans Christian Petrocello and Nestor Iscovi of Argentina who will be visiting us towards the end of the year with Nikolaos Stefanidis of Germany. From Spain, Carlos Moral has visited us (Canary Islands), as well as from Venezuela, Liberto Gala.

This year was packed with some awesome events, thanks to Bujinkan leaders of their respected countries. We will leave an agenda of national and international events coming up in the second half of 2008.



EVENT	HOSTED BY	DATE / LOCATION
7° Ninja Matsuri Colombia 2008 Nikolaos Stefanidis, Alemania	Bujinkan Basso Dojo Gustavo Sanin <a href="http://www.bujinkandojocolombia.com">www.bujinkandojocolombia.com</a>	5-7 de septiembre 2008 Bogotá, Colombia
Taikai Bujinkan Colombia 2008 Juan Manuel Serrano, España	Arnoby Sinam <a href="http://www.bujinkancolombia.com">www.bujinkancolombia.com</a>	11-12 de octubre 2008 Bogotá, Colombia
6° Yamagakurekai - Cali Ricardo Zapata, Colombia	Dojo Makoto, Grupo IBDA Cali Roberto Zapata <a href="http://www.ninpocolombia.com">www.ninpocolombia.com</a>	15-16 de noviembre 2008 Cali, Colombia
Seminario Bujinkan Cristian Petrocello y Nestor Iscovi Argentina	Kamurozan Dojo David Palau <a href="http://www.kamurozan.com">www.kamurozan.com</a>	13 y 14 de diciembre 2008 Bogotá, Colombia
Daikomyosai 2008 JAPAN NINJUTSU TRAINING TRIP Train with Soke Hatsumi and Shihan Van Donk in Japan!	Bushindo Inc Richard Van Donk <a href="http://www.ninjutsu.com">www.ninjutsu.com</a>	Noviembre 29 - Diciembre 07 Noda, Japón

See the posters at the next pages



BUJINKAN BASSO DÔJÔ  
BUDO TAIJUTSU



"7° NINJA MATSURI  
COLOMBIA  
2008"

TOGAKURE RYU NINJUTSU

Shihan 15° Dan  
Nikolaos Stefanidis.  
Alemania

CELEBRAMOS 20 AÑOS EN  
LA ENSEÑANZA DEL NINJUTSU  
BUJINKAN EN COLOMBIA



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# TAIKAI BUJINKAN COLOMBIA 2008

¡Celebramos los 15 Años de Bujinkan en Colombia!



Dirige el Instructor Español:  
**Juan Manuel Serrano**  
CINTURON NEGRO 15to. DAN

**SEMINARIO  
EN EL ARTE MARCIAL  
NINJUTSU JAPONES**

**Octubre 11 y 12 de 2008  
Bogotá - Colombia**



Asociación Colombiana de Instructores Bujinkan

Teléfono: 6917585 - Celular: 3157968662  
dojo.tatsujin@gmail.com / director@bujinkan.com.co  
www.bujinkan.com.co • www.ninjutsucolombia.com



NOVEMBER EVENTS

NOVIEMBRE 15 Y 16 DE 2008

SEMINARIO DE NINJUTSU BUDO TAIJUTSU BUJINKAN

# VI YAMAGAKUREKAI Ninja Gasshuku-Cali

SHIDOSHI RICARDO ZAPATA  
4<sup>to</sup> DAN BUJINKAN

Un hombre  
no puede  
golpear lo  
que no  
puede ver

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#### INVERSION

Estos costos incluyen hospedaje  
y alimentación 2 días 1 noche  
en el sitio del evento.

#### AFILIADOS IBDA:

COSTO PRE-VENTA: \$300.000  
( hasta el 15 de octubre 2008 )  
COSTO X PERSONA: \$350.000  
(Extraordinaria).

#### NO AFILIADOS:

COSTO PRE-VENTA: \$350.000  
( hasta el 15 de octubre 2008 )  
COSTO X PERSONA: \$400.000



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[www.dojomakoto.hys.cc](http://www.dojomakoto.hys.cc)

[www.ninpo colombia.com](http://www.ninpo colombia.com)

[www.colombiamartial.com](http://www.colombiamartial.com)



# SEMINARIO BUJINKAN



Con los Shihanes:  
CHRISTIAN PETROCCELLO, 15to. Dan Kugyo Happo Hiken.  
NESTOR ISCOVI, 14to. Dan Fugyo Happo Hiken.  
13 y 14 de Diciembre 2008. Bogotá, Colombia.  
Organizado por Kamurozan Dojo.  
CLL 100 CON AV SUBA (CR 41# 99-53) BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA / SEMINARIOS@KAMUROZAN.COM





# PROMOTIONS



## New Promotions

The following list contains the most recent promotions in the International Bujinkan Dojo Association. Congratulations to all for their achievements and perseverance:

RICARDO ZAPATA	YONDAN
JAMES CLUM	YONDAN
CHARLES BENHAM	YONDAN
ROMAN MARQUEZ	YONDAN
BRIAN SUMPTER	NIDAN
JAMIE DAIKEN	NIDAN
MARK RIGOPOULOS	SHODAN
THOMAS HANCE III	SHODAN
CESAR PEREZ	SHODAN
MIGUEL AVILA	SHODAN
WES SHREVE	NIDAN
TODD DUBOIS	NIDAN
JUDY SHREVE	SHODAN
SEBASTIAN ZAPATA	GOKYU
JOSE M ARRIETA	ROKKUKYU
JOSE CAMPO	HACHIKYU
CRISTIAN ORTEGA	NANAKYU

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