

3.1.4. Estado Mayor de Bloques y Frentes (EMBF)

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The EMBF is a dissident group of the FARC-EP[232] which has presence in 111 municipalities in eight departments and has about 2 700 combatants.[233] EMBF started out as part of EMC.[234] According to Pares, EMBF has two main structures as follows:

Bloc Magdalena Medio 'Commandant Gentil Duarte', with presence in the departments of Antioquia, Cesar, Bolívar, Córdoba, and the Catatumbo region, and consists of Front 4, Front 18, Front 24, Front 36, Front 37 Martín Caballero, Front 33 Mariscal Antonio José de Sucre, and Mobil Column Bernardo Jaramillo; and

Bloc 'José Suárez Briceño', with presence in the departments of Meta Huila, Caquetá, and Putumayo, and consists of Front Gaitán Gutiérrez, Front Marco Aurelio Buendía, Front Ever Castro, Front Arturo Ruíz, Front Iván Díaz, Front Rodrigo Cadete, Front Darío Gutiérrez, Front Jhon Linares, Front Raúl Reyes.[235]

EMBF reportedly creates social organisations in the areas where they operate and coopts other local organisations to exercise territorial control.[236] EMBF also engages in recruitment of children, particularly indigenous and children with behavioural problems or with drug addictions.[237] Extortion is a main source of income,[238] termed ‘vaccines' (*vacunas*), that are charged mostly to those offering products and services, landowners, harvesters, as well as cattle ranchers.[239] EMBF also extorts members of Community Action Boards (Juntas de Acción Comunal, JACs).[240]

The peace process with EMBF initiated in March 2023[241] when it was still part of[242] the EMC, under the leadership of Iván Mordisco.[243] In March 2024, the government suspended the cease-fire with the EMC in Nariño, Cauca, and Valle del Cauca departments after the group carried out several attacks, including against indigenous Nasa in Cauca department.[244] In April 2024, the Iván Mordisco faction withdrew from the negotiation table and the process continued with the remaining blocs (Jorge Suárez Briceño, Magdalena Medio Comandante Gentil Duarte, and Raúl Reyes) under the name EMBF.[245]

Pares reported that, between January 2023 and May 2025, EMBF carried out 783 violent actions, including 234 cases of violations to the 'right to life', 190 cases of restrictions to the freedom of

movement, 148 cases of the use of explosives, and 106 cases involving human rights defenders.[246] EMBF reportedly uses drones in armed attacks.[247] In May 2025, the EMBF killed nine soldiers in Guaviare department during an armed clash with the army.[248] El País reported that there are several versions around the circumstances of the clash, with the EMBF indicating that their combatants thought the army troops were members of a rival group, while the government indicated that the attack was premeditated.[249] The EMBF eventually indicated that the attack 'did not reflect the general policy of the group', casting doubts around its capacity to exercise control within the ranks.[250] On 16 June 2024, the EMC carried out an attack against family members of the Vice-President Francia Márquez[251] in an effort to seek dialogue with President Gustavo Petro.[252]

Pares indicated that current challenges to the process with the EMBF include the territorial dispute among illegal armed groups, particularly the ELN, AGC and EMC dissidences, which undermines the EMBF's capacity to consolidate its presence in the territories they control and fulfil their commitments, and internal disputes.[253]

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