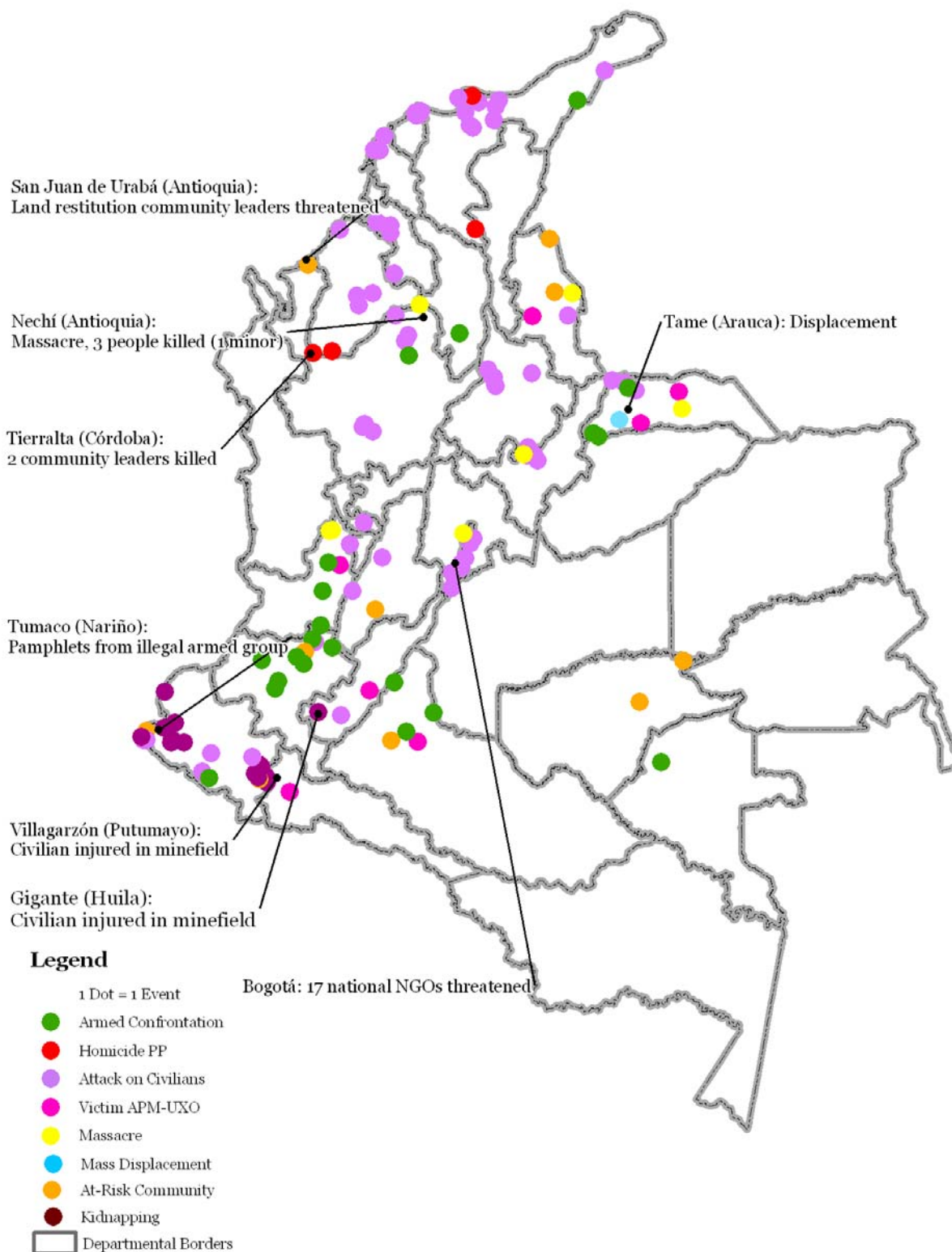


## Highlights

- Mobility restrictions and displacement in Arauca Department
- Wayúu indigenous communities at-risk in Guajira Department
- Inter-American Commission for Human Rights and Amnesty International annual reports



## Mobility restrictions and displacement in Arauca Department

⇒ *Clashes between the FARC and the ELN are worsening the situation of civilians in rural area of the Department.*

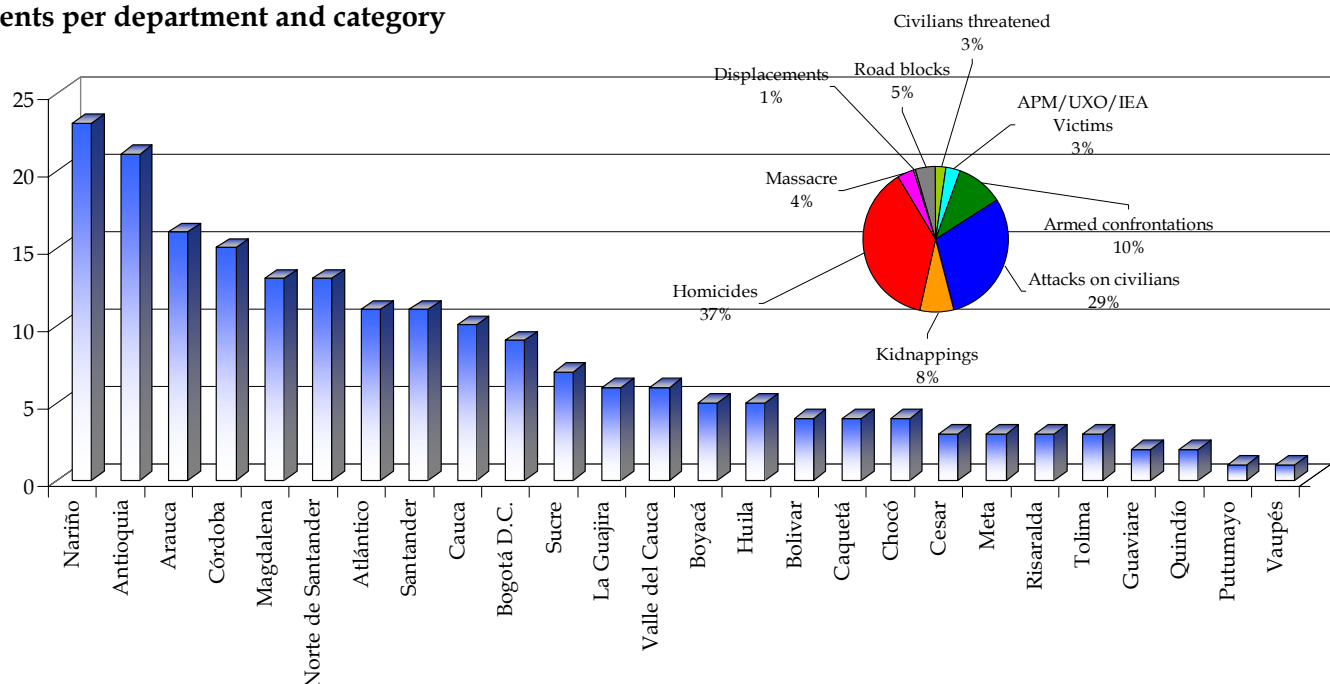
On 30 May, national and international organizations based in Arauca Department reported mobility restrictions and displacements in the villages of Lejanías and El Paraíso, in Arauquita Municipality. Reportedly, 340 people are currently blocked in the two villages, fearing hostilities. Community leaders from El Paraíso, informed that 204 people (68 children among them) are sheltered in a school facility with poor infrastructure and sanitation conditions and limited access to health assistance. People have decided to restrict their mobility in fear of attacks. The same situation was registered in Lejanías, where 136 people (46 children and 7 pregnant women) are staying in a school facility waiting for the clashes to stop. MSF, Acción Social, the Ombudsman's Office, the Family Welfare National Institute (ICBF), the Red Cross and the municipality are providing assistance. Affected communities have made a particular request for psychosocial assistance. Clashes between the FARC and the ELN continue in the area.

## Wayúu indigenous communities at-risk in Guajira Department

⇒ *Interests over strategic territories by illegal armed groups are affecting indigenous communities and weakening their organizational structures.*

The Early Warning System (SAT) of the Ombudsman's Office issued a risk report alerting on the increasing control exercised by new illegal groups that emerged after the paramilitary demobilization in the indigenous reservation of high and middle Guajira region (rural area of the Municipality of Uribia).

Events per department and category



According to the report, Wayúu families have been affected by the territorial dispute between illegal armed groups in various ways: i) increase in homicides among the indigenous families; ii) forced recruitment for intelligence and military purposes; iii) use of the indigenous territory and houses as a corridor for drug and arms trafficking; iv) displacements within the territory as well as border crossing to Venezuela. The SAT report notes with concern the situation along the border with Venezuela, where transnational networks of human trafficking operate. It also calls for special attention to the particular risks faced by Wayúu organizations and victims' associations. The SAT urges authorities to implement prevention and protection measures for the Wayúu indigenous people.

## Inter-American Commission for Human Rights and Amnesty International annual reports

⇒ *“Despite the progress made in an important number of emblematic cases of past human rights violations, the legal, jurisdictional and political obstacles that have helped entrench impunity in the region remained formidable in 2009.” Amnesty International Report 2010*

Both reports give a reading of the situation of human rights developments in the Americas during 2009. AI's report (issued on 27 May) focuses on accountability as a means to ensure human rights and as right of the victims itself. “In recent years, a growing number of Latin American countries have made important advances towards tackling impunity, recognizing that reconciliation is an empty concept unless it is built on truth, justice and reparation.” However, “justice for most of the hundreds of thousands of victims of past human rights violations remained elusive” points out the report. When it comes to Colombia, AI remarks that the declaration by which Colombia postponed the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court with respect to war crimes came to an end in November 2009, “paving the way for investigations into war crimes and crimes against humanity.” Regarding armed conflict, the report pays special attention to the situation in Colombia:

*“The civilian population in Colombia continued to bear the brunt of the 40-year-old internal armed conflict. All the warring parties – the security forces, paramilitaries, and guerrilla groups – to the conflict continued to abuse human rights and violate international humanitarian law. Indigenous Peoples, social leaders and human rights defenders were among the most vulnerable. At least 3 million and possibly as many as 5 million people have been forcibly displaced as a result of the long-running, armed conflict. As many as 286,000 were forced from their homes in 2009 alone. Women continued to suffer sexual violence, communities continued to be subjected to hostage-taking, enforced disappearances, forced recruitment of children, indiscriminate attacks, and those deemed a particular risk to each party's interests faced death threats to intimidate them.”*

ICHR reviews Colombia in its annual report (released on 9 June) since, the situation in the Republic of Colombia in 2009 falls within the framework of the criteria set forth by the Commission, related to: i) total or partial suspension of the free exercise of the rights set forth in the American Convention or American declaration; ii) evidence of massive and grave violations of human rights; iii) Countries in process of transition from the above situations; iv) grave situation of violations that prevent the rule of law. ICHR also reports on the precautionary measures granted during 2009, as well as the status of compliance with its recommendations by the Member States. In the chapter referred to Colombia, the report focuses on “the process of “demobilization of armed groups and judicial investigation and reparation of crimes perpetrated in the context of the conflict.” The IACHR highlights “the commendable efforts (of the Colombian State) to move forward with the peace process through the demobilization of armed actors and protection of its citizens”. However, it notes with concern: the targeting and use of demobilized persons for military and intelligence operations; the targeting of vulnerable groups, social leaders, and human rights defenders by illegal armed



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groups; the regrouping of demobilized combatants and strengthening of armed structures in areas controlled by former paramilitaries and forced recruitment of youth and minors.

## Follow-up: First rainy season

In Antioquia department, some 700 people were affected by rains and floods during this week. The Local and Departmental Committees for emergency assistance have delivered emergency aid. The first rainy season started in April has left a toll of 23 dead, 103 wounded, 5 missing, 106,641 people affected, 247 houses destroyed and 18,842 damaged. Heavy rains have caused emergencies in 160 municipalities (more than 10% of the Country) in 25 departments as well as the District of Bogotá. The GoC has delivered more than US \$ 600,000 on emergency aid and is expecting to deliver some US\$ 700,000 more. The GoC asked local authorities to activate local contingency plans due to the beginning of the hurricane season, which could cause heavy rains in the Country.

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