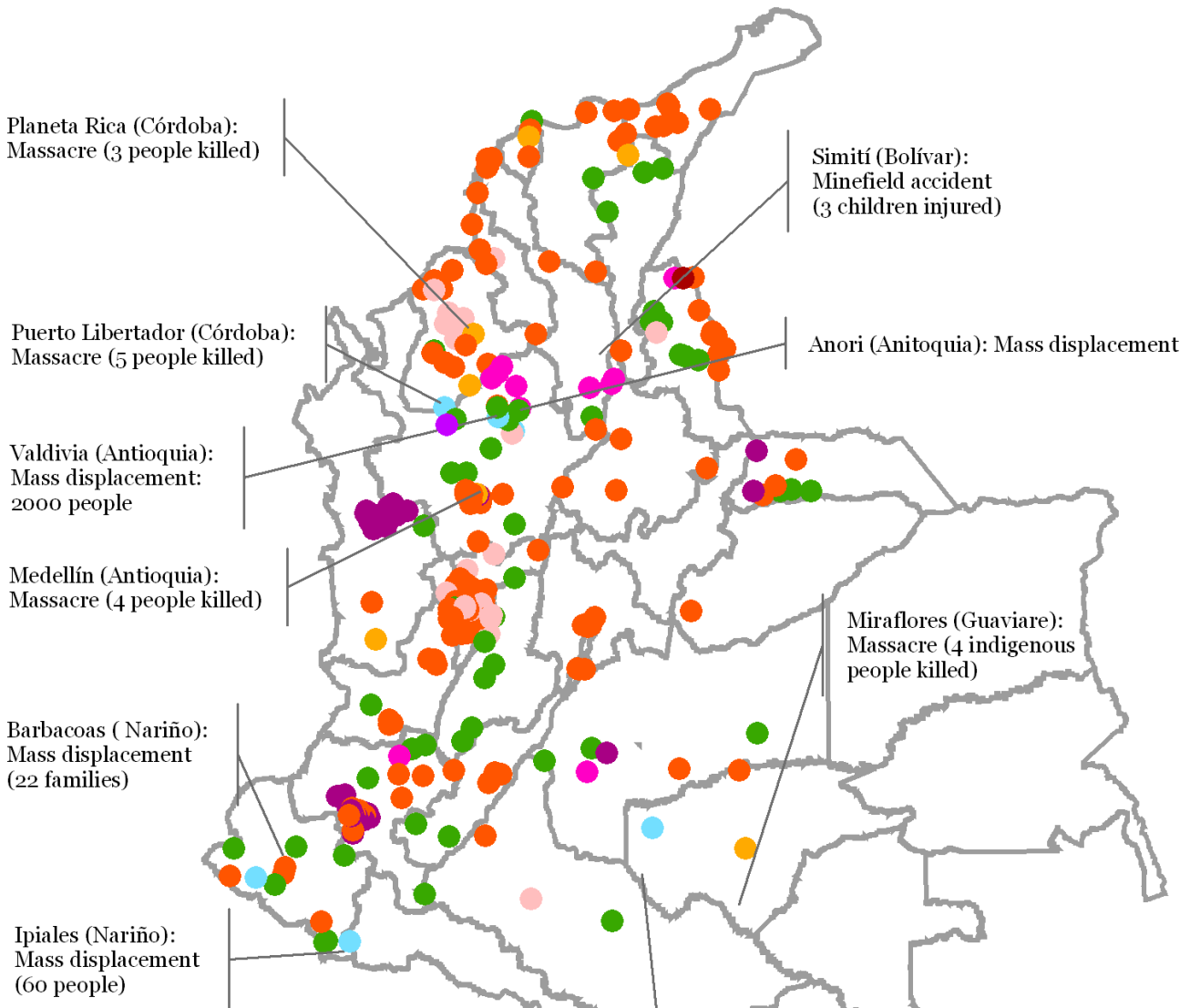




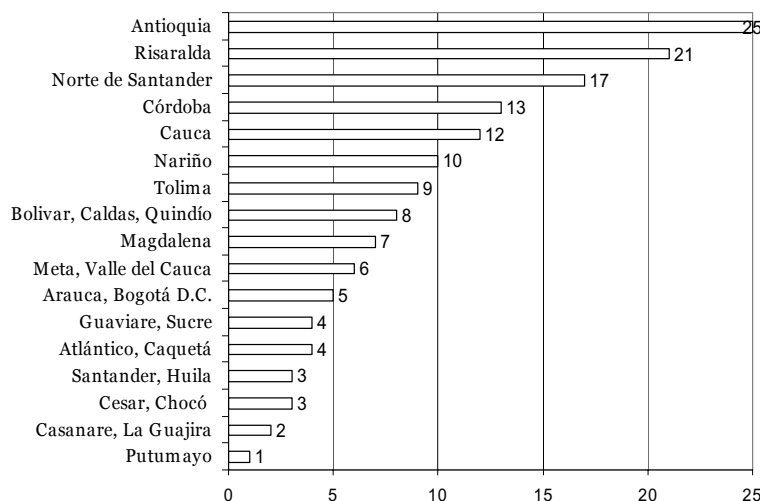
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Kms.



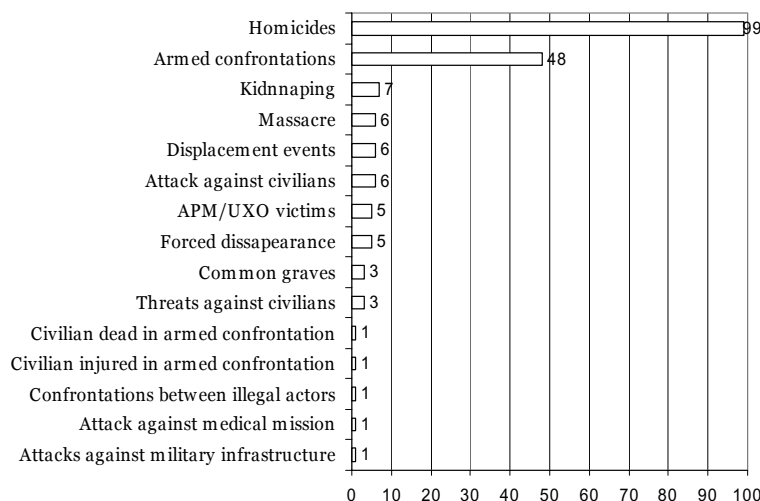
Legend

-  Departmental Borders
- 1 Dot = 1 Event
-  Armed Confrontation
-  Homicide PP
-  Kidnapping
-  APM/UXO Victim
-  Attack against Medical Mission
-  Attack against Civilians
-  Mass Displacement
-  Massacre

Events per department



Events



All data herewith presented was gathered from official sources by OCHA

Humanitarian situation

Forced displacement in Antioquia department

Since July 15 over 2,000 were allegedly forced by FARC to displace from their towns, Valdivia and Ituango, in protest of arial spraying and manual eradication programmes of coca crops

Locals of rural Valdivia are reportedly pressured by FARC to protest against coca eradication programmes ongoing in the region known as Bajo Cauca Antioqueño. Earlier this year, in February, 4,000 people from Valdivia, Tarazá and Nechí, were displaced. Dialogues between peasants and authorities led to their return in March (see issues # 4 and 7). The current event was reported by UNDSS. OCHA had previously gathered information from humanitarian workers in the area who alerted on the imminent displacement of peasants from Valdivia due to resuming fumigation operations, unfulfilled agreements conveyed in March and increased FARC pressure on civilians to mobilise in protest of sprayings and manual eradication. Consequently, 2,000 from nine villages of Valdivia and nine from Ituango left their homes claiming the loss of self-sustenance crops. IDPs arrived in the urban seats of Valdivia (685 persons, 280 of them children) and the nearby farmhouses of Puerto Valdivia (1,435 persons), where they found shelter in education facilities. A preliminary information point out there's already an outbreak of respiratory diseases and diarrhoea amongst children. The population is in need of alimentary assistance, mattresses and cooking and cleaning items; local authorities declared they do not bear the capacity to address this new emergency of such considerable magnitude. So far, IDPs received help from local merchants and a Mobile Unit of ICBF -the State's children and family welfare agency- which is delivering food for children, lactating and pregnant mothers. The departmental disaster prevention and attention directorate of Antioquia -DAPARD- did not activate their response as the event was not recognised as a forced displacement but as a peaceful protest. On July 24, a verification mission integrated by ombudspersons of Defensoria del Pueblo, ICBF and OCHA visited the site. OCHA's field office, on the other hand, was informed of another mass-displacement of 59 persons in rural San Rafael caused by alleged pressures of an undetermined illegal armed group. Displaced families sought refuge in their relatives' houses inside the urban area of this town. Last week, the municipal committee for IDPs' attention met to assess the situation; Accion Social is expected to make presence and

Colombia

address the emergency.

Five returning indigenous children died of poor health in Chocó department**The underaged had returned last week to their place of origin in Bagadó after spending several weeks sheltered in Bogota (see issues #17/18 and 22); they were later found dead due to respiratory and diarrheic conditions**

On July 13 an indigenous child of age 1 died after his family returned to their community, which alerted of a possible Cholera outbreak later dismissed by the Ministry of Social Protection onsite. Health conditions of communities inhabiting the area known as Alto Andagueda -in Bagadó- are, however, critical. In May, 40 children were evacuated with malnutrition and two communities fled to the cities of Pereira and Bogota. By July 5, the toll of dead children rose to 5, victims of severe dehydration caused by diarrhoea and respiratory illnesses. A medical team -from local healthcare provider CAPRECOM- evaluated health conditions and further evacuated 14 children and 15 adults to get treatment at the hospital of Quibdó, the departmental capital. In the course of this week a total of 69 persons were also evacuated (35 children and 34 adults). The National Health Institute warned these deaths were caused by normal diarrhoea not timely and properly treated, leading to severe dehydration; this indicates the loss of infant lives is due to preventable and controllable diseases. Local authorities hence called for a rapid plan to address the emergency involving hygiene, food and nutritional campaigns, as well as watsan improvements. ICBF will conduct a meeting with local healthcare providers to follow up on previously acquired commitments. CAPRECOM financed the transfer of the 69 evacuees to Quibdó and provided medicines and equipment to address the emergency in this area. A medical brigade (2 physicians, 2 nurses, 1 epidemiologist and 4 ICBF auxiliaries) are based in Alto Andagueda to ensure medical attention, provide medicines, nutritional supplements and avail basic healthcare equipment. WHO/PAHO liaises with local health authorities, the Ministry of Social Protection and OCHA continue to monitor the emergency.

Massacre raises displacement risks in Cordoba department**Seven were killed on July 20 during two possibly related massacres in the towns of Puerto Libertador and Montelíbano; locals are beginning to displace**

Over the past four months Defensoria del Pueblo had issued three risk reports alerting authorities on the possible attack to civilians of Montelíbano, Valencia, Tierralta and Puerto Libertador. The departmental crime observatory also reports 30 people were killed in Puerto Libertador up to June 30. According to the Mayor of Puerto Libertador the massacre reported last July 20 (3 men, 2 youths and 2 underage) is concomitant with the presence of illegal armed groups tied with drug trafficking. Puerto Libertador is one of the so called “hot spots” of Cordoba department; mountainous surroundings are extensively planted with coca and holdouts of paramilitary groups have a strong foothold in these areas. Press sources have said the massacre raised fear in Puerto Libertador and civilians are already beginning to flee.

Mass-displacement and at-risk communities in Nariño department**Increased combats in Nariño caused the mass-displacement of 17 families from rural villages in Olaya Herrera and Mosquera (July 9) and 60 more people of rural Ipiales (July 17)**

According to Accion Social sustained armed confrontations between the National Navy, criminal bands and FARC's 29th Front triggered these displacements (12 families from rural Olaya Herrera and 5 from rural Mosquera). Human rights NGO CODHES reported nearly 600 remain at risk, blocked by armed clashes without access to food and medicines. So far, authorities of Mosquera sheltered IDPs in the local library and Accion Social made presence to provide emergency assistance and support local authorities. Also, another 60 persons from farmhouses in the area known as La Victoria in rural Ipiales (July 17) fled to the urban seats of town fearing the increased presence of alleged FARC guerrillas. IDPs sought refuge in relatives' houses while a parochial house is furnished as temporary shelter. Ten of the 60 IPDs crossed the border into Ecuadorian soil; 12 of the remaining 50 are children. Accion Social confirmed the Army is conducting operations in the area against FARC and asked local authorities to summon a meeting of the municipal committee for IDPs' attention to activate the contingency plan.

Context note: tensions between Colombia and Nicaragua

Tensions between Colombia and Nicaragua rise upon unofficial versions of a possible visit of FARC commanders hosted by president Ortega in Managua

The local newspaper La Prensa of Managua circulated information indicating last weekend president Ortega had invited - and hosted- members of FARC's secretariat to commemorate the 29th anniversary of the Sandinist Revolution. According to this source, FARC commanders had flown to Managua aboard a Venezuelan aircraft availed by that country's national oil company, PDVSA -a version later denied by Venezuela's vice-president-. Colombian authorities had passed the message to sub-regional Interpol offices in Argentina and El Salvador on July 17 alerting on this possibility and requesting the immediate capture should it come out to be true. Following the rescue op of 15 high-profile hostages on July 2, FARC suggested their intention to explore dialogue routes through Ortega's mediation -while insisting they will not surrender arms and are willing to see their end combating in the battlefield-*. President Ortega made public his disposition to meet with FARC commanders. Colombian authorities not only refused to allow any encounter whatsoever between FARC and Nicaragua's president, but also rejected Mr. Ortega's intrusion in Colombia's internal affairs. Further on, before the OAS plenary last July 24, the Colombian ambassador to that organism called upon Nicaragua's judicial authorities to open an investigation to their president towards determining if such meeting did indeed take place. He also recalled the possible international legal implications of collaborating with terrorist groups. Although Nicaragua's ambassador did not offer a explicit reply to the claims presented by Colombia during the session, he stated he would not comment on whether such meeting did or did not happen and added president Ortega considers FARC to be a national liberation movement.

*Aftermath: the rescue op triggered the massive participation of millions in local and international marches against kidnapping on July 20 -Colombia's national holiday-. Millions gathered in streets and attended simultaneous concerts in over 1,000 municipalities of the country (there are 1,100 in total) to claim the immediate release of all remaining hostages. Three days earlier, FARC had kidnapped a group of 18 people forced to embark on a motorboat in a river of Chocó. To this date, and thanks to ICRC's facilitation, 16 have been released in good conditions. However, nothing has been said on whether their release accounts for a bona fide political gesture on behalf of FARC. In fact, alias 'Granda', a top FARC commander released from prison in 2007 at the request of France's government to create conditions for a humanitarian negotiation, was one of the signatories of FARC's most recent communiqué where they reaffirm their decision to remain in arms. Thus, Colombia's vice-president said today the government intends to recapture 'Granda', whose whereabouts are unknown.