

3.1.1. Autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia (AGC)

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AGC, also known as Gulf Clan (Clan del Golfo) or Ejército Gaitanista de Colombia (EGC), is one of the most powerful illegal organisations in Colombia, with over 14 000 combatants and present in 316 municipalities in 24 out of the country's 32 departments, including Antioquia, Córdoba, Chocó, Sucre, Bolívar, Atlántico, Magdalena, Valle del Cauca, Nariño, Meta and Casanare and nearby localities.¹⁶⁵ Human Rights Watch indicated that as of June 2024, the Gulf Clan had presence in 392¹⁶⁶ of Colombia's 1 104 municipalities.¹⁶⁷ AGC emerged from the demobilisation of the AUC in 2006¹⁶⁸ and currently consists of 34 criminal structures consolidated around six blocks, up from 22 Fronts.¹⁶⁹

AGC operates a mixed structure, with a central hierarchy and regional franchises that operate with certain level of autonomy, facilitating its expansion and control over territories and revenues over illicit economies, as well as military response to local threats.¹⁷⁰ According to Pares, AGC is 'highly adaptable' to regional and local environments.¹⁷¹

AGC engages in armed confrontations with ELN and FARC dissident groups to dispute illicit economies, often causing displacements, killings, and threats in local communities.¹⁷² It also engages in drug and arms trafficking, illegal mining, trafficking of migrants, money laundering, control over medicines and alcohol, and extortion of both legal and illegal economic activities.¹⁷³ AGC seeks to dominate strategic real estate important for the export of drugs such as stretches of the Pacific and Atlantic coastlines, internal movement corridors within the country and the border with Venezuela and borders with Panama in the Darién Gap and Venezuela.¹⁷⁴ According to Pares, AGC carries out armed stoppages (*paros armados*), the systematic targeting and assassination of state security forces (*plan pistola*),¹⁷⁵ restrictions to the freedom of movement, and confinements in order to exert political pressure or exert authority in areas of influence.¹⁷⁶ The AGC is accused of crimes comprising forced recruitment, including of minors, and of exerting social control in areas of influence.¹⁷⁷

According to Pares, between January 2023 and May 2025, AGC was involved in 514 armed actions, including armed clashes with other illegal armed groups and state security forces, confinement, forced displacement, and threats and killings of social leaders.¹⁷⁸

In February 2025, the government announced the establishment of a negotiation table with the AGC, but the illegal armed group indicated that the conditions for negotiations were not in place.¹⁷⁹ In March 2025, the government restarted bombardments against the AGC after the group

killed four soldiers during an ambush in Segovia, Antioquia.¹⁸⁰ However, on 18 September 2025, the first round of talks between the AGC and the government began in Doha (Qatar). Both parties agreed to engage a process of socio-judicial peace talks, with five piloting municipalities for peace implementation in Antioquia and Chocó, where the group is strongly present.¹⁸¹

The AGC has been recruiting former combatants of the FARC-EP, the ELN, as well as former military personnel¹⁸² as fighters¹⁸³ and instructors.¹⁸⁴ It has also expanded corruption networks within the Armed Forces to prevent military actions, obtain intelligence, and detect informants.¹⁸⁵

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Pares, La paz ¿Cómo vamos?, 18 June 2025, [url](#), pp. 100-103; France, OFPRA, Rapport de mission en République de Colombie, 28 November 2024, [url](#), p. 34

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HRW, World Report 2025 - Colombia, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

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France, OFPRA, Rapport de mission en République de Colombie, 28 November 2024, [url](#), p. 34; Pares, La paz ¿Cómo vamos?, 18 June 2025, [url](#), p. 102

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Pares, La paz ¿Cómo vamos?, 18 June 2025, [url](#), p. 102

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Pares, La paz ¿Cómo vamos?, 18 June 2025, [url](#), p. 102

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Pares, La paz ¿Cómo vamos?, 18 June 2025, [url](#), p. 106

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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 terrorize law enforcement, assert territorial control, and retaliate against government offensives. Miami Herald, Wave of police killings in Colombia copies drug lord Pablo Escobar's terror tactics, 6 May 2025, [url](#)

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Pares, La paz ¿Cómo vamos?, 18 June 2025, [url](#), p. 105

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Verdad Abierta, Paz Total: ¿un paso adelante y dos atrás?, 21 April 2025, [url](#); France, OFPRA, Rapport de mission en République de Colombie, 28 November 2024, [url](#), p. 52

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Pares, La paz ¿Cómo vamos?, 18 June 2025, [url](#), pp. 111-112

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Verdad Abierta, Paz Total: ¿un paso adelante y dos atrás?, 21 April 2025, [url](#); Verdad Abierta, Paz Total: ¿un paso adelante y dos atrás?, 21 April 2025, [url](#)

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Indepaz, El acuerdo entre el Gobierno y el Ejército Gaitainista de Colombia: ¿Un paso hacia la paz o un riesgo de impunidad ?, 19 September 2025, [url](#)

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Verdad Abierta, Paz Total: ¿un paso adelante y dos atrás?, 21 April 2025, [url](#)

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Verdad Abierta, Paz Total: ¿un paso adelante y dos atrás?, 21 April 2025, [url](#)

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Verdad Abierta, Paz Total: ¿un paso adelante y dos atrás?, 21 April 2025, [url](#); Infobae, Estos serían los lazos corruptos que tenía el Clan del Golfo en la Policía y el Ejército Nacional: les pagaban hasta 50 millones de pesos, 1 December 2024, [url](#)