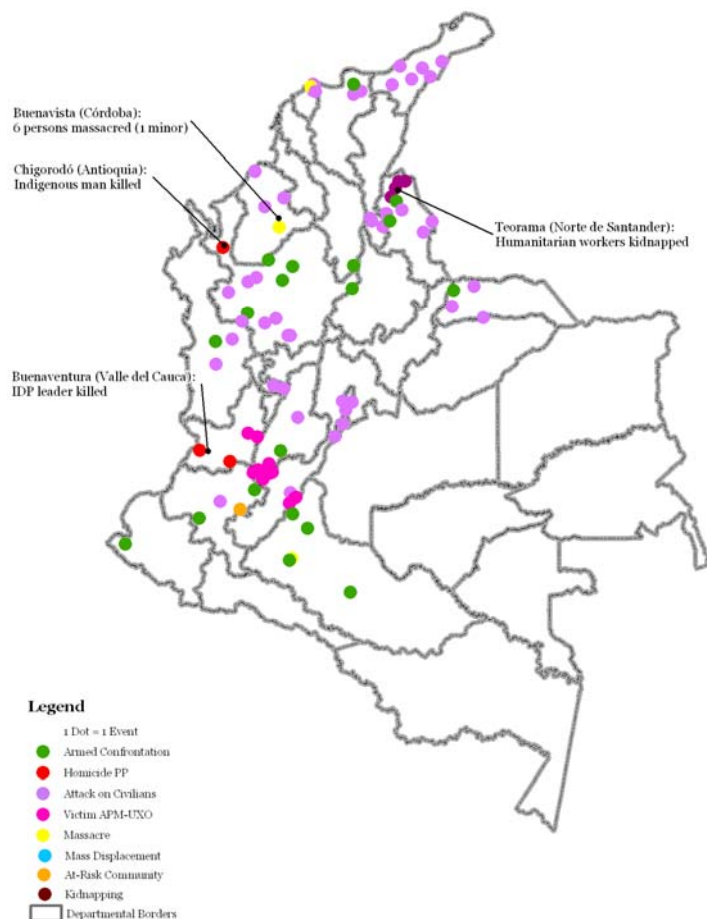


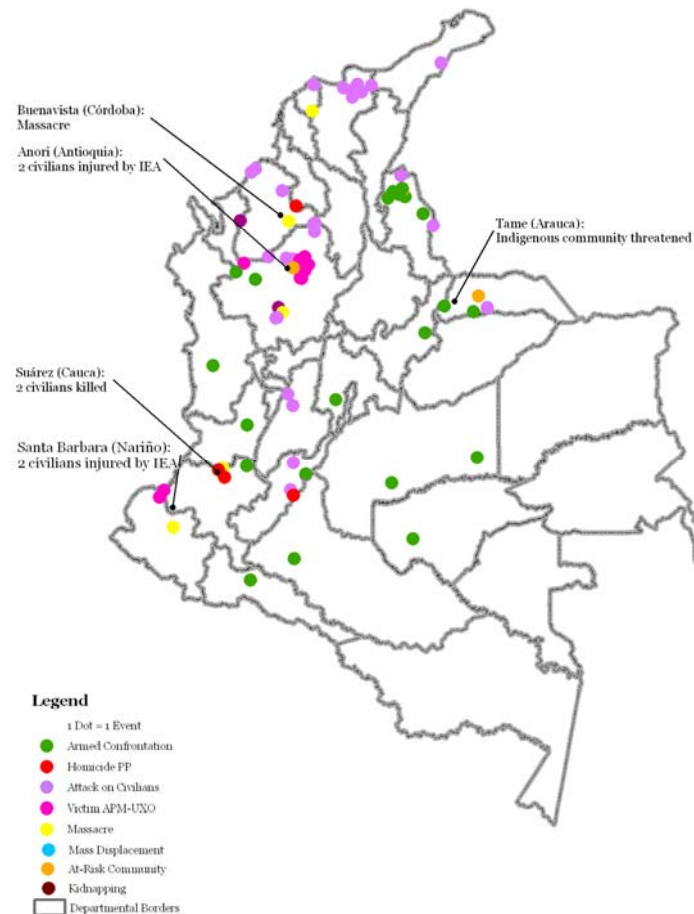
Highlights

- Diplomatic tensions between Colombia and Venezuela in its highest point
- IDP community leader killed in Buenaventura
- Follow-up: Humanitarian situation of indigenous IDPs in Timbiquí
- Follow-up: First rainy season
- Report on the humanitarian situation in Soacha

12 - 18 July



19 - 25 July



Diplomatic tensions between Colombia and Venezuela in its highest point

⇒ According to Accion Social, in 2009 an average of two Colombians returns every day from Venezuela. This number could increase significantly with the break of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

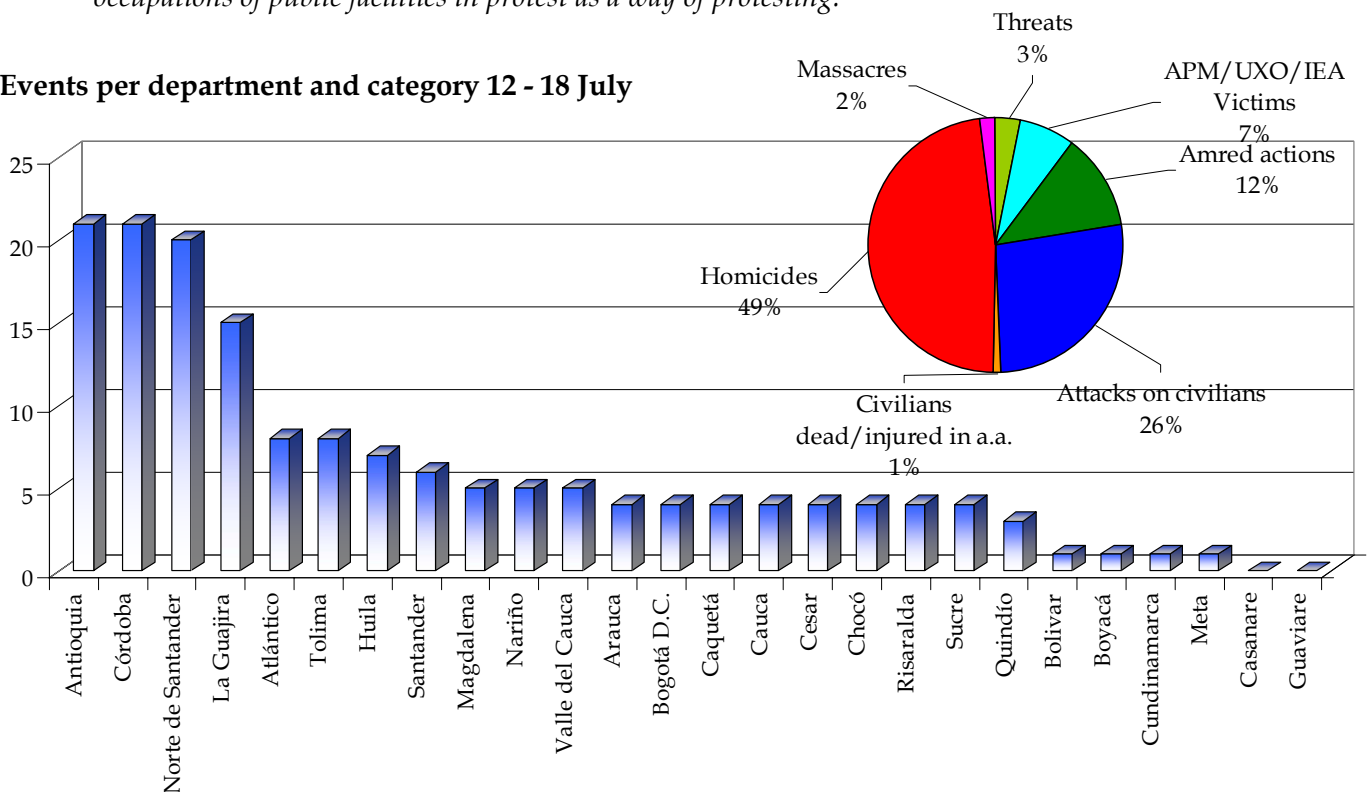
On 23 July, during a meeting of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Washington requested by Colombia, the Colombian Ambassador denounced the presence of leftist Colombian illegal armed groups in its territory (FARC and ELN). After the OAS meeting, President Chavez announced his decision to break diplomatic ties with Colombia and ordered the military to be on maximum alert on Venezuela's border with Colombia. So far, the Venezuelan consulates in Colombia are operating normally and no incidents have been reported yet.

According to Venezuelan official data more than 12.000 Colombians are officially registered as asylum-seekers in Venezuela. An undetermined additional number of Colombians have crossed the border and have international protection needs, but their situation of vulnerability remains invisible. Authorities acknowledge that there is a legal gap to address the humanitarian needs of Colombian returnees, and that this phenomenon can be related to an increase of violence in the area.

Illegal armed groups target IDPs community leaders in Valle del Cauca

⇒ According to official figures, more than 70,000 persons have been forced to flee their homes in Buenaventura, while the same number of people has arrived in the urban area since 1997. IDPs' organizations have been denouncing constant delays and frequent lack of assistance in the urban area. In 2009, IDPs undertook four occupations of public facilities in protest as a way of protesting.

Events per department and category 12 - 18 July



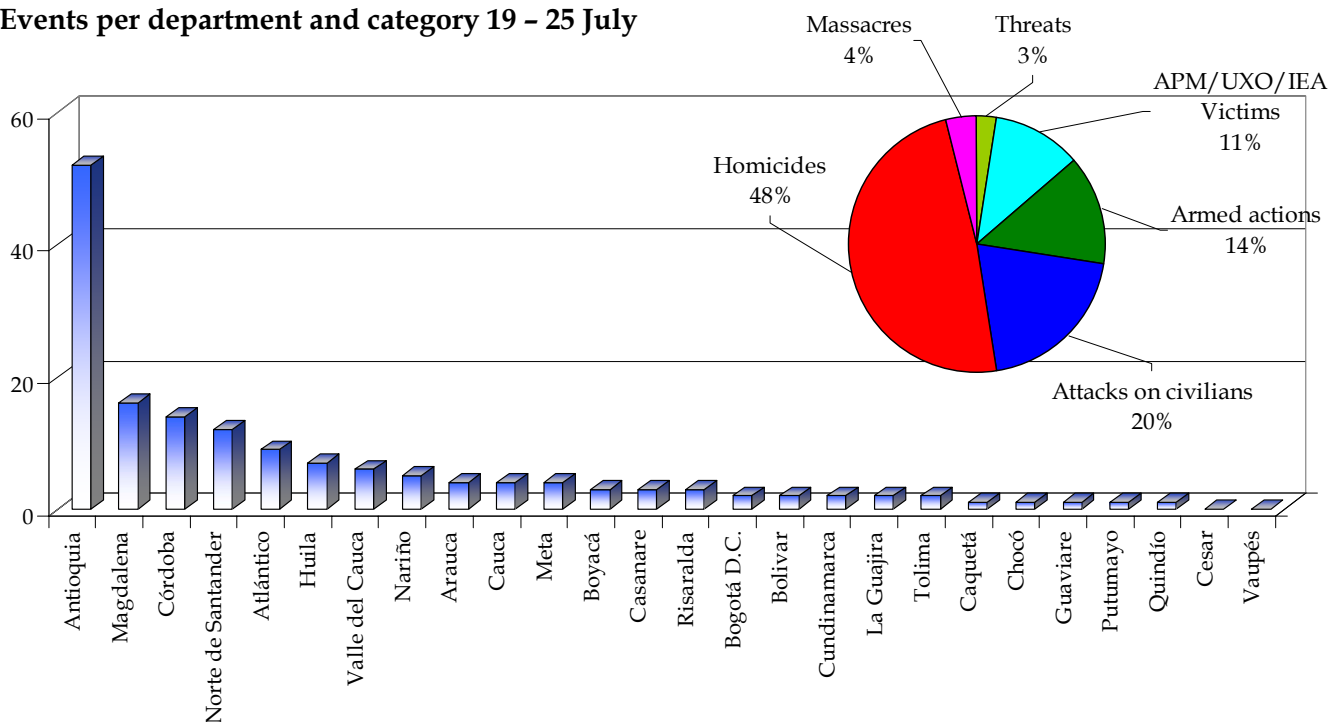
On 12 July, 36 IDPs occupied the public office for IDPs orientation and assistance (UAO) in protest by the delays in the delivery of humanitarian assistance. On 17 July, Jair Murillo, a leader of a local IDPs' association who was leading the occupation, was killed in Buenaventura. According to AFRODES (association of afro-Colombian IDPs), he was coordinating a national IDPs mobilization to Bogotá, scheduled for 18 July. AFRODES also denounced threats against 16 organizations of Afro-Colombian IDPs by a new illegal armed group emerged after the paramilitary demobilization. WOLA (Washington Office for Latin America) issued a communiqué denouncing the situation and called upon the US Government to "work with the (Colombian) Vice-presidency and Acción Social in implementing Court Order 005 on Afro-Colombian IDPs". On 22 July, nearly 100 IDPs gathered in front of a public facility in Buenaventura demanding the payment of subsidies (established by law) by the National Government. According to the demonstrators, there is a delay of up to six months in these payments.

According to the organizations that led the protest, the national government has not fully complied with the agreements set up on November 2009 after a four-day occupation. In that occasion, more than 2,600 IDPs demanded the inclusion in the official IDP registry and the delivery of emergency humanitarian aid during an extended period. In the afternoon of 12 July, the municipality established a round table with Acción Social, the education and health local secretariats, the local ombudsman, the regional Attorney's Office, the National Police and representatives of the IDPs associations to discuss the situation and set an agreement. During the meeting, the protesters agreed upon ceasing the occupation and presenting a list of demands to the local and national authorities. A meeting to present the list took place on 26 July.

Follow-up: Humanitarian workers released in Norte de Santander

⇒ Between 8 and 9 July 2010, three women from the national NGO Progresar Fundation and one more working for the Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Programme of the Vice-presidency were kidnapped by alleged members of the guerrilla group Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN).

Events per department and category 19 - 25 July



On 23 July, the three humanitarian workers were released by the ELN. A commission integrated by the spokesman of the Catholic Church in Ocaña Province, a priest and the local ombudsman of Teorama municipality and a journalist acted as mediator in the liberation process. The women were released in the village of San José de Pitás, municipality of Convención. The ELN issued a public communiqué indicating that the kidnapping was due to their opposition to the implementation of projects related to a National Policy. The humanitarian group of Norte de Santander met on 26 July, to assess the possible impact of this event for humanitarian workers in the region. So far, the international organizations with presence in the Department will continue their regular missions. On 14 July, UNHCHR issued a press released condemning the kidnapping and asked the immediate release of the women.

Follow-up: Humanitarian Situation of indigenous IDPs in Timbiquí

- ⇒ *On September 2008, more than 1,500 members of the Eperara Siapidara indigenous group displaced from the rural area of Timbiquí (Pacific coast of Cauca Department). Since then, the displaced communities are staying in two temporary shelters, in poor health and sanitation conditions. The lack of medical assistance is severely affecting IDPs. Outbreaks of waterborne diseases in the shelters have been reported since early April. On May 20 an indigenous child died, raising to 12 the death toll of children due to poor health in the last 20 months.*

From 7 to 14 July, UNHCR, FAO, Diakonie, WFP, UNDSS, Solidaridad Internacional and OCHA conducted a joint mission to Timbiquí and López de Micay (Pacific coast of Cauca Department). The mission's objective was to present and define with local authorities and communities the implementation of CERF projects (UF Window 2010) in these municipalities. In Timbiquí, the mission visited the displaced communities of Guangüü and San Miguel de Infi and, together with the communities, assessed the most urgent needs vis-à-vis their return. Meanwhile, the Departmental Committee for IDPs Assistance met to assess the situation in Timbiquí on 12 July. During the meeting, following a request of the communities, the Colombian Navy indicated that the security conditions in the area are stable for IDPs to return. The Committee will define the logistics for the return and coordinate the assistance for IDPs.

Organizations issue report on the humanitarian situation in Soacha Municipality

- ⇒ *On 13 July, a group of local and national NGOs, together with the local ombudsman, the Catholic Church and some international organizations with presence in Soacha issued a report "Soacha a silent shout" on the humanitarian situation in the municipality.*

Among the main concerns of the report is the lack of official figures regarding the overall situation of the population which is considered by the group as "a protracted humanitarian crisis". The report gives a reading of the situation vis-à-vis five categories: social practices of the armed conflict, threats, forced displacement and recruitment, extrajudicial executions and forced disappearances. Soacha, is among the municipalities with the highest rate of reception of displaced population but under registration remains an issue of concern. The report points out that "in the last years the municipality has registered the expulsion of population" and that the local ombudsman has alerted on the increase in intra-urban displacement. Regarding forced recruitment, "a silent process of linking of boys and girls, and youths to the armed conflict in Soacha". According to local figures, nearly 15% of the total denounces by threats in Soacha (between March 2008 and December 2009) are related to forced recruitment.

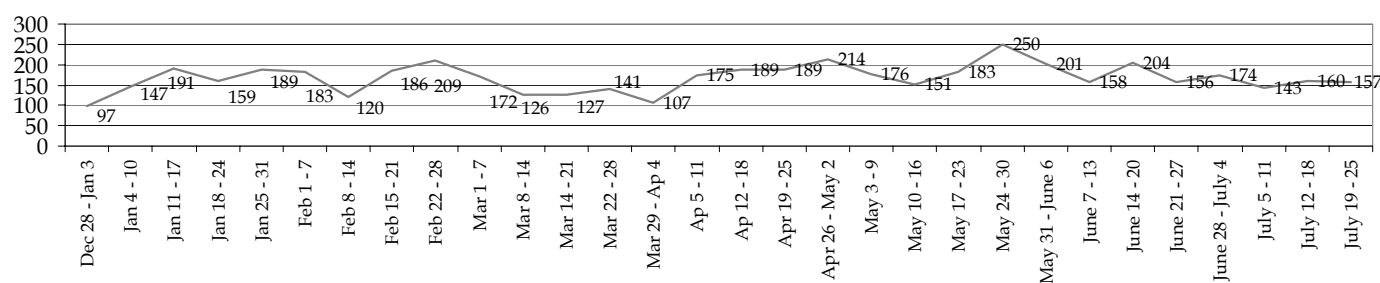
Among the main recommendations of the report are: i) the creation of a IHL and Human Rights Observatory for Soacha; ii) the full compliance with the law regarding the creation and activation of assistance and protection routes for the affected population; iii) the review and allocation of resources for the public policy on children, youth and IDPs; iv) the promotion of coordination scenarios and; v) more visibility of the the humanitarian crisis in Soacha.

Follow-up: First rainy season

On 23 July, the road between Bogotá and Villavicencio (the main road of the east of the Country) was closed for five days due to landslides. Antioquia, La Guajira, Cesar, Sucre, Magdalena, Bolívar, Boyacá, Arauca, Norte de Santander, Putumayo and Nariño are some of the most affected departments. In Nariño department, local authorities requested the UN System for support and technical assistance to respond to the emergency caused by the overflow of the Magüí , Telembí and Güelmambí Rivers (in the municipalities of Magüí Payán and Barbacoas). The humanitarian group in Nariño, with the support of the UNETT is undertaking a Rapid Needs Assessment mission in both municipalities from 27 July to 1 August. Representatives of local and departmental authorities are also accompanying the mission.

	12 - 25 July						
	Dead	Injured	Missing	Affected	Families	Homes destroyed	Damaged homes
Landslides	4	0	0	423	85	3	0
Floods	5	2	0	115,060	24,104	39	22,605
Wind storms	0	0	0	385	78	0	78
Electric storms	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	10	2	0	115,868	24,267	42	22,764
Accumulated April 6 July 25*	59	126	7	372,207	80,284	383	67,860

Events - Weekly trend *



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