

Glossary and abbreviations

Glossary and abbreviations

Term	Definition
ACLED	Armed Conflict Location and Event Data
ACSN	Autodefensas Conquistadores de la Sierra Nevada (Conquering Self-Defense Forces of the Sierra Nevada)
AFP	Acuerdo Final para la terminación del conflicto y la construcción de una Paz estable y duradera (2016 Final Agreement for Ending Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace)
AGC	Autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia (Gaitanista Self-Defense Forces of Colombia). AGC is also known as Clan del Golfo, Urabeños, Clan Úsuga; criminal armed group having historic links to paramilitary groups
Alerta Temprana	Early Warning. A communication used by the Office of the Ombudsperson to alert the national government on imminent risks to certain profiles or geographical areas.
APM	Anti-personnel mines
AUC	Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia (United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia); far-right paramilitary and drug trafficking organisation that later demobilised and some groups fragmented and were later recycled into other armed groups such as the AGC
AUN	Autodefensas Unidas de Nariño (Self-Defence Forces of Nariño)
BACRIM	A label created by the Colombian government for criminal bands or gangs that include recycled former paramilitary groups but that lack any apparent political agenda; also *bandas criminales*
banda	Organised criminal group, sometimes used interchangeably with *combo;* depending on the context, can mean a small gang or a higher-level grouping in the gang hierarchy

Term	Definition
Bandas criminales	See *also* BACRIM
CAI	Centros de Atención Inmediata (Immediate Reaction Centres); local police units
campesino	Small-scale farmer or peasant
CDF-EB	Comandos de la Frontera-Ejército-Bolivariano; sub-group of FARC aligned with the Coordinadora Nacional del Ejército Bolivariano; most commonly known as Comandos de La Frontera (Border Command) (formerly La Mafia)
CED	Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
CERREM	Comité de Evaluación del Riesgo y Recomendación de Medidas (Risk Evaluation and Recommendation Committee)
CESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
CEV	Commisión para el Esclarecimiento de la Verdad, la Convivencia y la No Repetición (Truth Commission)
CGP	Coordinadora Guerrillera del Pacífico (Guerrilla Coordinator Front for the Pacific); a FARC dissident group
CGR	Contraloría General de la República (Office of the Comptroller General)
CIA	US Central Intelligence Agency
CTREP	Circunscripciones Transitorias Especiales de Paz (Special Transitory Peace Seats Electoral Districts)
CMW	Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CNEB	Coordinadora Nacional del Ejército Bolivariano (National Coordinator of the Bolivarian Army). A FARC dissident group that split from Segunda Marquetalia.

Term	Definition
CNGS	La Comisión Nacional de Garantías de Seguridad (National Commission on Security Guarantees)
CNTI	La Comisión Nacional de Territorios Indígenas (National Commission on Indigenous Territories)
COCE	Comando Central; Central Command of the ELN
combo	A term used to mean a gang
Comunas	A common name used to refer to neighbourhoods in Medellín
Comunes	Name of the political party formed by the FARC-EP after their demobilisation and transition into politics in 2017. The party was originally called FARC, Fuerza Alternativa Revolucionaria del Común (Revolutionary Alternative Common Force), but the name was changed to Comunes in 2021 to rebrand itself and avoid usage of the FARC acronym associated with the armed group
COP	Colombian pesos
CPRD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CTI	Cuerpo Técnico de Investigación (Judicial Police Corps for Investigations; separate from the police, although with judicial police powers)
DINAL	Dirección Nacional (National Directorate); ELN
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
ELN	Ejército de Liberación Nacional (National Liberation Army)
EMBF	Estado Mayor de Bloques y Frentes (General Staff of Blocks and Fronts), a FARC dissident group that started out as EMC, led by alias ‘Calarcá’.
EMC	Estado Mayor Central (Central General Staff, a FARC dissident group, led by alias ‘Iván Mordisco’.
EPL	Ejército Popular de Liberación (Popular Liberation Army), a formerly Maoist/leftist armed group that demobilised in 1991 which became the criminal group called Los Pelusos. Referred to as EPL in this report.
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War
ESMAD	Escuadrones Móviles Antidisturbios (Mobile Anti-Disturbance Squadron); Riot police within the Colombian National Police

Term	Definition
Falsos positivos	False positives; killings carried out by state security forces who falsely reported civilians as guerrillas; mostly occurring in 2002-2006
FARC dissidents	Also called FARC-EP dissidents, post-FARC groups, Ex-FARC mafia; formed by former FARC members who did not sign on to the 2016 peace accord between FARC-EP and the government or later broke away
FARC-EP	Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia – Ejército del Pueblo (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People's Army); left-wing Marxist-Leninist guerrilla group that fought against the state of Colombia for 52 years until the 2016 Peace Agreement
FCS	Frente Comuneros del Sur; an ELN dissident group
FGN	Fiscalía General de la Nación (Office of the Attorney General)
First Front	FARC dissident structure also called Joint Eastern Command, Bloque Oriental; it now includes factions that were under the command of Gentil Duarte; led by Iván Mordisco; referred to in this report as First Front (commonly called EMC).
FLIP	Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa (Freedom of the Press Foundation)
GAO	Grupo Armado Organizado (Organised Armed Group), defined as an armed actor in the civil conflict under Colombian law
GAULA	Grupos de Acción Unificada por la Libertad Personal (Unified Action Groups for Personal Freedom)
GBV	Gender-based violence
GDCO	Grupos de Delincuencia Común Organizada (Criminal Groups), groups dedicated to criminal activities such as thefts, street-level drug trafficking, homicides, and extortion
GDO	Grupo Delictivo Organizado (Organised Criminal Group), organised criminal groups with transnational reach dedicated to illicit activities such as drug trafficking
Gentil Duarte	A leader of the EMC dissident faction of the FARC-EP which refused to adhere to the 2016 peace accord (joined after Iván Mordisco, who has always led the group). Killed in May 2022.
gota a gota	‘drop by drop’ informal, very high-interest loans offered by loan sharks; often managed by armed or criminal groups
GPC	Global Protection Cluster
HRD	Human rights defender
IACHR	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

Term	Definition
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Second Optional Protocol
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
IDP	Internally displaced person
Indepaz	Instituto de Estudios para el Desarrollo y la Paz (Institute of Studies for Development and Peace Studies)
INMLCF	Instituto Nacional de Medicina Legal y Ciencias Forenses (National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences)
JAC	Juntas de Acción Comunal (Community Action Board. There are local community action groups that go down to parochial level in Colombia)
JEP	Jurisdicción Especial para la Paz (Special Jurisdiction for Peace)
La Oficina de Envigado	The Office of Envigado, an urban organised crime structure initially founded by Pablo Escobar in Medellín
La Terraza	Organised crime gang in Medellín, historically part of the Oficina de Envigado
Los Caparrapos	Also called Los Caparros but referred to as Los Caparrapos in this report; a paramilitary successor spin-off group of the AGC that broke away in 2017
Los Pelusos	Also called EPL, a formerly Maoist group turned criminal organisation; referred to as EPL in this report.
Los Puntilleros	Paramilitary successor group with roots in AUC
Los Rastrojos	Paramilitary successor group formerly called Rondas Campesinas Populares
Mafia Sinaloa	Mafia Sinaloa is a former incarnation of the Border Command FARC-dissident group CDF-EB; local Colombian criminal group made up of members of La Constru and FARC
megabandas	Venezuelan crime syndicates such as the Tren de Aragua gang
mestizo	A person of mixed Indigenous-Spanish origin
Military target	A term used by armed groups or the state to demarcate a person deemed to be an opponent (objectivo militar)
NGO	Non-governmental organisation

Term	Definition
NSAG	Non-State armed groups
OAS	Organization of American States
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OFAC	US Office of Foreign Assets Control
OFPRA	Office français de protection des réfugiés et apatrides (French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons)
OHCHR	UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
ONIC	Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia
Pares	Fundación Paz y Reconciliación (Peace and Reconciliation Foundation), a Colombian NGO that studies violence
Paros armados	Armed strikes or stoppages carried out by illegal armed groups
PDET	Programas de Desarrollo con Enfoque Territorial (Development Plans with a Territorial Focus) *prefer* Territorially Focused Development Programmes
PGN	Procuraduría General de la Nación (Office of the Inspector General)
Plan pistola	The systematic targeting and assassination of state security forces, often by offering a cash bounty for each killing. This strategy is used by illegal armed groups to terrorise law enforcement, assert territorial control, and retaliate against government offensives
PNC	Policía Nacional de Colombia (National Police of Colombia)
PNIS	Programa Nacional Integral de Sustitución de Cultivos Ilícitos (National Comprehensive Programme for the Substitution of Illicit Crops)
RELE	OAS' Relatoría Especial para la Libertad de Expresión (Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights)
RSF	Reporters Sans Frontières
RUV	Registro Único de Víctimas (Single Registry of Victims)

Term	Definition
sapo	An informant
SAT	*Sistema de Alertas Tempranas* (Early Warning System); government alert system for risks of human rights violations; run by the Office of the Ombudsperson
sicario, sicariato	'Hitman'; hired assassin, often linked to criminal or armed groups – who carries out targeted killings for payment as part of organised violence or territorial control claims
Sinaloa Cartel	Mexican drug cartel
SIVIGE	Sistema Integrado de Información de Violencias de Género
SIVJRNR	Sistema Integral de Verdad, Justicia, Reparación y No Repetición (Comprehensive System for Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repetition) created by the 2016 peace accord with the FARC
SM	Segunda Marquetalia (Second Marquetalia). A dissident faction of FARC-EP which broke away from the 2016 peace accord in 2019
TPS	Temporary Protection Status
UARIV	Unidad para la Atención y Reparación Integral a las Víctimas del Conflicto Armado (Unit for the Attention and Integral Reparation of Victims)
UBPD	Unidad de Búsqueda de Personas Dadas por Desaparecidas (Unit for the Search for Persons Deemed Disappeared)
UNCAT	United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNP	Unidad Nacional de Protección (National Protection Unit)
UNVMC	United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia
USDOS	United States Department of State
vacunas	'Taxes,' 'rents,' or 'protection fees' charged by armed groups through extortion

© European Union Agency for Asylum 2026 | Email: info@euaa.europa.eu