



0 35 70 140 210 280
Kms.

Sincelejo (Sucre):
Forced recruitment

Ocaña (Norte de Santander):
1 Teacher murdered

Istmina (Chocó):
Mass displacement 300 people

Mapirpán (Meta):
Mass displacement 100 people

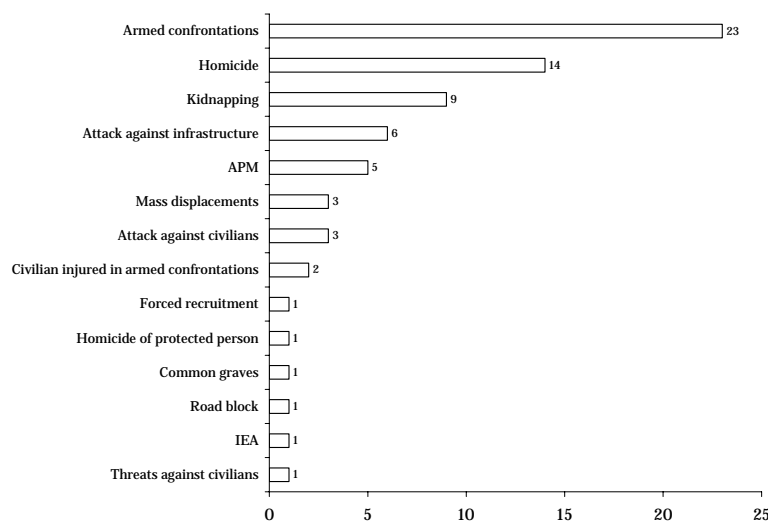
Legend

Departmental Borders

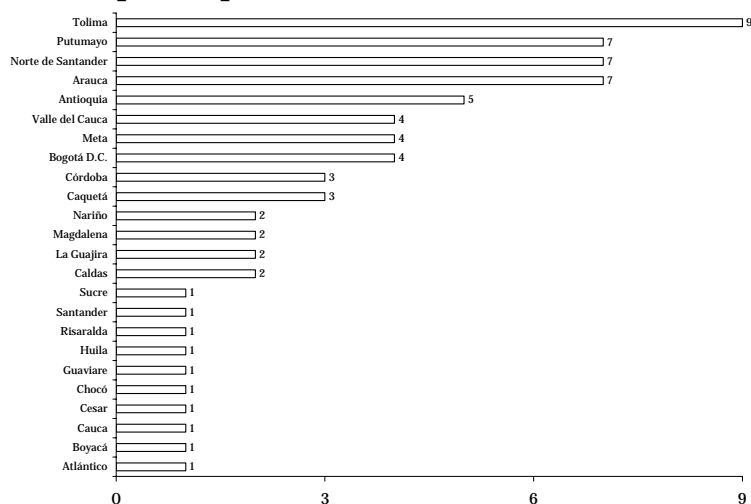
1 Dot = 1

- Armed Confrontation
- Homicide PP
- Kidnapping
- APM/UXO Victims
- Attack Against Infrastructure
- Attack against Civilians
- Mass Displacement
- Forced Recruitment

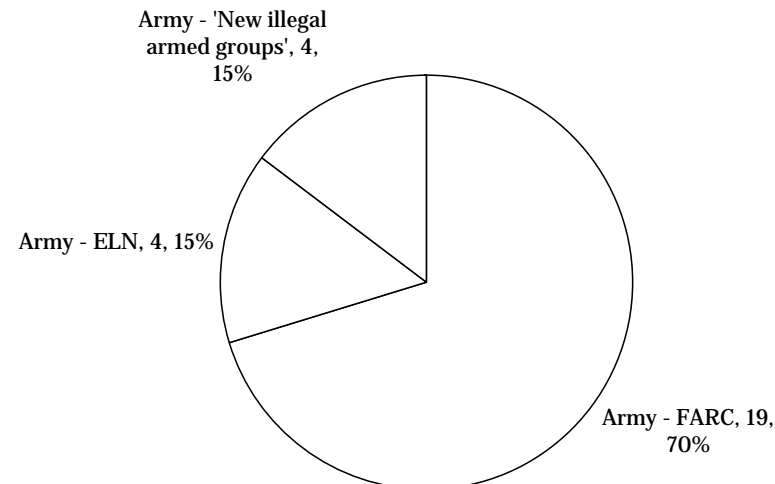
Events



Events per department



Armed confrontations



Humanitarian situation

Mass-displacement in Chocó

Nearly 300 people displaced in rural Istmina towards the neighbour municipality of Medio San Juan. IDPs now remain in the urban casquet of Istmina

OCHA Field Office was informed about a new mass displacement in a rural area of municipality of Istmina on March 4 triggered by sustained armed confrontations between the new illegal armed groups known as “Águilas Negras” and “Los Rastrojos”. Nearly 300 people (mainly Afro Colombians) from four communities displaced to the nearby municipality of Medio San Juan, some through the river and some others through the municipality’s roads. As the government of Medio San Juan lacks the capacities to respond to the emergency, the local authorities, in coordination with the government of Istmina, transported the IDPs back to Istmina’s urban casquet. On March 5, the local Ombudsman’s Office registered 500 people, however more people is expected to arrive in the next days, mainly the ones who displaced through the roads. Although authorities have not undertaken a needs assessment yet, one of the most urgent requirements is shelter for IDPs, currently settled in relative s’ houses and in the ethnic authority’s facility. So far, the local government together with Acción Social is assisting the emergency. Also, the government of Medio San Juan donated mattresses. On March 6, Acción Social informed that IDPs agreed to return after a meeting with the Police, ICBF, National and local Ombudsman’s Office, the local government and Acción Social. However, according to preliminary information (to be confirmed), there would be pressures from illegal armed actors for the population’s return. The IASC in Chocó is assessing the situation and is permanently monitoring the risk situation for the population as a previous mass displacement (January 2008) and a massacre (October) recently occurred in the same area. (See issues # 1 /2008 and # 28 / 2007).

Mass-displacement in Meta

100 people from the rural area of Mapiripán displaced towards the capital city of Villavicencio and an undetermined number more displaced to a nearby village, fleeing from armed confrontations

Acción Social and UNHCR informed that the displacement began on March 4 due to sustained armed confrontations between the Army and FARC, as well as to the arrival of a new illegal armed group. According to the source, 110 people remain in Villavicencio (in relatives’ houses) while other’s displaced to nearby villages. On March 6 the Local Committee for IDPs Integral Assistance sustained a meeting and on the next days will undertake a mission to the area to assess the situation and to strengthen the municipality’s contingency plan. Acción Social undertook a census of IDPs settled in Villavicencio but there is still no information about the population displaced within the rural areas.

Risk of mass-displacement in Nariño

According to denounces from rural populations of Tumaco, aerial spraying of coca crops is affecting water sources and licit crops, which could cause food shortages and mass displacements. On the other hand, local communities of Buenaventura denounced that military operations along the Yurumanguí and Naya Rivers are posing a high risk of displacement for the population

Members of rural communities of Tumaco arrived to the urban area in order to denounce the destruction of legal crops as a result of aerial spraying of coca crops causing food shortages among the population. Also, communities denounce that water sources have been contaminated. According to the claims, this would be the fourth spraying in the area, despite the agreement between National authorities and communities regarding the establishment of a manual eradication process.

On the other hand the Black Communities Process in Colombia issued a communiqué denouncing sustained military operations along the Southern Pacific Coast, particularly in the collective territories of the Naya and Yurumanguí Rivers. According to the communiqué, bombardments have impeded the population's mobility and have left several civilian houses damaged.

Follow-up: mass-mobilisation in Northern Antioquia comes to an end

After an agreement between peasant leaders and authorities, the 7.000 protesters began their return to their homes in Valdivia and Tarazá

On February 29, a commission from Acción Social, Antioquia's Government, the local Governments of Valdivia and Tarazá coordinated the negotiation of the conditions for the population's return which include the continuation of manual eradication in the rural areas of the municipalities together with the implementation of food security programs. Acción Social informed that the families that returned received a money allowance and food aid for two months.

Follow-up: mass-displacements in Córdoba

Four weeks after the displacements in Puerto Libertador and Tierralta, IDPs remain in nearby rural areas. The displacement in Tierralta has not been recognized as authorities stated that there could be coca gatherers among IDPs

According to information gathered by OCHA Field Office, nearly people (72 families) remain in the urban area of Tierralta; while other 260 are staying in a nearby village (figures are still not clear). Besides the food aid delivered by the local government and ICRC in the first stage of the emergency, no humanitarian assistance has been provided yet as Acción Social and ICRC are still assessing the situation. Even though ICBF and ICRC undertook the population census, military authorities denied the occurrence of a displacement in the area (reported by press sources).