

DDR AND CHILD SOLDIER ISSUES

This monthly review, produced by IOM, provides a summary of news related to the implementation of the Peace Accord in Colombia, including disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) processes. Presented on the first two pages are a summary of statistics on former child soldiers and adults in the process of reintegration, with information provided by the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF) and the Agency for Reincorporation and Normalization (ARN).



DISENGAGED CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

Reported cases of forced recruitment since 1999:

• Total: **7,566**

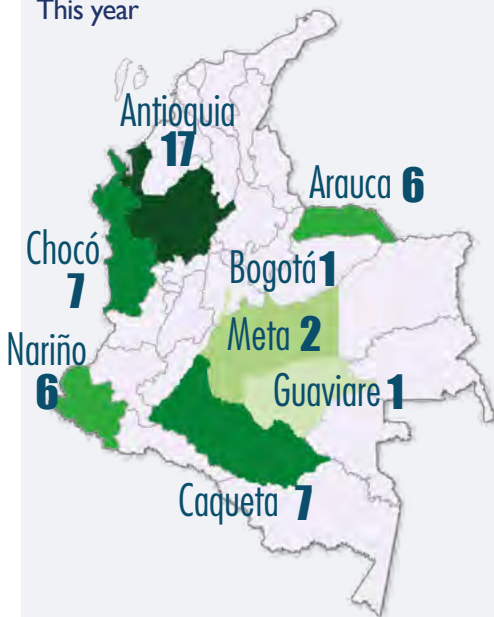
30 June

Total disengaged

- Since 1999: **6,700**
- This year: **93**
- This month: **18**
- Currently enrolled in program: **222**

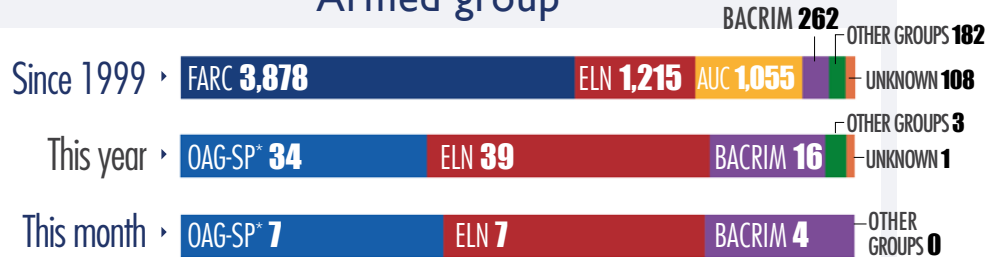
Disengagement by department

This year



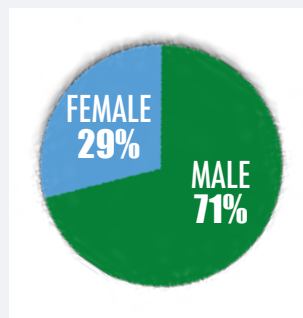
Unknown 46

Armed group



*Organized Armed Groups- splinter groups; includes FARC dissident groups

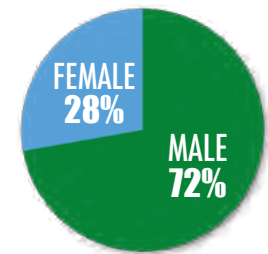
Since 1999



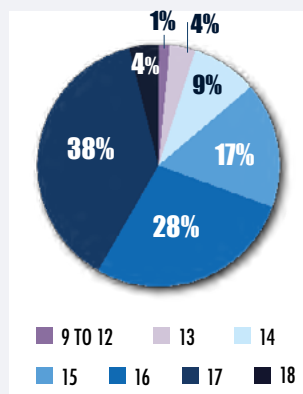
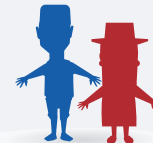
Sex



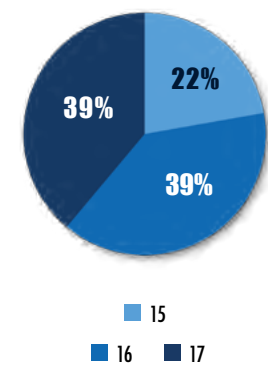
June 2019 (This month)



Ethnicity*



Age



*Note: The category of Afro-colombian has only been recorded since July 2008; thus, the proportion is expected to be higher than presented in the "Since 1999" graph.

ADULTS IN REINTEGRATION PROCESS

Note: FARC who demobilized as part of the Peace Accord are not included in this data.

Total currently active in reintegration process:

› **6,224**

Total entered into ARN reintegration route

› This month: **28**

› This year: **218**

› Since 1999: **61,053**

State of all participants

Since 1999

6,224 **10%** Not able to locate

24,594 **40%** Not yet part of program

5,927 **10%** In process

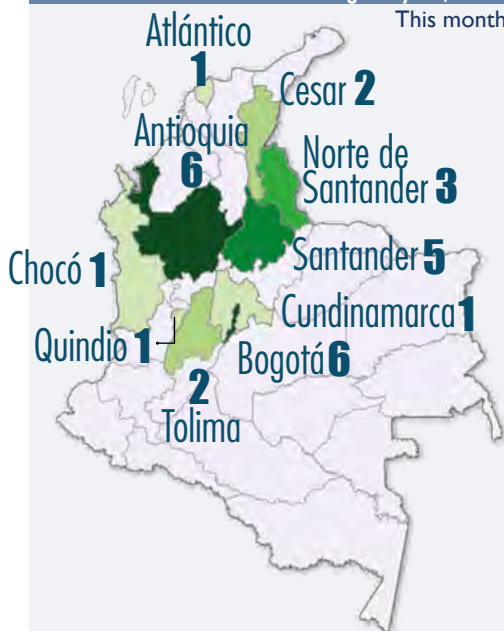
798 **1%** Formally removed

17,166 **28%** Successfully Completed

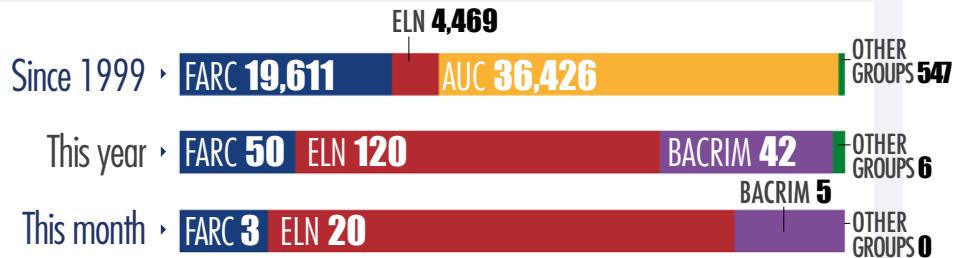
6,344 **10%** Deaths

Residence at time of registry (top 10)

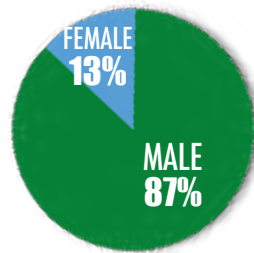
This month



Armed group



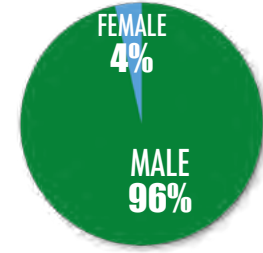
Since 1999



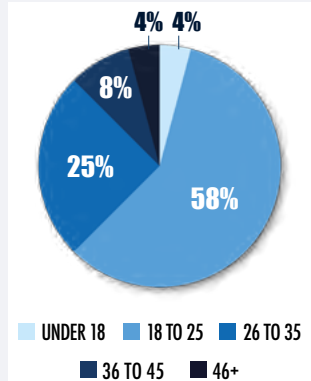
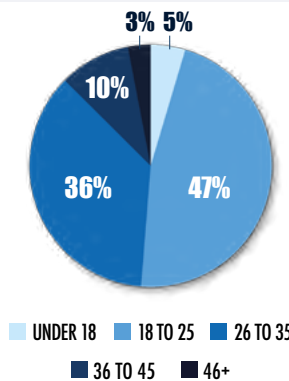
Sex



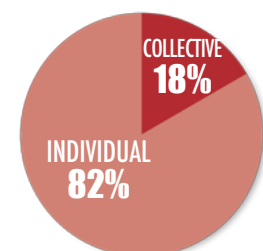
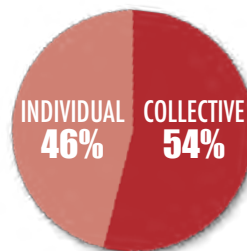
June 2019 (This month)



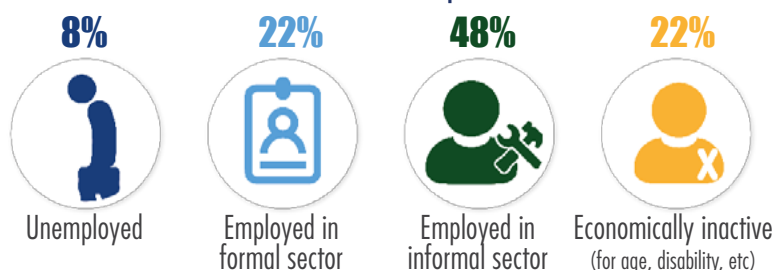
Age at recruitment



Type of demobilization



Current occupation*



*Note: Those who have died or who are without occupational registry are not included.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Statutory Law of the JEP signed into law

The Constitutional Court ratified the validity of the Senate decision to reject the presidential objections to the Statutory Law of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP), which caused debate last month as to whether the 47 votes against the objections constituted the minimum required.¹ The Court indicated that there was a quorum during the Senate plenary and thus the President signed the Law on 6 June. With this decision, the JEP has the constitutional and legal powers to criminally prosecute those who committed the most serious crimes during the armed conflict.²

Santrich takes possession of seat in Congress

The House Accreditation Committee of the Congress accepted the documents presented by Jesús Santrich, allowing the former leader of the FARC-EP to take possession of his seat in the Congress. President Duque, signaling Santrich as “mafioso”, called on the Attorney General’s Office (AGO) to impede his possession of office as his capture by the Supreme Court of Justice had been previously requested by the AGO.³ The first day of Jesus Santrich’s possession as a Congressman of the FARC party on 12 June was met with strong reactions.

Santrich disappears days before scheduled hearing

On 29 June, Santrich abandoned his security scheme in La Paz, Cesar. His whereabouts remain unknown since. The disappearance comes just days before his scheduled hearing at the Supreme Court of Justice on 9 July, at which he must present his defense in the case of alleged trafficking of cocaine to the US after the signing of the Peace Accord. Santrich has insisted that there is a setup against him and that evidence has been manipulated.⁴ If Santrich does not appear -or present a justification for his absence-before the hearing, an arrest warrant could be issued.

Loss of investiture as Congressman of Ivan Marquez

The Council of State has decreed the loss of investiture as Congressman of the former head of the FARC-EP, Iván Márquez, who has not taken office for almost a year. Following the capture of Santrich in April 2018, the former chief negotiator of the FARC-EP and Hernán Velásquez disappeared, stating that the authorities were planning a setup against them. He repeatedly failed to appear at the JEP and comply with his obligations, which he defended by claiming lack of security guarantees. The JEP, the Secretariat of the Presidency, and Senate leaders assured that they had no knowledge of facts that endangered his security and the only possible excuse for his absence, which was stated to be a “force majeure”, could not be proven.⁵

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEACE ACCORDS

FARC-EP

Assassinations against former FARC –EP members continue

Three former FARC combatants were murdered between 13 and 17 June, including Anderson Osorio and Rafael Polindaro in Cauca, and Daniel Esterilla in Nariño.⁶ In an open letter to President Iván Duque, FARC party leader Rodrigo Londoño condemned recent assassinations and pointed to the lack of protection of FARC members and former combatants by authorities. Since the signing of the Peace Accord, 136 former combatants have been killed.⁷

Individual reincorporation, the choice for majority of former FARC-EP combatants

Recent reports affirm that the majority of the FARC-EP combatants who demobilized as part of the Peace Accord have decided to transition to civilian life with their family members in their places of origin. At least 6,000 former FARC-EP combatants have elected individual reincorporation, while 3,356 have chosen to remain in the 24 Territorial Training and Reincorporation Spaces (ETCR), carrying out collective productive projects. Another 1,000 former FARC-EP combatants have relocated to 30 points known as New Reincorporation Areas or Group Reincorporation Areas.⁸

Activities for reconciliation organized in ETCRs

In the ETCR La Variante in Tumaco, 73 former FARC-EP combatants organized the ‘First Festival for Memory, Life and Hope’, with the support of the surrounding communities. The cultural, artistic and sport events promoting coexistence and reconciliation were also supported by the Agency for Reincorporation and Normalization (ARN), the National Learning Service (SENA), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the UNVMC.⁹ The ARN, in articulation with the SENA, has begun implementation of a community initiative entitled “Converse to take action” (“Conversar para emprender”) in La Paz, Cesar. The initiative has two key objectives: to generate spaces for dialogue, peacebuilding, and reconciliation in the region, as the community lies adjacent to the ETCR San José de Oriente; and to develop skills in handicrafts. Thus far 30 members of the community and former combatants have joined.¹⁰

Environment recognized as victim of conflict

The Investigation and Accusation Unit (IAU) of the JEP is committed to recognizing the environment as a silent victim of the conflict and seeking mechanisms for its effective reparation, with the aim to guarantee non-repetition. IAU prosecutors are working with institutions that are part of the National Environmental System of the Ministry of Environment and other social organizations to compile data on the environmental impact of the armed conflict.¹¹

SECURITY

Political violence on the rise

According to a report of the Conflict Analysis Resource Center, political violence in Colombia increased by 86% in May. The attacks were directed mainly against leaders of Communal Action Committees, regional political activists and, to a lesser extent, against teachers, union members and journalists. Acts of political violence have been recorded in 18 of Colombia's 32 departments; 53% of the acts were concentrated in Cauca (7), Tolima (6), Arauca (5), Antioquia (3) and Valle del Cauca (3).¹²

Motion of no confidence against Minister of Defense fails

The House of Representatives rejected the motion of no confidence against Guillermo Botero. With 121 votes in favor and 20 against, the Minister will remain in office.¹³ Botero was accused of not fulfilling his duty to protect human rights and the integrity of life after former FARC-EP combatant Dimar Torres was killed by the Armed Forces in Norte de Santander in April. Following his death, members of the Armed Forces attempted to hide Torres's corpse, which Botero first denied and subsequently changed his position. The case occurred precisely around the time of the New York Times report that commanders- specifically General Nicacio de Jesús Martínez- had ordered their troops to double the number of criminals and guerrillas killed or captured,¹⁴ a scandal which has become known as "false positives 2.0". Shortly afterwards, President Duque, with the support of Minister Botero, approved the rise in rank of General Martínez after a Senate debate.¹⁵

Organized criminal activity around illegal economies increases in Valle del Cauca and Cauca

In Cauca, three massacres and other assassinations left fifteen dead in Argelia, El Tambo, Bolivar, Popayan, and Caloto at the end of June.¹⁶ In Tuluá, Valle del Cauca, two human heads in plastic bags were found, a day before the bodies. Former combatants, social leaders, and political candidates in both departments are particularly vulnerable.¹⁷

Illegal armed groups recruit Venezuelans

Five military commanders told Reuters that up to 30% of the members of illegal armed groups in Colombia's eastern border region are Venezuelans, willing to take up arms in return for food and pay. The head of Colombia's military and GOC spokesman on this issue, General Luis Fernando Navarro, explained that armed groups were targeting Venezuelans because they were easier to recruit than Colombians.¹⁸

DIVERSITY ISSUES

Assassination of indigenous leaders

Indigenous leaders Carlos Biscué and Jhordan Pequi were murdered in Caloto, Cauca, the most dangerous region of Colombia for social activists since the signing of the Peace Accord. More than 100 indigenous leaders, human rights defenders, trade unionists and FARC former guerrillas have been killed there.¹⁹ The latest killing comes amid national outrage over the murder in Córdoba of María Del Pilar Hurtado, who was killed after receiving paramilitary death threats.²⁰

Women and LGBTI victims of sexual violence heard at the Truth Commission

The Commission for the Clarification of Truth, Coexistence and Non-Repetition held the first of seven meetings to give voice to women and members of the LGBTI community who suffered sexual violence in the context of the armed conflict. Thirty cases were narrated by victims, human rights defenders, and representatives from various state and international agencies. According to data from the Victims Unit, 25,000 individuals-91% of whom are women- suffered sexual violence in the context of the armed conflict.²¹

FURTHER READING

The fragility of the transition: incomplete peace and the continuity of armed confrontation

This report by the Fundación Ideas para la Paz addresses regional differences in the reactivation of confrontation and the intensification of violence in Colombia today. It points to specific villages and municipalities in Catatumbo, the north of Chocó, Bajo Cauca and the south of Córdoba, as well as Tumaco. Likewise, the document explains how the conflict in these territories did not end but was transformed with continued negative impacts for their populations. In these places, the dividends of the Accord have been compromised by presence of illegal armed groups.²²