Situation of human rights in Colombia in 2022

Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

THE REPORT

- Analyses the human rights situation in Colombia in 2022.
- Highlights the impact of territorial violence on human rights, and the state of implementation of human rights provisions of the 2016 Peace
- Addresses the new "total peace" policy and the transition to a human security model.

MAIN REFORMS PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT

- The "total peace" policy that includes the commitment to strengthen implementation of the 2016 Peace Agreement.
- The shift in drug policy, with a less punitive and more social and public health approach.
- The shift in the security policy to a human security approach and the reform to the security sector.

SITUATION OF SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN FIGURES



Killings of human rights defenders

Allegations of killings of human rights defenders received in 2022:



of the verified cases of homicides are against the members of the Juntas de Acción Comunal (JAC)

Allegations of killings of human rights defenders verified in the last three years:



Massacres

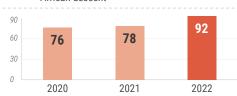
Allegations of massacres in 2022:







Allegations of massacres verified in the last three years:



Displacement and confinement

According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in 2022:

82,862

people were displaced (19% are children; 65% are indigenous people and people of African descent)

were confined (70% are indigenous people and people of African descent)

102,395

Departments with the highest reported Human Rights violations

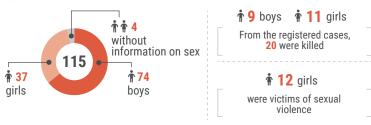


Killings of former FARC-EP combatants

The United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia (UNVMC) verified, in 2022, the killings of 50 former FARC-EP combatants, bringing the total number of killings of former combatants to 355 since the signing of the Peace Agreement in November 2016.

Recruitment of children and adolescents

In 2022, the Office registered 115 cases of children and adolescents recruited by non-State armed groups:



SECURITY FORCES

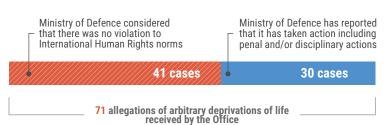
Killings of members of the security forces

M 103

According to the Observatory on Human Rights and National Defence, 103 members of the security forces were killed by criminal organizations and non-State armed groups in 2022.

SECURITY FORCES

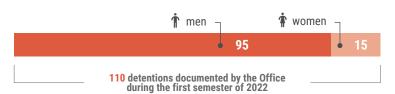
Arbitrary deprivations of life



The Office sent the **71** allegations to the Ministry of Defence, who considered that, in **41** cases, no violation to the right to life was committed, because international standards regarding the use of force and firearms and/or international humanitarian law had been respected, and/or because security forces were not involved in these allegations.

The Ministry of Defence also informed that it had taken action in 30 allegations where the right to life may have been violated, including penal and/or disciplinary actions in some cases.

RIGHT TO PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY



During the first half of 2022, OHCHR documented 110 cases of people arrested and detained in connection with the National Strike protests in 2021. The majority of those charged are young people between 18 and 28 year-old, in vulnerable conditions, who had participated in protests or so-called spaces of resistance in the country's main cities.

SOME RECOMMENDATIONS

- Calls upon the State to strengthen the presence and capacity of its civil authorities and institutions in the territories most affected by the violence, including ethnic territorial authorities, and to strengthen the coordination of local, regional and national actions to respond to the conflict and violence.
- Calls for immediate measures to de-escalate the violence and mitigate its
 impact to be agreed upon in the context of talks and/or negotiations with
 non-State armed groups, and/or criminal organizations, and for these to
 adhere to international norms and standards on victims' rights and
 combating impunity.
- Urges non-State armed groups to fully respect human rights and, where applicable, international humanitarian law.
- Urges the strengthening of community participation in the implementation of the rural reform, social management plans for rural property, policies of access to land for rural women, and to ensure that the purchase of land by the State does not generate speculative processes.
- Calls on the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the National Land Agency and other entities in the sector to create a programme of priority access to land for rural women.
- Urges the State to strengthen community participation in the framework of the National Comprehensive Programme for the Substitution of Illicit Crops, its articulation with comprehensive rural reform, the territorial approach and the implementation of the access to land programme.
- Urges the State to incorporate the recommendations of the Commission for the Clarification of Truth into existing and future public policies. Also encourages the continuation of processes of recognition of responsibility before the Special Jurisdiction for Peace that are vital for accountability and the fight against impunity.
- Urges the State to adopt and implement a public policy to dismantle criminal organizations and an action plan for the National Commission on Security Guarantees, taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for the Clarification of Truth, complying with international human rights obligations and including participation of civil society.
- Urges the Government to reactivate and strengthen ethnic participation bodies and to facilitate the ongoing and participatory monitoring of the implementation of the Peace Agreement's ethnic chapter at the regional level.
- Urges the State to regulate Law 70 and adopt a methodology to guarantee the right to prior consultation in accordance with international standards in all decisions affecting indigenous peoples and people of African descent, including those related to the implementation of the Peace Agreement.

- Calls for intensified efforts to ensure access to comprehensive care for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in the context of conflict, ensuring stigmatization is avoided. The prevention of gender-based and sexual violence must be prioritized in areas most affected by conflict.
- Urges the State to take comprehensive and differentiated measures to prevent and provide early responses to the recruitment of children and adolescents in the context of the conflict, including measures to prevent recruitment for sexual exploitation and to strengthen protective environments at home, at school, and within the community.
- Urges the State to initiate a process to reform intelligence law, with broad participation from civil society, including appropriate mechanisms for monitoring and analysing information. Also urges the inclusion of grounds for the declassification of intelligence when there are consistent indications that violations of human rights and international humanitarian law may have been committed as a result of the collection or use of such information.
- Invites the State to make progress on security sector reforms through the new human security policy, based on measurable and objective indicators, which include differential, gender and ethnic approaches to changing military and police doctrines. Also calls for the establishment of inter-institutional coordination spaces for the operationalization of human security policy.
- Urges the Government to adopt and implement a national policy for the protection of defenders, within the framework of the national guarantee process, with the broad participation of civil society, that can respond to the needs for prevention, protection, combating impunity and the stigmatization of defenders.
- Calls on Congress to approve the initiative to strengthen the human rights work of ombudspersons in category five and six municipalities with high levels of violence against communities.
- Urges the Attorney General's Office to make progress in investigating alleged human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law in a thorough, prompt, independent, impartial and effective manner, including violations committed during the 2021 National Strike, particularly killings in the context of protests, serious injuries, including eye injuries, and gender-based violence, and to bring the perpetrators to justice.
- Urges the Attorney General's Office to ensure that the prosecution of violent acts during protests complies with human rights norms and standards, including the application and interpretation of criminal offences in accordance with the acts pursued.