



## 4.1.5. Extortion

### 4.1.5. Extortion<sup>479</sup>

Extortion has risen significantly in recent years.<sup>480</sup> There were 11 078 cases of extortion reported to police in 2023,<sup>481</sup> 13 869 reported cases of extortion in 2024,<sup>482</sup> and 8 844 cases as of 30 September 2025.<sup>483</sup> The Ministry of Defence similarly reported a rise in cases since 2020, noting that there have been 8 805 cases reported between January and September 2025:<sup>484</sup>

Imported image pandoc\_image\_11.jpeg

Figure 12: Extortion cases 2015-2025<sup>485</sup>

Extortion has continued to increase in the past few years as armed and criminal groups use it as a means of income and control over the local population, often in competition with one another for dominance over territory.<sup>486</sup> Extortion is both a criminal tactic (to control areas rich in resources such as coca, minerals, etc.,<sup>487</sup> and secure commodities<sup>488</sup> and illicit economy transportation corridors), and a tool for social and territorial governance by armed groups, especially in rural areas; in cities, is often linked to organised crime.<sup>489</sup> It has increasingly become a key source of revenue for illegal armed groups.<sup>490</sup> It has proliferated due to outsourcing by larger criminal and armed groups to local gangs,<sup>491</sup> loss of income from cocaine revenue, and due to it being less risky than other illegal activities such as drug trafficking.<sup>492</sup> Extortion, together with kidnapping, and other tactics, can be used by armed and criminal groups to enforce governance over local populations.<sup>493</sup>

The most affected areas are those where there is little state presence, high poverty, and significant natural resources, especially in the Andean region: Antioquia, Chocó, Caldas, Quindío, Risaralda, Cundinamarca, Tolima, Valle del Cauca, Cauca, Nariño; in the Caribbean coast: Atlántico, Bolívar; at the Venezuelan border: Norte de Santander; and the urban centres: Bogotá, Medellín, Cali, Buenaventura, Quibdó, Cartagena, Barranquilla, and Cúcuta.<sup>494</sup>

- <sup>480</sup>

Conflict analyst, Interview with EUAA, 14 October 2025; US, CRS, Colombia: Background and U.S. Relations, 30 May 2025, [url](#), p. 7

- <sup>481</sup>

Colombia, PNC, Crime statistics: Extorsión (2023), n.d., [url](#)

- [482](#)

Colombia, PNC, Crime statistics: Extorsión (2024), n.d., [url](#)

- [483](#)

Colombia, PNC, Crime statistics: Extorsión (1 January-30 September 2025), n.d., [url](#)

- [484](#)

Colombia, Seguimiento a indicadores y resultados operacionales (16 October 2025), September 2025, [url](#)

- [485](#)

Colombia, Seguimiento a indicadores y resultados operacionales (16 October 2025), September 2025, [url](#)

- [486](#)

Pares, Radiografía de la extorsión: el principal desafío de la seguridad ciudadana, March 2024, [url](#), p. 7; France, OFPRA, Rapport de mission en République de Colombie, 28 November 2024, [url](#), p. 61; US, CRS, Colombia: Background and U.S. Relations, 30 May 2025, [url](#), p. 7

- [487](#)

France, OFPRA, Rapport de mission en République de Colombie, 28 November 2024, [url](#), p. 63

- [489](#)

France, OFPRA, Rapport de mission en République de Colombie, 28 November 2024, [url](#), p. 63

- [490](#)

Netherlands (The), Algemeen Ambtsbericht Colombia, June 2024, [url](#), pp. 92-94; Conflict analyst, Interview with EUAA, 14 October 2025

- [491](#)

France, OFPRA, Rapport de mission en République de Colombie, 28 November 2024, [url](#), p. 61

- [492](#)

Netherlands (The), Algemeen Ambtsbericht Colombia, June 2024, [url](#), pp. 92-94

- [493](#)

ACLED, Data on political violence and demonstrations in Colombia, October 2025.  
Unpublished information provided to EUAA.

- [494](#)

France, OFPRA, Rapport de mission en République de Colombie, 28 November 2024, [url](#), p. 62

© European Union Agency for Asylum 2026 | Email: [info@euaa.europa.eu](mailto:info@euaa.europa.eu)