

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 statistics on people in the process of reintegration and former child soldiers, with information provided by the Agency for Reincorporation and Normalization (ARN), and the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF).



DISENGAGED CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

Reported cases of force recruitment since 1999

› Total: **7,455**

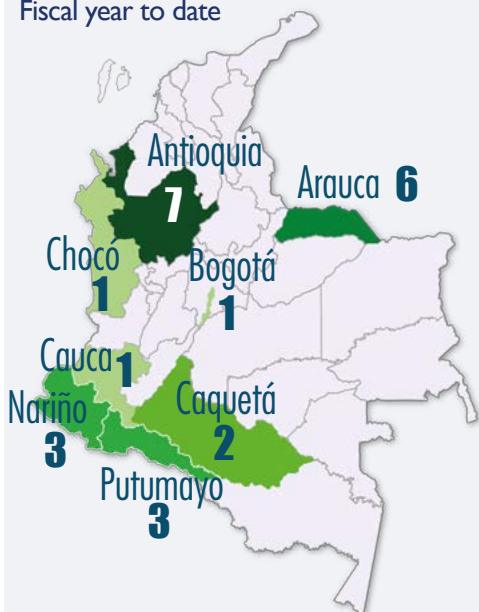
(1 May)

Total disengaged since 1999

- › Since 1999: **6,486**
- › Fiscal year to date: **75**
- › This month: **20**
- › Currently enrolled in program: **266**

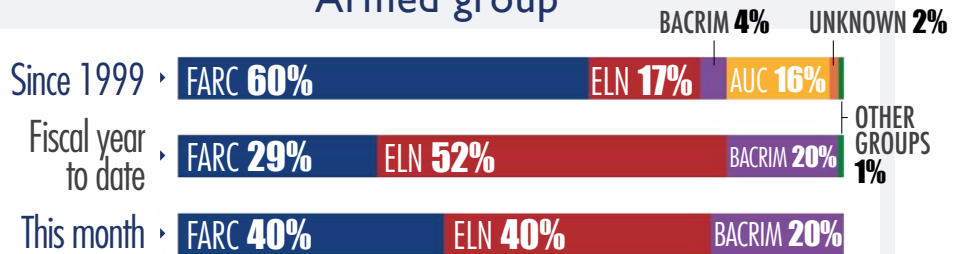
Disengagement by department

Fiscal year to date

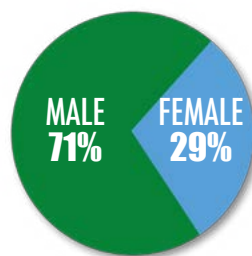


(of known locations)

Armed group



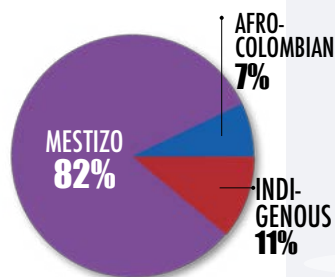
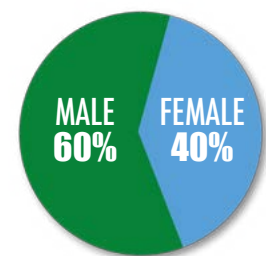
Since 1999



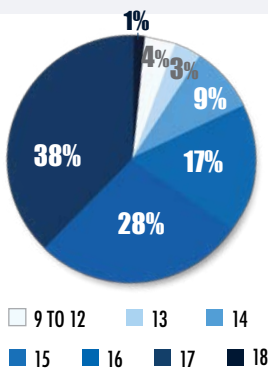
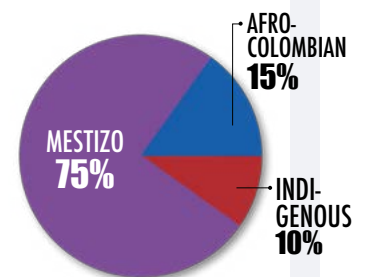
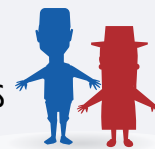
Gender



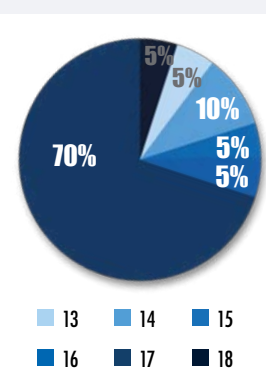
May 2018 (This month)



Ethnicity



Age



DEMOBILIZED ADULTS

Total currently in reintegration process:

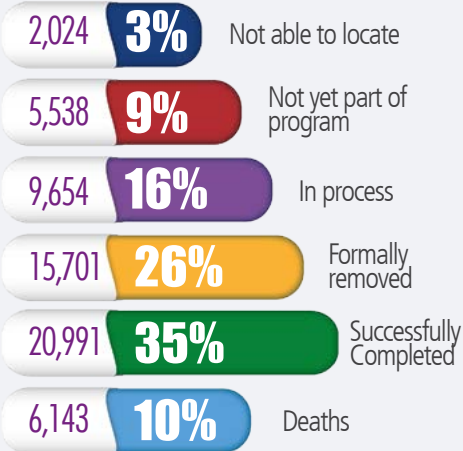
› **9,654**

Total disengaged since 1999

- › This month: **95**
- › Fiscal year to date: **465**
- › Since 1999: **60,052**

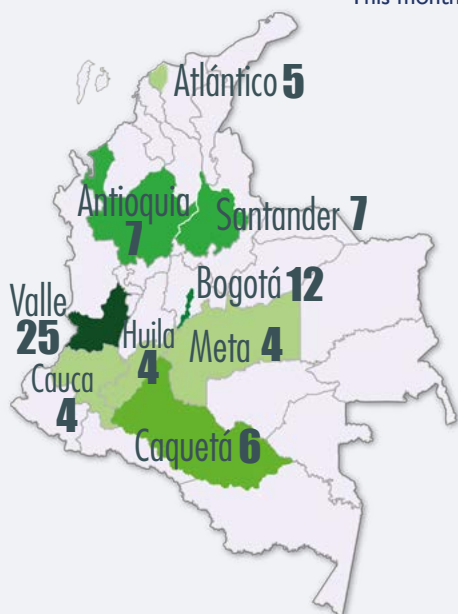
State of all participants

Since 1999

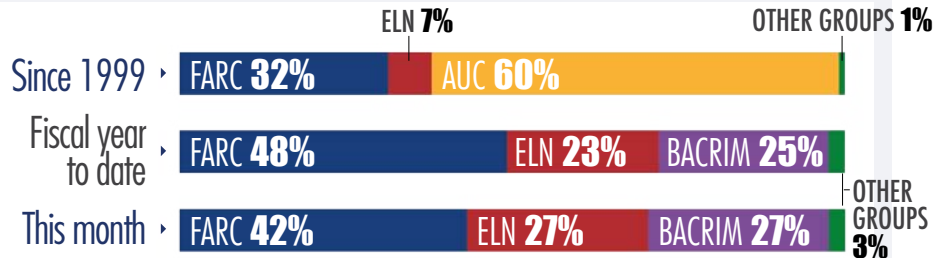


Department of relocation (top 7)

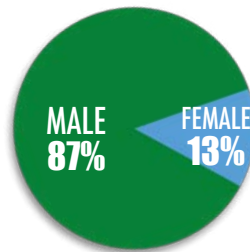
This month



Armed group



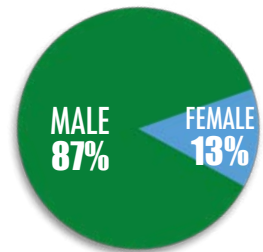
Since 1999



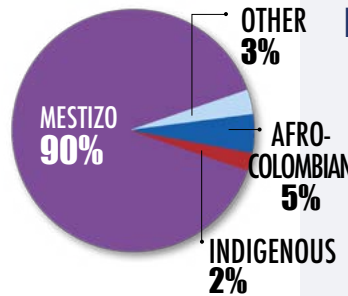
Gender



May 2018 (This month)

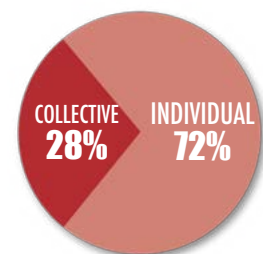
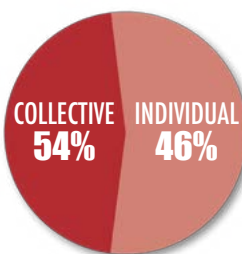


Ethnicity



NO DATA

Type of demobilization



Current occupation



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Colombia does not recognize results of Venezuelan elections

The Colombian Minister of Foreign Relations stated that the GOC will not recognize the results of the Venezuelan presidential election, citing the absence of legal guarantees, transparency, and international oversight.¹ The Lima Group, a multilateral body created to mediate the Venezuelan crisis, has announced that all 14 of its member countries have repudiated the elections and called for their ambassadors based in Caracas to exit the country. The Venezuelan government has reported that incumbent president Maduro won the election with 67.6% of the vote.²

Most peaceful presidential elections in a decade

No violent acts were reported by the Attorney General, Minister of Defense, or the Head of Police over the first round of the presidential elections on 27 May. The Attorney General's Office, however, did report 18 preliminary investigations into electoral irregularities,³ and a Colombia Humana electoral witness was murdered in La Argentina, Huila department, on 26 May.⁴ The far-right Centro Democrático candidate Iván Duque dominated with 7,569,693 votes, followed by the leftist Colombia Humana candidate Gustavo Petro with 4,851,254 votes, and centrist Coalición Colombia candidate Sergio Fajardo with 4,589,696 votes.

Clan del Golfo announces ceasefire over second round of presidential elections

In a press release issued through the Autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia's official page, the illegal group claimed that it does not support either of the presidential candidates, but that it did respect the democratic process. They also shared their dissatisfaction with the set of laws presented by the Ministry of Justice, which laid out the rules for them to enter into the justice system, but also reiterated their hopes for demobilization.⁵

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEACE ACCORD

FARC-EP

Eleven members of the Truth Commission sworn in

The eleven members of the Truth Commission took up their positions in an official event with President Santos on 8 May. During the ceremony, the President stated that the Commission did not expect to seek an "official truth" but rather to help clarify what really happened during more than 50 years of conflict with the FARC. The Truth Commission will collect information and deliver six-monthly reports for a period of three years, at the end of which it will present a final report on its findings. The Commission is one third of the Integrated System for Truth, Justice, Reparation, and Non-Repetition created by the Peace Accord, along with the Missing Persons Search Unit, and the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP).⁶

Jesús Santrich case continues

The possible extradition of Jesús Santrich for suspected drug trafficking has prompted a debate about the future of his case, the limits of transitional justice, and the ability of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) to make decisions while its procedures are still pending approval in Congress.⁷ In this case, the JEP is charged with determining whether the supposed drug trafficking occurred before or after the signing of the Peace Accord in November 2016, to which end it has suspended the processing of Santrich's extradition pending the delivery of conclusive evidence from the Attorney General's Office.⁸ The debate and approval of the JEP's procedures was postponed by the Congress until after the presidential elections.⁹

FARC denounces attacks and assassinations of its members

The new FARC political party denounced the murder of three of its members in rural areas of Cauca and Valle del Cauca over 22 and 26 May, bringing the total of former guerrillas killed to 24 this year, and to over 40 since the signing of the Peace Accord (the FARC claim over 60 deaths).¹⁰ This report came on the heels of the murder of former combatant Vicente Carvajal Isidro near a Territorial Training and Reincorporation Space (ETCR) in Arauca on 7 May and an attack on the residence of Carlos Andrés Bustos Cortes in Algeciras, Huila on 18 May.¹¹

PEACE PROCESS-ELN

GOC-ELN peace negotiations resume in Havana, Cuba

The talks resumed in the Cuban capital after 20 days of uncertainty following the withdrawal of Ecuador's support as guarantor on 20 April. Four days later, the guerrilla group's Central Command announced a unilateral ceasefire to be implemented over the electoral period from 24 to 29 May. The group stated their support for Colombians who wish to vote in the presidential elections, and expressed their hope that this conciliatory act would promote similar behavior from other political-military forces in the country. The two sides continue to negotiate the terms of a definitive bilateral ceasefire, as well as social participation,¹² and the GOC has committed to finding a legal route to freeing members of the ELN incarcerated for social protest, as a sign of good will towards the ELN, who have always based their movement on social protest.¹³

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

The United Nations offers humanitarian aid to Venezuelans in Colombia

Venezuelans fleeing the deepening economic and political crisis in their own country are now being provided with food subsidies provided by the United Nations' World Food Program, thanks to an initiative which began in Cúcuta, Norte de Santander at the beginning of May. This is the first international response to the delicate nutritional status of 90% of the 35,000 Venezuelans crossing the border into Colombia every day.¹⁴

INSTITUTIONAL PROGRESS

Progress in the creation of 56 Peace Councils in Antioquia

The Departmental Peace Committee held by the High Commissioner on 30 May announced the successful creation of 56 Municipal Peace Councils designed to promote reconciliation in the department. During the event, the High Commissioner also announced a long-term reincorporation policy which would help territorial entities to establish which Territorial Training and Reincorporation Spaces (ETCR) would become permanent.¹⁵

DIVERSITY ISSUES

Indigenous communities denounce the increase in threats since the Peace Accord

Indigenous communities took their concerns over attacks by armed actors to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on 10 May, hoping that measures to safeguard their rights in this post-conflict period would be declared. According to the Commission on the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples, indigenous people have been negatively affected by 18,000 violent events, including 67 murders and 11,455 forced displacement cases over 2016-2017.¹⁶

Ethnic memories: processes and experiences in historical memory

With this report, the National Center for Historical Memory (CNMH) shares historical memory reflections and processes with ethnic communities carried out by their differential approach team over the last four years. The publication builds on the recognition of ethnic communities' own cultural devices in order to generate intercultural education and mechanisms for the reconstruction of the social fabric. The report is of particular relevance to the integrated reparation of ethnic communities affected by the armed conflict.¹⁷

FURTHER READING

How is coca crop substitution progressing in Colombia?

This fourth update on the implementation of the Integrated National Plan for Illicit Crop Substitution (PNIS) by the Fundación Ideas para la Paz (FIP) shares concerns over the delays in the delivery of technical assistance and materials for food security and rapid income generation projects which would help guarantee a transition to a legal economy for families currently relying on coca cultivation.¹⁸