1. BACKGROUND

On June 10, 2011, President Santos signed into effect the Victims and Land Restitution Law (Law 1448). Over the next 10 years, the Law will provide five reparation measures to victims of the internal conflict: (1) land restitution, (2) financial reparation, (3) rehabilitation, (4) satisfaction, and (5) guarantees of non-repetition. Three public institutions were created by the Law: (1) the Victims Unit, to provide services and reparations and coordinate the National Victims Assistance and Reparation System (SNARIV), (2) the National Center for Historical Memory (CNMH), to collect and develop historical memory of the conflict, and (3) the Land Restitution Unit, to implement the restitution component. As of August 2015, 7,860,385 victims were registered with the government of Colombia (GoC), primarily victims of internal displacement (84.6%).

2. KEY DEVELOPMENTS

PEACE COLOMBIA: COLOMBIA-FARC PEACE PLAN TO RECEIVE $450M IN U.S. AID

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos and U.S. President Barack Obama met in Washington, D.C. to mark the fifteen anniversary of Plan Colombia, for which the U.S. contributed nearly $10 billion to “expand and professionalize armed forces and police, strengthen investigations of organized crime and human rights violations, and implement a landmark Victims and Land Restitution Law.” Hailing the success of the program and peace talks in Havana, Obama announced a new plan for bilateral cooperation after the signing of an accord. “Peace Colombia” would scale-up existing efforts through a multi-year initiative to consolidate security and counternarcotics, reintegrate FARC, expand state presence and institutions, and promote justice and services for victims. The U.S. will request more than $390 million in foreign assistance from Congress in FY 2017, as well as additional funds for humanitarian assistance and DoD counternarcotics programs, for a total of over $450 million. Peace Colombia includes support for a Global Demining Initiative, for which $33 million would be provided by the U.S. and $20 million by Norway. It is expected that 30% of the package would go to traditional military aid for eradication, interdiction, and to fight organized crime. Experts highlighted U.S. eagerness to point to Colombia as “a collaboration that worked…a success story, and there haven’t been too many of those recently,” said Michael Shifter, President of the Inter-American Dialogue. Various critical voices also responded, with some questioning the results of Plan Colombia and others decrying impunity under the accords and calling for greater justice for victims.

3. PEACE PROCESS

UN SECURITY COUNCIL APPROVES MISSION TO VERIFY CEASEFIRE AND DISARMAMENT IN COLOMBIA

On January 25 the UN Security Council unanimously approved an unarmed political mission to verify the implementation of the peace accord between FARC and the GoC, including the bilateral ceasefire, the cessation of hostilities, and the disarmament process. UN Resolution 2261 (2016) responds to the negotiators’ request, establishing a political mission of unarmed observers from the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) for 12 months, and possible extension if requested by the two parties. Headed by a special representative of the Secretary-General, the mission will coordinate and will be part of a “tripartite mechanism” with FARC and GoC representatives. To date, no official list of concentration areas for FARC has been released. For further details see Progress Report section.

3. Ibid.
COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT AND FARC ASK U.S. AND E.U. TO REMOVE FARC FROM TERRORIST LIST

During an interview, President Santos asked the US Government to remove FARC from the terrorist list once the peace deal is reached. "If they sign it's because we have a timetable for their disarmament and they have committed to lay down their arms and transition to civilian life. So I would say yes, I hope that they would be eliminated from the terrorist list," expressed Santos, explaining, "any effort by the United States to allow us to apply transitional justice, for example by suspending the arrest warrants, would help us tremendously," while warning that those who continue to engage in drug trafficking will be extradited.

Meanwhile, in a conversation before the European Parliament, FARC chief negotiator Ivan Marquez requested that the group be removed from the EU terrorist list: "In our judgment, the fairest and most compatible option in the search for peace is to remove FARC from the list of terrorist organizations. Doing so would remove a serious obstacle to the normalization of Colombian political life and would guarantee the process of reincorporation into civilian life for former rebel combatants," said Marquez.

MIXED VERSIONS ON TROUBLED PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ELN

The GoC and ELN, Colombia’s second largest guerrilla group, started exploratory peace talks in January 2014 that were publically announced in June of the same year. Despite the announcement of partial agreements on a negotiating agenda, recent attacks and mixed statements have set back the process. While ELN announced they are ready for the negotiation to go public, the GoC responded and warned that this is not true, since key meetings are pending to coordinate the public phase of the talks, which need to be defined by ELN. At the same time, while ELN reported close communications with FARC, FARC commander Timoleón Jiménez explained that they have not been able to communicate with ELN for some time.

4. A VIEW FROM THE FIELD

166,000 PEOPLE FORCIBLY DISPLACED IN 2015, ABOUT 40,000 FEWER THAN IN 2014

According to the UN and data from the Victims Unit, 52% of the people displaced were women, 18% Afro-Colombians and 5% indigenous, and 45% were minors. Moreover, in 2015 there were also 628 humanitarian emergencies as a result of armed actions in 251 municipalities (including 54 massive displacements affecting 3,700), compared to 798 humanitarian emergencies in 2014, 21% fewer. In terms of the actors responsible, in 2014, FARC caused 69% of all displacements, compared to 37% in 2015, whereas ELN responsibility increased, with the guerrilla group causing 11% of displacements in 2014 and 31% in 2015. BACRIM (criminal groups) were responsible for 16% of displacements in 2014, versus 13% in 2015. It should be noted that the actor responsible for 19% of displacements in 2015 is unaccounted for.

5. INCLUSIVE APPROACHES

FIRST VICTIMIZER ASKS JINETH BEDOYA FOR FORGIVENESS

At a hearing, Mario Jaimes AKA the ‘Panadero,’ who fifteen years ago kidnapped and sexually and psychologically abused journalist and advocate against GBV Jineth Bedoya, asked for forgiveness for the pain he caused and accepted charges against him. In response, Bedoya wrote on Twitter, “Perpetrators always discredit the word of an abused woman, but today women’s word won! We don’t give up!” Cases remain against other ex-paramilitaries involved in Bedoya’s kidnapping, torture, and rape.

16. “We take the president’s request very... U.S. special envoy Bernie Aronson.”
6. PROGRESS REPORT*

7,860,395
REGISTERED
VICTIMS
16.4%
OF TOTAL
POPULATION

BY GENDER OR
SEXUAL ORIENTATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender/Orientation</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>49.61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>49.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGBTI</td>
<td>0.75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>NO INFO</td>
<td>0.02%</td>
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</table>

BY AGE GROUP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-17</td>
<td>30.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-28</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29-60</td>
<td>32.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61-100</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO INFO</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

TOP 5 VICTIMS LOCATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTIOQUIA</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOLIVAR</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAGDALENA</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NARINO</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CESAR</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOP VICTIMIZING ACTS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DISPLACEMENT</td>
<td>80.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOMICIDE</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THREATS</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISAPPEARANCE</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REAL ESTATE LOSS</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data from the National Information Network (RNI), Victims Unit, through Feb. 1, 2016.

January 19, 2016: GOC and FARC negotiators request mission in joint communiqué 65

WHAT WILL IT BE?

12 month UNITED NATIONS POLITICAL MISSION with observers from the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), and the possibility of a later extension.

WHAT WILL IT NOT BE?

- It will not be armed, but rather made up of unarmed observers.
- It will not be a mission to verify transitional justice points. This is the responsibility of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace and the commissioners who are eventually selected.

WHEN WILL IT START?

On January 25, the Security Council approved the mission through Resolution 2261 (2016). It will arrive in Colombia as early as February and officially start within 30 days of peace accords being signed.

HIGHLIGHTED UNITED NATIONS EXPERIENCES

EL SALVADOR
1991-1996
ONUSAL peacekeeping mission verified the implementation of the ceasefire between the GoG and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) and elections. 368 military observers, 35 civilian police, and then 300 electoral observers were deployed. Then MINUL, a small group of civilians, provided support and verified additional points.

GUATEMALA
1997
MINUGUA, initially a three month mission later extended until December 2004, verified the ceasefire between the GoG and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (UNRG), cessation of hostilities, separation and concentration of forces, and disarmament. Deployed 122 military observers and 13 medical personnel.

NEPAL
2007-11
CPN UNMIN monitored the disarmament of Maoist rebels (CPN) and preparations for elections. 248 people (with 72 disarmament monitors).

ANGOLA
1989-2003
UNAVEM I to III: first, a tripartite mission (GoA, GoN, UN) to verify the withdrawal of Cuban troops and Namibian independence, then verifying disarmament with 360 unarmed military observers, 90 unarmed police observers, 130 electoral observers, whose numbers later grew to overview ceasefire with UNITA. Later, UNDA and UMINA, political missions to consolidate peace.
7. IN THE SPOTLIGHT

REGIONAL VICTIMS ATTENTION CENTER OPENS IN SOACHA

Soacha is a municipality on the edge of Bogotá that has been significantly affected by the armed conflict, perhaps most notably known for the ‘false positives’ scandal in 2008. To comply with the Victims Law and repair victims, a Regional Attention Center will officially open in early February. To construct the center, where multiple institutions will provide services to victims, the Victims Unit spent about $650,000, in addition to $650,000 from the Mayor’s Office, the Governor’s Office, NGOs, and international cooperation.(20) According to the Victims Unit there are 42,874 registered victims in the municipality of about 500,000 who will benefit.(21)

8. INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCES

Victims Unit

COMMENORATION OF LA CHINITA MASSACRE

On January 1994, FARC killed 35 people in the workers’ neighborhood of La Chinita in Apartadó (Urabá). On the 22nd anniversary of the massacre, the Victims Unit held an event honoring victims with over 300 relatives of victims and community members. During the event, Victims Unit director Paula Gaviria expressed her admiration for the community, the “first urban collective reparation process in the country.”(22)

National Center for Historical Memory (CNMH)

IN 2015, CNMH COLLECTS 5,800 TESTIMONIES FROM DEMOBILIZED EX-COMBATANTS

During 2015, 5,800 demobilized ex-combatants from the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC) shared their experiences as part of their contribution to truth and historical memory. These narratives are used by the CNMH to understand the humanitarian crisis produced by the conflict, as part of the “Agreement of Contribution to Truth,” a non-judicial mechanism established by Law 1424/2010. In 2016, the CNMH will present the first reports with these findings.(23)

9. FURTHER READING

FACT SHEET: PEACE COLOMBIA -- A NEW ERA OF PARTNERSHIP

This document from the White House provides concise and timely information on the impacts of Plan Colombia, the new Peace Colombia, and other aspects of support between the U.S. and Colombia coming down the pike.(24)

ARMED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

Op-ed by Diego Sayan García, Judge at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, on the meaning of the recently agreed-upon U.N. verification mission.(25)

LESSONS FOR SYRIA FROM COLOMBIA: IMPORTANCE OF VICTIMS’ PARTICIPATION

As Virginia Bouvier of the United States Institute for Peace states in this Christian Science Monitor article: “There is no other peace process in the world where victims have occupied such a central role. The model is innovative...in its focus on repairing the damages inflicted on individuals and communities through a process of dialogue and healing.”(26)

10 DOCUMENTARIES TO UNDERSTAND THE COLOMBIAN CONFLICT

The intricacies of over 50 years of internal armed conflict in Colombia are not always easy to unravel. This website presents ten documentaries that prime outside audiences, including “There was No Time for Sadness” (No hubo tiempo para la tristeza) and “The Faces of Memory” (Rostros de la memoria) produced by the CNMH with USAID and IOM support.(27)

THE BIGGEST CONVERSATION IN THE WORLD

Online platform for citizens around the country and the world to participate and discuss peace, the post conflict, and other topics.(28)