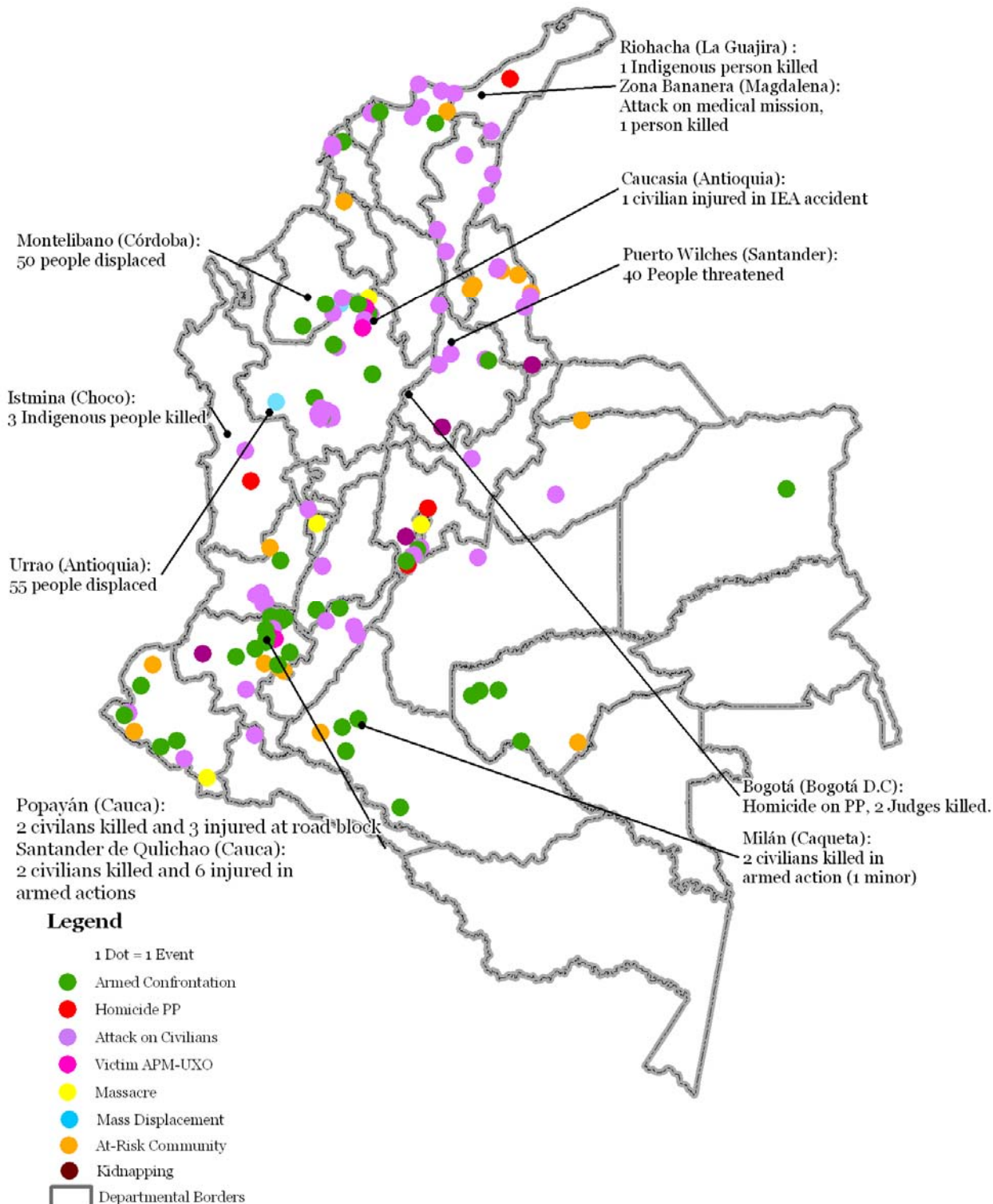


Highlights

1. Displacements in Antioquia and Córdoba Departments
2. Follow-up: Displacements in Chocó and Valle del Cauca Departments
3. FARC's attacks continue in Cauca Department
4. Aerial spraying of coca crops affects Afro Colombian territory in the Pacific littoral
5. FARC announces the liberation of two hostages



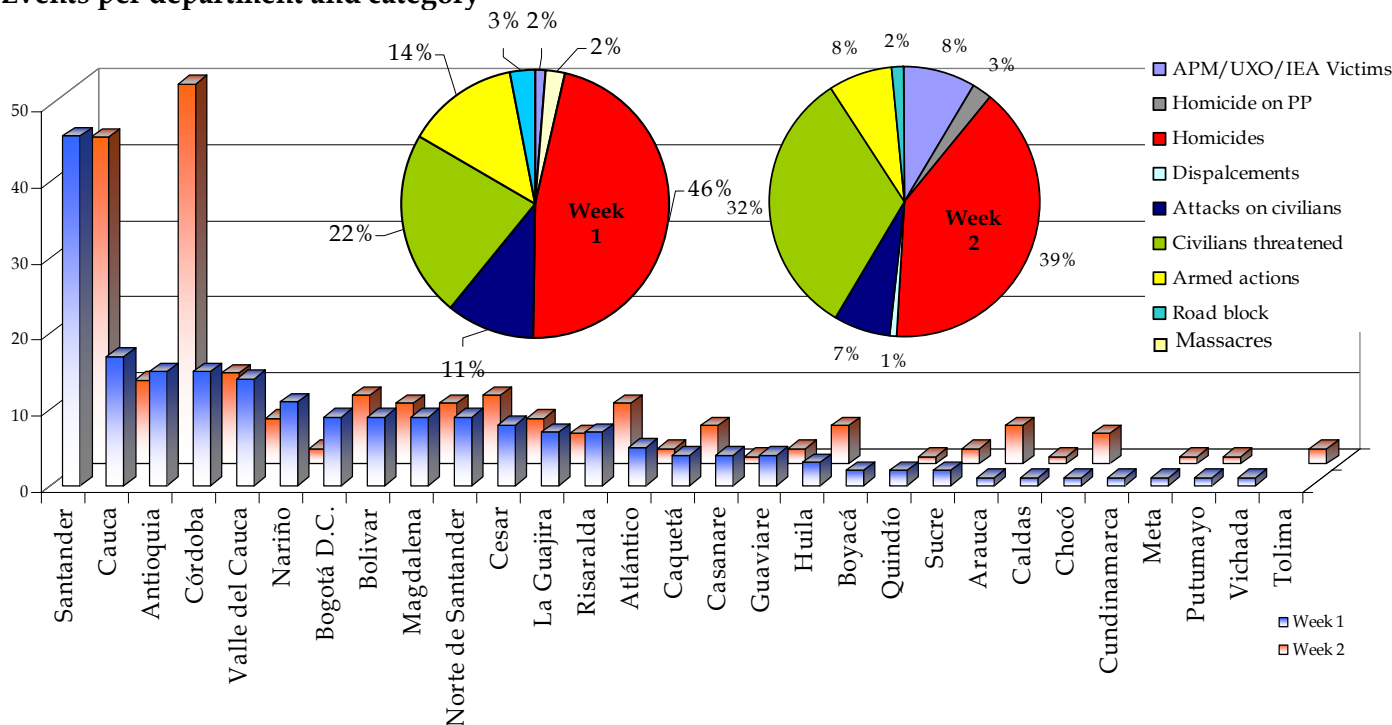
Displacements in Antioquia and Córdoba Departments

⇒ In 2009, OCHA reported a total of 67 mass displacement events in the Country. Of this, 12 occurred in Antioquia Department (with more than 2,000 people affected) and 7 in Córdoba Department (nearly 900 people affected).

On 15 February, 13 Afro Colombian families (55 persons) displaced within the rural area of Urrao Municipality (Antioquia Department) due to confrontations between the Army and the FARC. According to Acción Social, access is affected by poor road infrastructure and the existence of UXO. According to local leaders, the communities of the area where combats took place have suspended harvesting and hunting due to fear of further combat. Consequently, IDPs and host communities (nearly 1,100 persons) are facing a situation of food insecurity. IDPs are sheltered at families' and relatives' houses, while the rest of the rural population in the area remains at risk of displacement. Local authorities report psychosocial affectation among the population, mainly children. On 25 February, Acción Social sent a field mission to assess the situation and to provide emergency humanitarian assistance. On 1 March, Acción Social took part in the local committee for IDPs assistance.

On 25 February, eight families (42 persons) from the rural area of Montelíbano Municipality (Córdoba Department) displaced towards the urban seats of the neighboring municipality of Tierralta. According to the Ombudsman's Office, IDPs arrived on 28 February. Reportedly, two more families from the rural area of Tierralta also displaced. IDPs are staying in temporary shelters in precarious conditions. Delkays in the registry of the population are due to the overburdening of the local authority. Acción Social is providing emergency humanitarian assistance and the Ombudsman's Office is accompanying the population.

Events per department and category*



Follow-up: Displacements in Chocó and Valle Departments

⇒ *On 25 January, indigenous communities displaced in Bajo Baudó Municipality due to the communities' fear of the arrival of an illegal armed group of 200 men, after Army troops withdrew from the area. Community leaders also denounced threats (see issue # 6)*

So far, 1,744 indigenous people (340 families) remain displaced in hubs along the Purrincha River. Nearly 200 families have taken shelter in huts along the river and some of them stay with friends. Shelter, Health, WASH and Education needs are the main gaps at this moment. None of the families have access to safe drinking water. Reports indicate that 86 people are reported ill and nine people have died since the displacement: six children, two women (one of them pregnant) and one older man, death causes are still unknown. ICRC, Médicos Sin Fronteras Bélgica and Acción Social have conducted field missions, while PAHO and local authorities are providing health assistance. At least 100 people from the Municipality of Medio Baudó that were not included in the first IDPs census have not received any food assistance yet. On 20-21 February, the Embera Indigenous Authorities met to assess the situation and to define protection and prevention measures. The communities expressed their will to remain inside the reservation area and requested the accompaniment of the local and departmental authorities, Acción Social, the Army, humanitarian organizations and the Catholic Church.

Attacks in Cauca Department

On 28 February, alleged FARC members attacked the Siberia village (approximately 5,000 people), Caldono Municipality, Cauca Department. One military was injured during the attack. Police sources report that on 27 February, a FARC commander killed a policeman in the main square of the Caloto Municipality. More than 500 soldiers were sent to this region after the FARC attacks occurred last week in the municipalities of Caldono, Cajibío, Jambaló, Toribío and Santander de Quilichao, Cauca Department (see issue # 8). Two people were killed and five injured. More than 500 indigenous families were displaced to safe zones within the rural areas of Caldono and Jambaló. According to Indigenous authorities, the displaced families returned to their homes on 22 February. Acción Social announced provision of humanitarian assistance for 180 families.

Aerial spraying of coca crops affects AfroColombian territory in the Pacific littoral

⇒ *On April 2001, more than 50 persons were massacred during an incursion of paramilitary groups along the Naya River and hundreds were displaced. On 2002, the Afrocolombian communities of the Naya River were granted precautionary measures by the Inter-american Commission for Human Rights (IACHR). According to IACHR, complaints about threats and acts of intimidation and violence against the protected communities continue to be denounced.*

On 20 February, the ethnic authorities of Afrocolombian communities of Naya River (Cauca and Valle del Cauca Departments) denounced indiscriminate aerial spraying in their territories since 13 February. According to the public statement, 10 communities along the Naya River and an indigenous reservation along the Micay River were affected. Ethnic authorities claim that aerial spraying of coca crops disregards their approach to substitution of illegal crops in their territories. This proposal includes harvesting staple

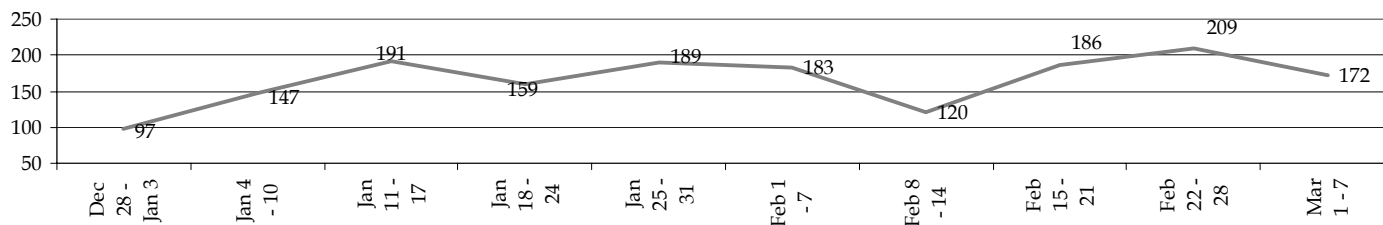
crops such as rice, plantains, fruits and sugar cane. The communiqué also denounces that some leaders have been threatened by illegal armed actors.

The communities urge the GoC to stop aerial spraying in their territories and to legalize their territory through collective land titles. They call upon national and international human rights organizations to conduct a verifying mission in their territories.

FARC announces hostages' release

On 8 March, the FARC issued a release announcing that they are “ready to release” two of the military hostages in their hands, Pablo Moncayo (captive since 1997) and Josue Daniel Calvo (captive since 2009). According to the communiqué, the liberation would take place as soon as the GoC and the FARC agree upon the security protocol for the operation. During the process, the FARC would also deliver the remains of Captain Julian Guevara, who died in 2006 after eight years in captivity. A commission integrated by ICRC, senator Piedad Córdoba, Julian Guevara’s mother and Pablo Moncayo’s father would receive the hostages. On 15 February, the FARC authorized Brazil to facilitate the process through transport and logistics support.

Events - Weekly trend *



* All data herewith presented was processed by OCHA from official and secondary sources.