

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. Also included are statics on people in the process of reintegration and former child soldiers, the former of which are sourced from the Agency for Reincorporation and Normalization (ARN), and the latter from the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF).



FIGURES & TRENDS

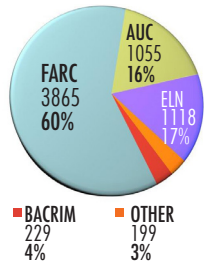
Disengaged Children & Adolescents

TOTAL 6,466

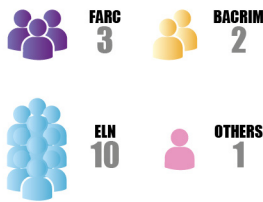
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE: 72

NEW THIS MONTH: 16

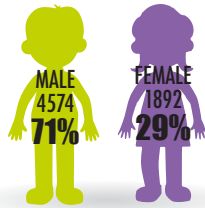
1. Armed Group



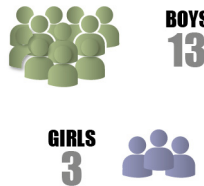
THIS MONTH: APRIL 30, 2018



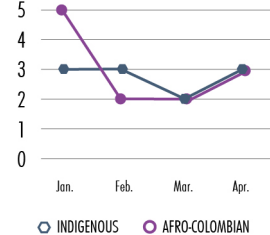
2. Gender



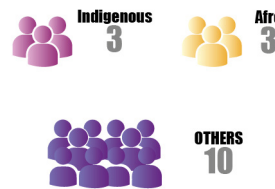
THIS MONTH: APRIL 30, 2018



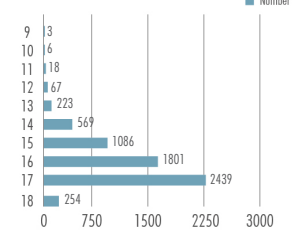
3. Ethnicity



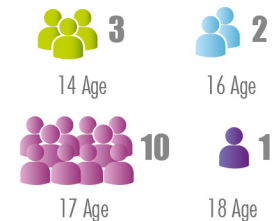
THIS MONTH: APRIL 30, 2018



4. Age



THIS MONTH: APRIL 30, 2018

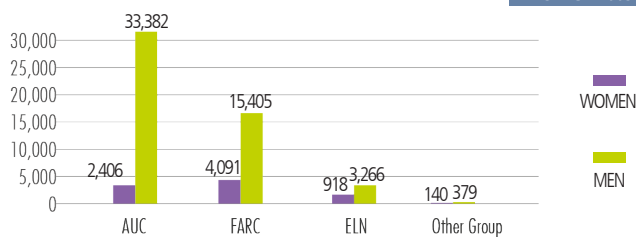


5: Victims of Forced Recruitment

Total 7,455*

* Number of cases of child recruitment reported to the Victims Unit website up to 1 May 2018

5. Armed Group & Gender



Demobilized Adults

FISCAL YEAR TO DATE: 425

TOTAL 59,987

NEW THIS MONTH: 81

6. Ethnicity

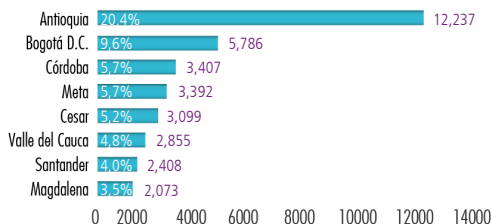


7. ARN Participants

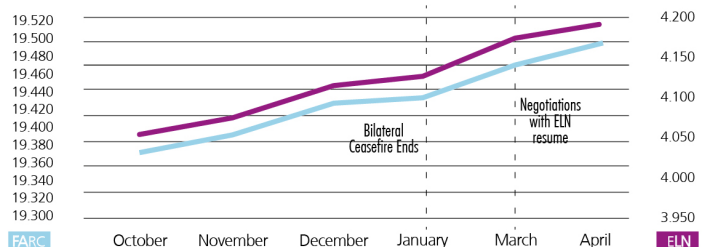


8. Area of Relocation

TOP 8 DEPARTMENTS



9. Accumulated Demobilization



Data up to April 30, 2018

Figure 1: Total number of disengaged minors grouped by gender. Boys have historically been more frequently recruited than girls.

Figure 2: Numbers of minors who disengaged from each IAG. Most disengaged children were recruited by the FARC.

Figure 3: Total number of disengaged minors by ethnicity. Indigenous

groups are disproportionately affected by recruitment.

Figure 4: Numbers of disengaged minors in each age group. The average age of recruitment is between 15 and 18 years old. Sources for figures 1-4: ICBF Database, Unified Beneficiary Registry (RUJ)

Figure 5: Total number of male and female adults who demobilized from each IAG.

Figure 6: The eight departments to which the highest numbers of ex-combatants

Figure 7: Demobilized Adults

Figure 8: Total number of demobilized adults by ethnicity. Sources for figures 5-7: ICBF Database and ARN Reintegration Information System (SIR)

Figure 9: Accumulated Demobilization

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Registration of undocumented Venezuelans begins

The census, which began on 5 April and will continue until June, is being carried out by the Risk Management Unit (UNGRD), and aims to understand how many currently unregistered Venezuelans are living in Colombia, as well as their conditions and needs. To this end, 523 registration points have been set up in 51 municipalities, where immigrants will answer 19 confidential questions, which will inform the design of an integrated humanitarian response policy and the possible expansion of institutional services. GOC figures show there are at least 600,000 Venezuelans living in the country, but this figure may be higher.¹

Ecuadorian journalists confirmed dead

The three Ecuadorian journalists kidnapped by alias “Guacho” and the FARC dissident group under his control, were confirmed dead on 12 April after 19 days in captivity. The dissidents had demanded the release of members of their group imprisoned in Ecuador in exchange for the journalists’ freedom, a demand the authorities did not meet.² The Ecuadorian government announced the resumption of military operations in the border region and offered a reward of US\$ 100,000 for information leading to Guacho’s capture.³ Estimates suggest that there are now approximately 1,200 dissidents in the country, which have particularly threatened the stability of peace in the regions bordering Ecuador and Venezuela.⁴

A unified command post installed in Ocaña, Norte de Santander

On 23 April, a command post was set up to tackle the humanitarian crisis affecting the Catatumbo region after 41 days of confrontations between the EPL (“Los Pelusos”) and the ELN. The initiative aims to guarantee humanitarian corridors for the transport of goods, agricultural products, and those in need of medical care. The measure comes after the meeting of 16 mayors from the Ocaña and southern Cesar region, community leaders, and a GOC delegation.⁵ They also discussed the consequences of the EPL armed strike decreed on 15 April.⁶

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEACE ACCORD

FARC-EP

Scrutiny of the implementation of post-conflict resources

Gloria Ospina was removed as director of the Colombia Peace Fund on 9 April, amid accusations of corruption in the use and implementation of post-conflict resources. The Norwegian, Swedish, and Swiss Ambassadors to Colombia first made their concern known at the end of March, when they questioned the management of the almost 200 million dollars they have contributed to post-conflict Colombia.⁷ In response, the GOC launched a new oversight system on 17 April, through which Ernst and Young will audit contracting carried out through the Colombian Peace Fund, and information will pass through the Public Contracting Electronic System (SECOP).⁸

Former leader of the FARC, Jesús Santrich, captured for drugs trafficking

Jesús Santrich was detained by the district attorney’s office on 9 April, following an extradition order issued by the United States for drugs trafficking between June 2017 and April 2018.⁹ Santrich was a key member of the FARC’s negotiating team in Havana, and was set to occupy one of the 10 seats in Congress reserved for the FARC political party.¹⁰ The case is now under review by the JEP, which will decide whether the former guerrilla should be tried through this transitional justice system or through the ordinary system.¹¹ The case has since caused confusion in the FARC party, with leader Rodrigo Londoño calling for calm and unity, and second in command Iván Márquez calling on those in the Territorial Training and Reintegration Spaces (ETCR) to demand Santrich’s immediate release. At the end of the month, Márquez announced he will not take up his seat in Congress come July, as he fears being labeled as a drug trafficker, raising concerns about the sufficiency of political participation guarantees. He remained in Miravalle, Caquetá, overseeing Government commitments to finance productive projects in the ETCR abandoned by el ‘Paisa.’¹²

¹ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/gobierno/haran-censo-para-venezolanos-en-colombia-200730>

² <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/periodistas-de-el-comercio-ecuador-fueron-asesinados-por-disidencia-de-las-farc/563864>

³ <http://pacifista.co/reactivan-operaciones-militares-en-la-frontera-con-ecuador/>

⁴ <http://www.ideaspaz.org/publications/posts/1662>

⁵ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/gobierno/medidas-tomadas-por-el-gobierno-por-crisis-en-el-catumbo-208834>

⁶ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/gobierno/gobierno-y-alcaldes-de-catumbo-buscan-acuerdo-para-solucionar-crisis-208590>

⁷ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/sale-la-directora-del-fondo-colombia-en-paz-202982>

⁸ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/gobierno/gobierno-lanza-sistema-de-seguimiento-para-el-posconflicto-206268>

⁹ <http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/investigacion/capturan-a-jesus-santrich-lider-de-la-farc-203104>

¹⁰ <https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/quien-es-jesus-santrich-perfil-del-exjefe-de-las-farc-capturado/563071>

¹¹ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/en-caso-santrich-gobierno-y-farc-coinciden-en-seguir-lo-que-dice-acuerdo-204068>

¹² <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/congreso/las-renuncias-de-ivan-marquez-al-congreso-de-la-republica-209558>

PEACE PROCESS-ELN

ELN and GOC peace delegations hold their last meeting in Quito

The two sides met in Quito for the last time on 20 April, discussing the possibility of moving the negotiations to Chile, which offered to act as host after Ecuadorian President Lenin Moreno announced that his country would no longer act as guarantor. Moreno's decision follows the confirmed deaths of three Ecuadorian journalists and the kidnapping of an Ecuadorian couple by FARC dissidents under the command of alias "Guacho."¹³ President Santos remained positive, stating that he hoped to leave the next president with some basic agreements, such as a ceasefire, already in place.¹⁴

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland request clarity on the use and implementation of post-conflict funds

The three European countries communicated their concerns in a letter to the Government of Colombia (GOC), which was published at the beginning of April. In the letter, they requested a meeting in order to discuss the use and implementation of the US\$200 million they have donated towards the implementation of the Peace Accord with the FARC. The funds are being managed through the Sustainable Colombia Fund (FCS).¹⁵

INSTITUTIONAL PROGRESS

Strategic Allies Network (RAE) created to protect territorial peacebuilding

This initiative, led by the Land Renovation Agency, aims to develop 16 sub-regional networks to unite and promote development ideas through articulation, coordination, and governance mechanisms that will help to build territorial capacities for peacebuilding. The RAE will bring together social organizations, local and regional institutions, academia, and the private sector in the search for a common vision and the recognition of territories' strengths and dynamics, and ensuring the sustainability of communities' participative processes through the promotion of the Development Programs with a Territorial Focus (PDET) and their implementation through the Peace Accord.¹⁶

Crop substitution program turns to cacao as an economic alternative

More than 4 million cacao seedlings will be distributed in the first phase of this project led by the Illicit Crop Substitution Office. The initiative will function through 14 nurseries across the country, and will implement an agroforestry model, supported by technical assistance, marketing networks, and financial resources to encourage the substitution of coca for cacao crops. The idea is to produce high quality products, which are competitive in international markets, and will complement the gradual arrival of healthcare, education, recreation, and employment services and benefits.¹⁷

DIVERSITY ISSUES

Slow progress for the restitution of Arhuaco community's territorial rights

Two years after the Land Restitution Unit (URT) announced the completion of the preliminary studies which would inform the protection measures and claims for the Arhuaco people, communities are still waiting for their claims over the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta and Bunsichama Reserves to enter the judicial stage. The delay has generated frustration and confusion within the community, which warns of planned mining projects over 250,000 ha of their territory, and a dam which would flood a large forest reserve and many sacred sites in an area which was declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1979. Although the community gained their first collective land titles in the 1970s, these have never been implemented in practice, and their current claim draws on Decree 4633 of 2011, which allows the restitution of territorial rights to indigenous peoples affected by the armed conflict, and through which they hope to gain the restitution of collective property, self-determination and self-government, cultural identity, the administering and conservation of their natural resources, and the guaranteeing of the fundamental right to prior, free, and informed consultation.¹⁸

¹³ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/chile-es-la-primera-opcion-para-seguir-dialogos-con-el-eln-207868>

¹⁴ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/chile-y-otros-tres-paises-están-dispuestos-a-recibir-dialogo-con-el-eln-207612>

¹⁵ <https://www.elspectador.com/noticias/paz/noruega-suiza-y-suecia-piden-claridad-en-manejo-del-fondo-para-el-posconflicto-articulo-747699>

¹⁶ <http://www.posconflicto.gov.co/sala-prensa/noticias/2018/Paginas/20180420-nace-red-de-aliados-estrategicos-rae-para-blindar-construccion-de-paz-desde-los-territorios.aspx>

¹⁷ <http://www.posconflicto.gov.co/sala-prensa/noticias/2018/Paginas/20180418-sustitucion-de-cultivos-llego-la-hora-del-cacao.aspx>

¹⁸ <https://verdadabierta.com/el-lento-proceso-de-restitucion-de-derechos-territoriales-al-pueblo-arhuaco/>

FURTHER READING

“Expropriating Bodies”

This collection of stories brings together the experiences of six women victim-survivors of violence in the Colombian armed conflict. The book is an effort by the National Center of Historical Memory (CNMH) to encourage the social appropriation of historical memory through a project which attempts to present these memories in the language used by the women victim-survivors themselves, thus contributing to their dignity.¹⁹

FARC dissidents: A growing problem

A year and a half after the signing of the Peace Accord between the GOC and the FARC, the Fundación Ideas para la Paz (FIP) estimates that there are almost 1,200 dissidents in the country. In their “Trajectory and Territorial Dynamics of FARC Dissidents” report, the FIP presents a full analysis of the growing problem of FARC dissidents in order to identify and understand the causes and factors favoring the rise and evolution of the phenomenon, and thus to support the stabilization of peace in Colombia.²⁰

¹⁹ <http://www.centrodehistoriamemoria.gov.co/publicaciones-cnmh/expropiar-el-cuerpo>

²⁰ <http://www.ideaspaz.org/publications/posts/1662>