

## 3.1.6. Autodefensas Conquistadoras de la Sierra Nevada (ACSN)

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The ACSN, also known as Los Pachencia,<sup>[269](#)</sup> emerged in 2005-2006 after the demobilisation of the AUC and settled in Magdalena and La Guajira departments, operating mostly around the mountainous areas of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.<sup>[270](#)</sup> It is estimated to have between 500 <sup>[271](#)</sup> to 1 100 combatants and they are currently present in between 14 and 19 municipalities in the departments of Cesar, Atlántico, Magdalena and La Guajira.<sup>[272](#)</sup> ACSN is composed of seven structures as follows:

La Guajira: Front Renacer;

Magdalena: Front Metro, Caribe Resistance Bloc, Front Cóndor de la Sierra, Urban Front Cacique, Front Bananero, and Los Rojas.<sup>[273](#)</sup>

The ACSN reportedly engages in armed confrontations with the EGC to dispute drug trafficking corridors; often civilians are caught in the crossfire leading to displacement and killings.<sup>[274](#)</sup> The ACSN also engages in extortion, killings-by-hire, threats, and the recruitment of children to collect extortions and sell drugs locally.<sup>[275](#)</sup>

According to Pares, between January 2023 and May 2025, the ACSN was involved in 415 armed actions, including indiscriminate killings, restrictions to the freedom of movement, forced recruitment, and gender-based violence.<sup>[276](#)</sup> In areas where they operate, the ACSN has reportedly restricted the celebration of cultural activities in indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, and they have infiltrated universities and unions, turning them into territories to be disputed and forcing changes to curriculums and institutional objectives to benefit criminal interests.<sup>[277](#)</sup>

Negotiations between the government and the ACSN initiated in 2023 and are ongoing, but without significant advances.<sup>[278](#)</sup> Although the first steps of negotiations were supportive, with the ACSN announcing a ceasefire of military operations in August 2024, months later, in April 2025, the ACSN suspended negotiations after a regional operation of the Colombian army.<sup>[279](#)</sup>

- <sup>[269](#)</sup>

La Silla Vacía, 'Paz Total: Autodefensas Conquistadoras de la Sierra anuncian cese al fuego', 13 August 2024, [url](#)

- [271](#)

EL PAIS, The expansion of the Conquering Self-Defense Forces of the Sierra Nevada sets off alarms, 13 November 2025, [url](#)

- [273](#)

Pares, La paz ¿Cómo vamos?, 18 June 2025, [url](#), p. 120

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Pares, La paz ¿Cómo vamos?, 18 June 2025, [url](#), p. 122

- [277](#)

Pares, La paz ¿Cómo vamos?, 18 June 2025, [url](#), p. 122

- [278](#)

Pares, La paz ¿Cómo vamos?, 18 June 2025, [url](#), p. 115

- [279](#)

La Silla Vacía, 'Paz Total : Autodefensas Conquistadoras de la Sierra anuncian cese al fuego', 13/08/2024, [url](#); El País, 'Las Autodefensas Conquistadoras de la Sierra Nevada suspenden los diálogos de paz con el Gobierno', 05/04/2025, [url](#)