

# VICTIMS ISSUES A MONTHLY REVIEW

JUNE 2017

## 1. BACKGROUND

On June 10, 2011, President Juan Manuel Santos signed into effect the Victims and Land Restitution Law (Law 1448). Over the next ten years, the Law will provide five reparation measures to victims of the internal conflict: (1) land restitution, (2) financial reparation, (3) rehabilitation, (4) satisfaction, and (5) guarantees of non-repetition. In late 2016, the Government of Colombia (GOC) and the FARC signed the “Final Peace Accord to End the Conflict and Build a Stable and Lasting Peace.” The Truth, Justice, Reparation, and Non-Repetition System established by Point 5 of the accord explicitly contemplates conflict victims’ comprehensive reparation. Overall, victims at the center of the peace accord, including prioritization for political participation and rural development, and are guaranteed protection and security measures when needed.

## 2. KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### NEW GALLUP RESULTS OUT: DESPITE IMPATIENCE WITH SPEED OF IMPLEMENTING ACCORDS, OPTIMISM UP

According to the most recent Gallup results, 55 percent of Colombians believe the implementation of the peace accords is going in a bad direction, down two points compared to April 2017. However, despite doubts regarding the speed of the process to date, Colombians do think the government will keep its end of the bargain. Specifically, 53 percent believe the government will fully carry out its responsibilities under the accord, compared to 46 percent in April. Belief in the FARC’s commitment is 33 percent (compared to 32 percent in April).<sup>(1)</sup> Overall, according to political scientist Fernando Giraldo, clumsiness early in the year, including the slow set-up of transitional zones, as well as some FARC members’ attitudes, led citizens to believe that implementation was not going well.<sup>(2)</sup> Yet despite challenges, significant advances have been made, including the complete disarmament of the FARC (see Section 3: Peace Process) and the setting up of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, which is currently being structured to give victims a central seat at the table.<sup>(3)</sup>

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**According to Gallup, in April only 15 percent of Colombians believed that the country was improving. In July, this was up slightly to 18 percent. In general, opinions have been more stable post-peace accord than they were during negotiations.<sup>(4)</sup>**

### PEACE WILL COST COLOMBIA 43 BILLION DOLLARS OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Based on a medium-term assessment released by the GOC, approximately 2.9 billion dollars will be needed annually for fifteen years to fund peacebuilding. Budgets have yet to meet this level; in 2017, the Ministry of Finance says Colombia will spend 600 million dollars on urgent needs in 170 prioritized post-conflict municipalities. Agriculture, construction, infrastructure, and commerce require the biggest investments. In 2018, the budget will increase 31 percent (to 800 million dollars) to include expanding crop substitution programs, reincorporation, and the first stage of PDET development programs. Where will this money come from? At least short-term, the GOC plans to use unspent royalty funds, explore tax funds, and earmark money from ministries’ budgets. International cooperation support will also fill specific gaps.<sup>(5)</sup> Longer term, many financing decisions will fall on the new administration elected next year.

**Peace already brought economic returns, and according to the government will continue doing so. Colombia expects its GDP will increase 0.3 percentage points for fifteen years.<sup>(6)</sup>**

1. Colombia Gallup Poll July 2017, accessed online on Dropbox at: <http://bit.ly/2un6FYI>.

2. “Sigue el escepticismo por implementación del acuerdo de paz, según encuesta Gallup,” El País, June 28, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2togM2u>.

3. Colombia Gallup Poll July 2017.

4. Ibid.

5. “La paz en tiempos de vacas flacas,” Semana, August 19, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2v2STLy>.

6. “La paz le costará a Colombia \$130 billones,” El Espectador, June 15, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2t8moLk>.

## 3. PEACE PROCESS

### FARC CEASES TO EXIST AS AN ILLEGAL ARMED GROUP

On June 27, the FARC officially ended its existence as an illegal armed group with the completion of disarmament. 7,132 weapons handed over by just over 6,800 guerrillas are now under U.N. control. According to the Fundación Paz y Reconciliación, compared to other peace processes in the world, it is unprecedented in Colombia that more weapons were handed over than there are guerrillas (and this before all caches have been emptied).<sup>(7)</sup> For example, in the demobilization process with AUC paramilitaries (which took three years to completed), 18,051 weapons were handed over by 31,671 combatants. At the international level, the foundation notes Afghanistan was the country where the most weapons per insurgent were handed over, and in this case 63,000 demobilized combatants handed over 47,575 weapons (a ratio of .076 weapons per demobilized combatant).<sup>(8)</sup>

**The over 900 weapons caches throughout the country will be collected by September 1. After August 1, the transitional zones will become “territorial training and reincorporation spaces” for demobilized FARC ex-combatants to begun reintegrating into society.**

### CONGRESS APPROVES SPECIAL JURISDICTIONS FOR PEACE, VICTIMS PREPARE CANDIDATES

On June 6th, the Colombian House of Representatives approved 16 special electoral districts (comprising 167 municipalities affected by the armed conflict) that will last for the next two election cycles (eight years). Neither individuals belonging to the FARC's new political party, nor any other political party with legal status will be eligible to compete for these special seats. Instead, they will be chosen by social organizations, groups of citizens and associations of victims from 18 departments where the jurisdictions are located. The Objective is to increase local representativeness of areas affected by conflict in Congress.<sup>(9)</sup>

**On the Caribbean coast, victims in special jurisdictions are actively organizing their candidates for next year's elections;<sup>(10)</sup> victims participation roundtable elections will also be held in coming months.**

## 4. A VIEW FROM THE FIELD

### PROTECTING COMMUNITY LEADERS, HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS AND OPPOSITION LEADERS

According to a new report from the Fundación para Paz y Reconciliación, this year 55 community leaders and human rights activists have been killed.<sup>(11)</sup> The Observatory on Land, led by Francisco Gutiérrez Sanín, also published a report this June on the dynamics of violence against rural leaders. One of its main conclusions was that this scourge hasn't ended, but rather must be directly tackled by targeted policies. Additionally, attacks are more or less concentrated geographically, and according to the Observatory, are systemic from a semantic, legal, and statistical point of view.<sup>(12)</sup> Overall, attacks highlight that while murders and kidnappings have decreased in many municipalities following the signing of the peace accord, in other areas, criminal groups and the ELN are co-opting areas the FARC once controlled (like Tumaco, where levels of violence have increased).<sup>(13)</sup>

**In Colombia, one social leader is killed every four days and one is threatened every two days, according to a new report by Fundación Paz y Reconciliación.<sup>(14)</sup> This report is available online here: <http://bit.ly/2wYFBkr>**

7. "Informe No 2: Cómo va la paz," Fundación Paz y Reconciliación, July 18, 2017. <http://bit.ly/2wYFBkr>.

8. Ibid.

9. "La realidad de las circunscripciones de paz," El Espectador, June 6, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2sT5bEC>.

10. "Las víctimas se mueven por las curules de paz en el Caribe," La Silla Vacía, August 14, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2x9hpfS>.

11. "Informe No 2: Cómo va la paz," Fundación Paz y Reconciliación, July 18, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2wYFBkr>.

12. "DINÁMICAS DEL ASESINATO DE LÍDERES RURALES: LAS COVARIABLES MUNICIPALES," Observatorio de Tierras, June 17, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2sajo3U>.

13. "Informe No 2: Cómo va la paz," Fundación Paz y Reconciliación, July 18, 2017. <http://bit.ly/2wYFBkr>.

14. Ibid.

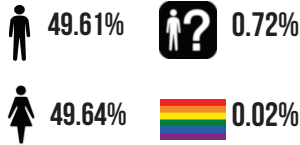
# 5. PROGRESS REPORT\*

**8,421,627**

**REGISTERED VICTIMS**

**6,374,269**  
VICTIMS SUBJECT TO REPARATION

## BY GENDER OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION



## BY AGE GROUP

|         |       |
|---------|-------|
| 0-17    | 29.8% |
| 18-28   | 20.9% |
| 29-60   | 33.6% |
| 61-100  | 8.1%  |
| NO INFO | 7.5%  |

## TOP 5 VICTIMS LOCATIONS

|           |       |
|-----------|-------|
| ANTIOQUIA | 19.0% |
| BOLÍVAR   | 5.6%  |
| MAGDALENA | 5.3%  |
| NARIÑO    | 4.7%  |
| CESAR     | 4.5%  |

## TOP VICTIMIZING ACTS: 9,775,222

|               |       |
|---------------|-------|
| DISPLACEMENT  | 80.0% |
| HOMICIDE      | 11.1% |
| THREATS       | 3.8%  |
| DISAPPEARANCE | 1.9%  |
| PROPERTY LOSS | 1.2%  |

## SECURITY ADVANCES IN COLOMBIA POST-PEACE ACCORD PART II

Around the country, positive humanitarian and security advances have been made since the Colombian government began negotiating with the FARC in 2012, and particularly since the two sides signed a peace accord to end the armed conflict in 2016. Levels of violence are down in the following areas:

### LESS KIDNAPPING

**KIDNAPPING IS DOWN 95% SINCE 2000**

**KIDNAPPINGS 2000-2016**

In the past, according to the National Center for Historical Memory, FARC was responsible for 37% of kidnappings

As of May 22, 2017, it has been 552 days since the last FARC kidnapping

### EXTORTION IS DECREASING

Although extortion increased in recent years, in 2016 it was at its lowest point in several years.

LAST YEAR EXTORTION DECREASED IN 40% OF MUNICIPALITIES WHERE FARC WAS PRESENT

NOW PRINCIPALLY CARRIED OUT BY CRIMINAL GROUPS

**AREAS MOST AFFECTED IN 2016:**  
NORTE DE SANTANDER, VALLE DEL CAUCA, ANTIOQUIA, CHOCÓ, ARAUCA

### FEWER HOMICIDES

2016: LOWEST HOMICIDE RATE IN 42 YEARS: **24.4 PER 100,000 INHABITANTS**

Fundación Ideas para la Paz: 48% of homicides in Colombia take place in 2.4% of all municipalities

The 40 municipalities with over 150,000 inhabitants concentrate 53% of homicides

3/10 homicides take place in Bogotá, Medellín, Cali and Barranquilla

In Bogotá, 50% of homicides take place in 7% of the city

### LESS COMBAT / FEWER ARMED CONFRONTATIONS

↓ 91% COMPARED TO 2008    ↓ 53% COMPARED TO 2015

|                   |           |                      |           |
|-------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
| ELN participation | 2015: 16% | BACRIM participation | 2015: 2%  |
|                   | 2016: 35% |                      | 2016: 10% |

\* Victims Unit National Information Network, <http://rni.unidadvictimas.gov.co/>; DAICMA, <http://bit.ly/2rk2mwn>; Fundación Ideas para la Paz, 2017, <http://homicidios.businesscatalyst.com/index.html#arriba>.

## 6. INCLUSIVE APPROACHES

### CREATING JOBS FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Addressing shortcomings in women conflict victims' job market inclusion, VISP, the Presidential Advisor for Women's Equality, and the Ministry of Labor are carrying out an employment strategy for survivors of sexual violence. Recently 110 people in Medellín, Montería, and Popayán, including local businesspeople, participated in meetings to advance the strategy on the ground. Efforts have begun to create municipal strategies to connect and prepare victims for positions from businesses participating in the strategy. Next quarter the strategy will be expanded to Pasto and Florencia.

**Decree 2733 of 2012 provides tax benefits to businesses that hire female victims of violence, in order to increase economic autonomy and stability.**

## 7. IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### "NO OLVIDARÁS MI NOMBRE" PREMIERS ON RCN TV

To promote reconciliation among Colombians, USAID/Colombia partnered with RCN Television (one of Colombia's most important commercial broadcast television network), and the Government of Colombia (GOC) to produce a soap opera aimed at objectively presenting the complexity of the armed conflict. "No Olvidarás Mi Nombre", which premiered in prime time on June 13, focuses on the conflict's root causes, nuances, and consequences to bring understanding to the country's polarized society. This soap opera was developed under a Global Development Alliance (GDA), in which USAID/Colombia invested USD\$ 1 million and leveraged USD\$ 5.2 million from the private sector (RCN) and the GOC. The multi-disciplinary team of writers at RCN developed the characters based on rigorous research of Colombia's 50+ year conflict to ensure that episodes would be as realistic and fact-based as possible. The series will reach approximately four million Colombians in rural and urban areas.

## 8. INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCES

### Victims Unit

#### LESSONS LEARNED STRENGTHEN PSYCHOSOCIAL ATTENTION

This year, the Victims Unit adjusted psychosocial strategies and financing to increase attention targets by 62% (from 40,000 to 64,000 victims) and better coordinate with the Ministry of Health to provide rehabilitation to victims. Under VISP, USAID recently supported the Victims Unit to review and optimize its emotional recovery strategies, building on lessons learned over the last four years. Once completed, the strengthened strategies were handed over to 35 psychosocial professionals from Antioquia, Nariño, Córdoba, Cauca, Caquetá, and Chocó, as well as 15 professionals from the national team.

### Unit to Search for Disappeared Persons (UBPD)

#### RECOMMENDATIONS PROVIDED TO STRUCTURE THE NEW UNIT

In coordination with the Ministry of Justice, VISP defined a methodology to structure the UBPD. This methodology to jointly structure entity's institutional design, guaranteeing the participation and coordination of public actors like the National Legal Medicine and Forensic Science Institute, the Victims Unit, and the CNMH. At the same time, support is being provided to define and guarantee victims' active participation in peace accord entities like the UBPD.

## 9. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



### MULTIMEDIA SPECIAL ON THE SPECIAL JURISDICTIONS FOR PEACE

To clear up doubts on exactly what these special seats mean, how they will be chosen, and what the regions where they will be located are like, El Espectador published a multimedia special. It can be accessed by clicking on this link: <http://bit.ly/2tNuad1>.