COLOMBIA

Tame (Arauca):
IEA Accident,
1 civilian injured

Barrancabermeja (Santander):
At-risk communities

Tierralta (Córdoba):
Mass displacement,
264 persons

Cali (Valle del Cauca):
Threats against social organisations
and human rights defenders

Soacha (Cundinamarca):
Threats against families of
victims and deputies

Jambaló and Corinto
(Cauca):
At-risk communities

Tumaco (Nariño):
2 Awá indigenous women
injured in armed confrontation

Santander de Quilichao
(Cauca): Massacre,
5 young men killed

Legend
1 Dot = 1
- Armed confrontations
- Homicide of PP
- Attacks on civilians
- Kidnapping
- APM/UXO/IEA Victims
- Road blocks
- Massacre
- At-risk communities
- Displacement events
- Forced recruitment


Violence rises in the Magdalena Medio region and the Department of Cauca

Combat intensifies in the Northern Cauca Department and homicides increase in the Municipality of Barrancabermeja

According to a press release issued by the Catholic Church (19 October), the humanitarian situation in the municipality of Barrancabermeja has worsened since the last year. As of 19 October, reportedly, 95 homicides have been registered in the department of which 17 took place only in October. This represents a 66% increase over the number registered during the same period in 2008. Barrancabermeja, a strategic port along the Magdalena River rich in natural resources, has been historically targeted by illegal armed actors in dispute for territorial control.

On 21 October the Indigenous Association of the North of Cauca department (ACIN) denounced that since 10 October, armed confrontations taking place in the municipalities of Corinto, Toribío and Jambaló (rural areas) have caused damages to their houses and properties and have caused fear among the population. Indigenous authorities have called upon the Public Ministry, humanitarian organizations and communities to monitor these violations that are endangering civilians’ lives.

Follow-up: Displacement in Tierralta, Department of Córdoba

One week after the displacement in the village of La Bonita due to armed confrontations between illegal armed groups, 264 persons (65 families) remain displaced in the urban area of the municipality, hosted in a school facility and in the homes of relatives. According to Acción Social, the confrontations have already ceased but the risks to civilians persist due to the possible existence of APM/UXO in the area. Representatives of the community, the Army and Acción Social are currently in the village of La Bonita verifying the security conditions for the return. The municipality of Tierralta, the host community, ICRC and MSF-Netherlands are providing humanitarian assistance.
As well, WFP and OCHA will conduct a mission to analyze possible gaps in the response on 28 October. The increased presence of armed actors in the municipality is also affecting Embera Katío indigenous people. On 21 October, the community denounced restrictions of their mobility.

**Follow-up: Armed strike in the Department of Arauca**

Despite the FARC’s declaration of the end of the fifth armed strike in the department of Arauca in 2009, a series of events affecting the mobility of its population has been registered in some areas of the department. Press sources report road blocks in the municipalities of Puerto Rondón, Tame and the city of Arauca. According to local sources, there are rumors of another armed strike in the coming days. However, this information has not been confirmed and the FARC have made no declarations of a new strike.

**Thirteenth Quarterly Report on the Mission of the Organization of American States (OAS) to Support the Peace Process with former paramilitaries in Colombia (MAPP/OAS)**

The Mission acknowledges advances in the peace process but also expresses its concern with the security of victims, judges and members of the reintegration program.

The report, issued on 21 October, highlights some of the main constraints affecting the overall success of the disarmament and demobilization process. Once more, the mission expresses its concern with the increasing influence of armed factions closely linked to illegal economic activities, particularly along the Pacific coast, and in the departments of Cauca, La Guajira, Bolívar, Santander, Norte de Santander and some of the main urban areas in the Country. The Mission has registered a linkage between the actions of these factions and an increase in the cases of killings, threats and the reappearance of massacres as a means of creating terror.
The mission calls special attention to zones where victims and their leaders have been threatened and intimidated**. Of particular concern to the mission is the situation of forced displacement and confinement in Chocó and Nariño departments, due to massacres, mobility restrictions, threats and forced recruitment of young people and minors. The report concludes that the process is now in a decisive stage of consolidating achievements in the reintegration of ex-combatants, victims’ reparation and reconciliation and the full application of the Justice and Peace Law. Among other recommendations, the mission points to the need for further efforts to protect victims and judicial workers and to provide integral assistance to the victims.

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* All data herewith presented was processed by OCHA from official and secondary sources.
** South of Córdoba department, Urabá region, Meta, Guaviare, Caldas, Risaralda, South of Bolivar Department and Tumaco in Nariño department.