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. Presented on the first two pages are a summary of statistics on former child soldiers and adults in the process of reintegration, with information provided by the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF) and the Agency for Reincorporation and Normalization (ARN).

Reported cases of forced recruitment since 1999:

- Total: 7,604

Since 1999:

- 6,593

This year:

- 182

This month:

- 23

Currently enrolled in program:

- 257

Disengagement by department:

This year:

- Antioquia: 13
- Bogotá: 1
- Caquetá: 12
- Chocó: 9
- Cauca: 1
- Arauca: 13
- Caqueta: 9
- Nariño: 8
- Norte de Santander: 4
- Putumayo: 1
- Guaviare: 1

(Chart showing distribution by department)

Armed group:

Since 1999:

- FARC: 3,922
- ELN: 1,168
- AUC: 1,055

This year:

- FARC: 68
- ELN: 82

This month:

- FARC: 10
- ELN: 10

As of November 2018:

Sex:

- Male: 57%
- Female: 43%

Ethnicity:

- Mestizo: 82%
- Afro-Colombian: 13%
- Indigenous: 11%

Age:

- 9 to 12: 26%
- 13: 30%
- 14: 9%
- 15: 9%
- 16: 9%
- 17: 4%
- 18: 1%
ADULTS IN REINTEGRATION PROCESS

Total currently active in reintegration process: 
• 7,359

Total entered into ARN reintegration route
• This month: 32
• This year: 761
• Since 1999: 60,275

State of all participants
Since 1999

- 2% Not able to locate
- 9% Not yet part of program
- 12% In process
- 28% Formally removed
- 39% Successfully completed
- 10% Deaths

Demobilization by Department (top 9)
This month

- Atlántico: 2
- Antioquia: 6
- Santander: 3
- Cundinamarca: 2
- Tolima: 3
- Huila: 2
- Caquetá: 2
- Bogotá: 5

Armed group
Since 1999
• FARC 19,567
• AUC 35,871

This year
• FARC 302
• ELN 243
• BACRIM 222

This month
• FARC 8
• ELN 16
• BACRIM 5

Sex
Since 1999
• MALE 87%
• FEMALE 13%

November 2018 (This month)
• MALE 84%
• FEMALE 16%

Ethnicity
Since 1999
• MESTIZO 90%
• AFRO-COLOMBIAN 5%
• INDIGENOUS 2%
• OTHER 3%

NO DATA

Type of demobilization
Since 1999
• INDIVIDUAL 46%
• COLLECTIVE 54%

Current occupation
Since 1999

- Unemployed: 8%
- Employed in formal sector: 22%
- Employed in informal sector: 49%
- Economically inactive (for age, disability, etc): 20%

* those who have died or who are without occupational registry are not included
Key issues include continued conflict, the Peace Accord, and anti-drugs policy; increases in displacement and confinement (up 21% compared with 2017), attacks and assassinations of social leaders (up 357% and 143% respectively), and violent deaths in conflict areas are cause for concern. President Duque seems willing to work with low-ranking former FARC combatants, but has pressured the higher commands and repeat offenders.

During the initial hearings, 24 kidnapping victims and their families shared their experiences and expectations with regards reparations. The JEP is tasked with sentencing those responsible, but also aims to contribute to truth, justice, reparation, and non-repetition. The military also delivered an initial report at the end of November, detailing 207,645 cases relating to kidnappings carried out by the FARC, with the most common effects being forced displacement, homicide, forced disappearance, and anti-personnel mines. The JEP’s investigation will also draw on information presented by the Attorney General’s Office, and civilian victims’ testimonies.

President Duque confirmed that if Hernán Darío Velásquez (alias “El Paisa”) does not present himself before the JEP, the suspension of the arrest warrant against him will be lifted. He made similar comments with regards to FARC second-in-command Iván Márquez, who recently confirmed his commitment to the peace process in a letter also signed by El Paisa, Románia, and other FARC leaders. Nine FARC leaders, including Iván Márquez, El Paisa, and Románia, later signed an open letter exposing the reasons for increased mistrust towards the State and calling for the resolution of Jesús Santrich’s legal situation. The leaders, who have left reintegration spaces citing the lack of legal and security guarantees, also criticized the modifications made to the Peace Accord and called for the inclusion of third parties and intellectual authors in the JEP. Márquez also wrote to the UN Secretary General on 28 November, encouraging him to call on the GOC to fulfill its Peace Accord obligations.

Two years after it was signed, 66% of its 578 commitments have begun implementation, 22% of which have been completed. While the FARC successfully demobilized and disarmed, and progress has been made in the functioning of the transitional justice system, there have been significant delays in integrated rural reform and political participation. Security is a continuing concern, as is the economic reincorporation of former combatants, and changes to the Peace Accord, which have been rejected by the FARC.

Reasons given for delays in former combatants’ productive projects include difficulties in opening bank accounts and the need for prior planning and support for the initiatives. The first 30 individual productive projects were approved on 22 November, and 135 more are being processed. However, of the 203 projects and 90 business initiatives studied in October, only 36 received resources, and of the 24 projects evaluated, only two received funding.

For the next three years, the TC, one of three transitional justice mechanisms outlined by the Peace Accord, will operate in 10 “macreregions” and 26 municipalities, functioning through nine “Truth Houses” and mobile commissions to investigate the roots, patterns, and effects of violence across the country. The TC will not issue judgements or sentences, but rather seeks a collective, inclusive account of the armed conflict.
In this report, Dejusticia cites the continuing violent confrontations, mass displacements, and assassinations of social leaders as evidence that overcoming violence does not only depend on the implementation of the Peace Accord, but also on the strengthening of the State at the local level. A State which imposes itself without also building social support loses the capacity to impose itself; and a legitimate State which does not manage to implement order or overcome illegal organizations loses society’s respect.

As part of their series of publications on security for women and LGBTQI persons affected by the armed conflict, the Fundación Ideas para la Paz has published its Tumaco (Nariño) report after more than a year of research. Key findings suggest that territorial disputes between armed groups, and the presence of illegal economies tend to deepen GBV. The report also highlights that gender stereotypes and justifications for violence against women function as mechanisms for social and territorial control by armed groups; violence against women is underpinned by historical social vulnerabilities, and women would feel more secure if they enjoyed economic autonomy; security and militarization interventions do not make women feel more secure; women’s perception of insecurity is related to the interruption of ancestral networks and knowledge; the lack of specific information on violence against LGBTQI persons makes protection measures difficult to implement; and prevalent prejudices and stigmas against LGBTQI persons contribute to continuing violence and discrimination.

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