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SECOND QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL  
ON THE MISSION TO SUPPORT THE PEACE PROCESS IN  
COLOMBIA (MAPP/OEA), PURSUANT TO  
RESOLUTION CP/RES. 859 (1397/04)

This document is being distributed to the permanent missions and  
will be presented to the Permanent Council of the Organization.

## MISSION TO SUPPORT THE PEACE PROCESS IN COLOMBIA (MAPP/OAS)

### SECOND REPORT

#### I. Introduction

This quarterly report of the Secretary General on the Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia (MAPP/OAS) is presented to the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) pursuant to Resolution CP/RES. 859 (1397/04), which states: “To instruct the Secretary General to provide quarterly reports to the Permanent Council on the work of the MAPP/OAS and its continued ability to contribute, through its work in Colombia, to the fulfillment of the values and principles contained in the Charter of the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Democratic Charter.”

#### II. The MAPP/OAS Mission

##### *A. The Mandate*

On January 23, 2004, an agreement was signed between the Government of the Republic of Colombia and the OAS/SG defining a mission to monitor the peace process (MAPP/OAS). Later on, on February 6, 2004, the OAS Permanent Council issued the resolution referred to in support of the peace process in Colombia, CP/RES. 859 (1397/04), which authorized the mission and established its mandate.

The mandate of MAPP/OAS was defined in a broad, integral sense, in keeping with the basic principles of the Organization. Mention should be made of the fundamental contribution and support provided by the permanent representatives and their interest in following closely the work of the mission and the Colombian peace process.

The technical nature of the mission is its key feature. In other words, MAPP/OAS does not participate in domestic political and legal affairs, nor does it get involved in disputes generated by the peace process.

The primary concerns of promoting and defending human rights and justice, and building confidence and security are the key features of the work the mission is initiating.

##### *B. Development of the Mission*

##### Financing

Since May, the Mission has further developed contacts with representatives of cooperating countries and international organizations to open space for understanding and support of the work mandated. In this regard, a cooperation agreement with Sweden is already ready for signing, and progress on other agreements in support of the Mission has been made with this country, through nongovernmental organizations. The Security and Democracy Foundation has agreed to support it,

especially in the area of analyzing and providing information on matters pertaining to violence. The European Union has extended an invitation to a special meeting in Brussels to seek avenues for support. In this context, Holland has proposed to organize a bilateral meeting to join in cooperation efforts.

The Mission is executing the funds provided by the Colombian Government for expansion of the territory and general tasks related to fulfillment of the mandate.

A proposed budget to complete the three years of the mandate is submitted to the Permanent Council for its consideration along with this report.

### Regional offices

The Mission has so far set up the following offices for its work:

- Santafe de Bogotá (Mission headquarters)
- Medellín (Antioquia)
- Montería (Córdoba)
- Volcanes (Córdoba, covering the area where the Tierralta is located)
- Santafe de Ralito (within the zone of concentration)
- Valledupar (El Cesar)
- Cúcuta (Northern Santander)
- Villavicencio (Meta)
- Barrancabermeja (Santander)



### Mission staff

At the present time, the mission is made up of eight (8) international and six (6) national officials, plus administrative and support personnel. The mission comprises 19 persons in all.

However, to meet the requirements of the mandate and handle the dynamic peace process, every regional office would need as a minimum: two international officials, three national officials, and administrative support staff and drivers, in addition to the essential communication equipment, vehicles and logistical support.

For the immediate future, in view of the possible demobilization of around 3,000 men belonging to the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia [*Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia*] (AUC) in the *Llanos Orientales* [Eastern Plains], the Mission urgently needs to increase its professional staff and its logistical capacity, in order to cover on-site verification at the outset of the peace process in the Departments of Casanare and Meta.

### *C. Mission Activities*

#### 1. Coordination with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)

In compliance with the decisions adopted by the Permanent Council, communication with the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (IACHR) has continued to grow.

In July of this year, the IACHR visited Colombia and held a meeting for coordination of support to the Mission. It also agreed on an agenda in the City of Medellin with various sectors, including the demobilized members of the *Bloque Cacique Nutibara*.

As a result of that visit, a decision was made to look into a memorandum of understanding that would more specifically define the advisory functions of the Commission to the Mission.

Humanitarian activities in favor of indigenous communities that have IACHR precautionary measures and continue to be affected by the violence are particularly important. In this regard, the Mission is in continuous communication with the indigenous group Emberá Catío, several of whose members were victims of a hostage-taking operation by the AUC, and the necessary steps for coordination of activities in that community are being taken. The regional office in Valledupar is also developing contacts with indigenous peoples in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta for the same purpose.

The IACHR has also provided the Mission with all the documents related to experiences with peace processes in the Hemisphere and to cases of human rights violations in Colombia that are being monitored by the Commission. These documents have provided the Mission with extremely important information and assistance, and are guiding the officials of MAPP/OAS in its work involving observance of human rights and the local conflict.

2. Contact with nongovernmental organizations and institutions

It is of critical importance to the mission to count on the continuous presence and assistance of Colombian civil society and especially nongovernmental organizations working for peace and reconciliation throughout the country.

In the first six months of operations, the Mission has made contact with different local communities, sectors, and institutions, nongovernmental organizations working in the area of human rights, and other members of the international community, to introduce the Mission and disseminate its mandate.

In addition, it is working with nongovernmental organizations with experience in peace efforts on two proposals to strengthen the Mission's mandate. In the first case, in view of the fact that various NGOs have given their support for dialogue with the AUC, and for strengthening the mandate of the MAPP/OAS, and with the cooperation of Sweden, an agreement to give the Mission greater capacity for evaluation of the progress of the peace process is being worked out. In the second case, efforts are being made to implement a data base and evaluate the evolution of indices of violence. This would make it possible to strengthen the independent evaluation unit that the Mission is organizing.

The Latin-American Association of Human Rights (ALDHU), the Network for Peace and Anti-War Initiatives (REDEPAZ), the *Centro de Investigación y Educación Popular* (CINEP), the ARCO IRIS Foundation, *Planeta Paz*, the *Instituto de Estudios para el Desarrollo y la Paz* [Development and Peace Research Institute] (INDEPAZ), *Confederación General de Trabajadores* (CGTD); Peace Observatory, SIMON DOMICO, *Derechos Humanos Resguardo Indígena EMBERA*, the Cauca Regional Indigenous Council (CRIC), the Human Rights Committee of the Tayrona Indigenous Confederation, the *Sindicato del Agro de Arauca* (SINDEAGRO), *FUNDEMOS*, and other civil society organizations have expressed their support for the peace process and their support for MAPP/OAS, and have given their views on the criteria that should guide dialogues with the AUC and the solution to the armed conflict in Colombia.

A group of these NGOs participated, along with the Mission, in the opening of the AUC relocation or concentration zone, and had access to a meeting with the commanders of this organization of irregulars. This opened up an important space for working out an agenda linked to the themes of truth, justice, and reparation, and the possibility of examining complaints that implicate AUC members in alleged crimes against the civilian population.

3. Monitoring the National Dialogue

In this context, and pursuant to its mandate, MAPP/OAS monitored dialogues between the government and armed paramilitary groups. The Santafé de Ralito agreement of May 15, 2004, in which it was decided to establish a relocation or concentration zone [*zona de ubicación*] for AUC commanders, and the decision of August 12, 2004, in which it was agreed that the AUC of the Eastern Plains would be demobilized in the short term, and in which the willingness of the most important and largest contingents of these illegal armed groups to disarm and demobilize was confirmed, are two dates of great significance in the Colombian peace process.

It is important to point out that the Mission participates in dialogues with groups from the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia only at the request of the Colombian Government, without taking on the functions of a mediator.

4. Monitoring the situation of demobilized groups

As for demobilized groups of irregulars, the mission continues monitoring compliance with commitments made. It is focusing in particular on the legal status of demobilized fighters, and their reinsertion in the workforce and in civilian life.

5. Work with communities affected by the violence

As regards the work of communities affected by the violence, consciousness-raising activities are being developed and projects are being designed to strengthen these communities, by fostering their transition to institutionality, with a focus on communities located within the AUC concentration zone. A team of mission officials is maintaining continuous contact and communication with the communities located within or in the vicinity of the zone, and it is working with rural leaders who have been coping with the presence of illegal armed groups for over twenty years. This work has made it possible to begin to create an opening for institutionality in villages and areas that had not received government assistance and have been subjected to violence. These activities related to the promotion of human rights, justice, and alternative conflict settlement are coordinated by the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace, the Office of Public Defenders [*Defensoría del Pueblo*], and other government and civil society institutions.

The testimony of people living in these communities, and their interest in solving the problems that have prevailed for so many years, in organizing their communities on the basis of institutional principles, and in working to solve the most urgent socioeconomic problems and in gaining access to the administration of justice, all point to the real possibility that the peace process will advance and be sustained over time. The Mission listens to the communities affected by violence since they are fundamental elements in the peace process.

6. Support for reinsertion

With the assistance of the private business sector and other cooperating groups, a program to generate productive projects to support the reinsertion of former combatants, their families, and persons displaced by the project is being implemented. This predominantly Colombian initiative is leading to proposals and procedures designed to generate productive jobs for members of all the illegal groups that are demobilizing, thereby contributing to advance one of the most important aspects of the entire sustainable peace process, namely, the effective reincorporation of former combatants to civilian life.

The objective of the proposal is to create more than 7,000 productive jobs, especially in the agroindustrial sector, to ensure that the families of former combatants can support themselves with regular income.

In this case, the mission performs the function of technical and administrative support in management of the program, and backs it on the basis of certain criteria and principles related to its

mandate, inter alia, the inclusion of all demobilized sectors, regardless of which group participating in the conflict they belonged to.

7. Establishment of the MAPP/OAS evaluation unit

The Mission's evaluation unit is being set up to analyze, gather, systematize, and process the relevant qualitative and quantitative information to be used as technical support in producing reports and serving other needs of the Mission.

The work of this unit will also be used to obtain an independent assessment of the situation of violence in Colombia. This work will be facilitated with the opening of regional offices and the presence of verification officials in some of the regions of greatest conflict. This evaluation will be performed by using both official sources and nonofficial sources, in the form of some highly regarded Colombian NGOs.

*a. General objectives:*

- Produce texts and documents useful to meet the needs of the Mission on issues that need to be dealt with in greater depth.
- Build and maintain various independent data bases, for the purpose of organizing and streamlining information so that it can be used as a support for verification of a cessation of hostilities, demobilization, and reinsertion of former combatants, in addition to other issues related to the mandates.
- Disseminate information and an evaluation on various subjects of interest to the Mission, to keep its members informed.

*b. Principles*

- Independence: Analysis of the information will be independent and based on separate criteria.
- Quality and relevance: The evaluation must always maintain a high academic level and be relevant to the purposes of the Mission.
- Objective: The evaluation must endeavor to remain outside the controversy that is generating the conflict.
- Communication: The members of the Mission must have the information they need to perform their work.
- Confidentiality: Sensitive information obtained in the work of this Unit will be handled exclusively by the head of the Mission.

III. General course of the peace process

1. National capacity

Since the Mission began its work, it has been clear that the work in support of the efforts of the Colombian government and people to achieve peace is technical in nature. This key focus of the

Mission has enabled it to begin fulfilling the mandate while respecting the decisions and activities of the Colombian people to work through this difficult time in their history.

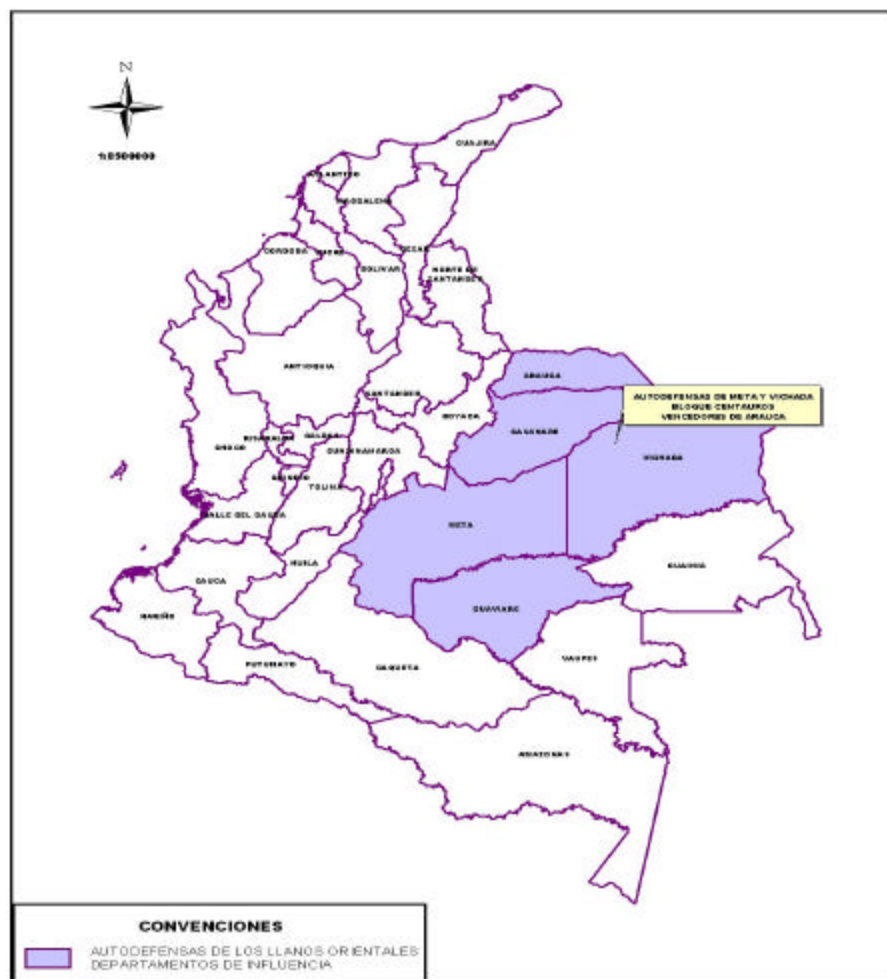
In the first quarterly report, the Mission explained the need to know and recognize national capacity and experiences accumulated by the Colombian people over many years of coping with violence. Over the years, they have established coordination mechanisms, work proposals, and institutional and social support, which have provided the Mission with ideas, advice, and information that have been critical to the fulfillment of its mandate.

## 2. Peace process with the self-defense groups

- The Agreement of Santafé de Ralito, signed on July 15, 2003 between the national Government and the AUC, marks the beginning of the process of demobilization of these armed groups operating outside the law, a process which the authorities plan to complete by December 31, 2005 at the latest.
- The first step under the agreement was to demobilize 874 members of the *Bloque Cacique Nutibara* (BCN) of the AUC in the city of Medellín on November 25, 2003.
- On December 7 of that year, 156 men belonging to the *Autodefensas Campesinas de Ortega* [Campesino Self-Defense Forces of Ortega], in Cajibío, Department of Cauca, were demobilized.
- On May 15, 2004, the second agreement was signed in Santafé de Ralito, providing for all of the AUC commanders to be concentrated in one relocation zone. In that zone, an area guarded by government forces and governed by the rule of law, Law 782/02 was put into practice. Under this law, the leaders of the illegal armed group who are participating in negotiations may not be captured as long as they stay within the limits of the geographical area. MAPP/OAS is performing verification functions in that zone. This agreement represents an important step forward in the peace dialogues, and renews hope in the success of the process.
- In early August 2004, the government requested the immediate demobilization of AUC groups located in the Eastern Plains, departments of Meta, Casanare, Vichada, and Arauca. This decision by President Uribe was in response to repeated clashes in that region, which were in violation of the cessation of hostilities and were jeopardizing the peace process. All of this in spite of repeated moves made by the High Commissioner for Peace to reinforce the need for a cessation of hostilities.
- On August 12, after intensive, lengthy discussions in Santafé de Ralito, the self-defense forces of the Eastern Plains, including the *Bloque Centauros*, the Meta and Vichada Campesino Self-Defense Forces, and the *Bloque Defensores del Arauca*, or a total of over 6,000 men, agreed to demobilize. In addition, the AUC pledged to demobilize the majority of their forces in a short period of time, to be established in a joint agreement with the government, on the basis of a schedule.



- This last agreement in the dialogues with the AUC is extremely important. It accelerates the goals and deadlines previously established and creates an opening for peace in Colombia. Most of the armed members of the AUC are expected to be turning in their weapons and demobilizing before the end of 2004. With this, extensive areas of the country will come under the government's control.
- It is important to point out that in view of the dynamic nature of the peace process, urgent decisions need to be made to authorize the Mission to meet the requirements in the immediate future.



Departments with self-defense groups that are immediately demobilizing.

### 3. Indicators of Violence

The situation of violence in Colombia has shown some important positive changes in the past two years. This trend continues to be seen in the second quarter of 2004. However, this does not mean that the situation does not continue to be serious. Yet, according to official and nonofficial sources, virtually all indices of violence have dropped considerably and gradual development has been achieved in the years since the current administration took office.

According to official statistics, and based on important cumulative figures for 2003, the most notable reductions in indices of violence in the first half of 2004 have been in murders (down 10.1%), massacres (a reduction of 43.6%), and in kidnappings (down 39.8%). According to the figures of the NGOs, important reductions were recorded in cases of serious violations, including murders, kidnappings, massacres, and displacement, although they report an increase in cases of harassment, threats, and arbitrary arrests.

#### Indices of Violence

| OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC<br>OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS<br>DEMOCRATIC SECURITY RESULTS<br>REPORT |                       |                        |        |        |                                     |        |        |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------|--------|--------|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| DESCRIPTION  | PRESIDENTIAL<br>TERM  | JAN. TO DEC.<br>PERIOD |        | %      | CUMULATIVE: JAN. TO<br>31 JULY 2004 |        |        |
|  | Aug-02 - 31 Jul<br>04 | 2002                   | 2003   |        | 2003                                | 2004   | %      |
| <b>Violence and crime</b>  |                       |                        |        |        |                                     |        |        |
| Murder   | 46,783                | 28,837                 | 23,013 | -20.2% | 13,859                              | 12,460 | -10.1% |
| Cases of mass<br>murders   | 170                   | 115                    | 77     | -33.0% | 55                                  | 31     | -43.6% |
| Number of victims<br>in mass murders   | 911                   | 680                    | 423    | -37.8% | 312                                 | 172    | -44.9% |
| Total kidnappings  | 4,281                 | 2,986                  | 2,200  | -26.3% | 1,488                               | 896    | -39.8% |

Source: Office of the President of the Republic/Office of Communications

Official statistics also indicate that since the Santafé de Ralito concentration zone has been in effect, the percentage of murders attributed to the AUC has declined significantly, as seen in the comparative table.

| Comparison of murders and massacres attributed to the AUC<br>since establishment of the concentration zone |                 |                 |      |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|------|
|  | 10 Apr - 15 Jun | 16 Jun – 20 Aug | %    |
| Murders  | 27              | 11              | -60% |
| Massacres  | 1               | 1               | 0    |

Source: Public daily bulletins, DAS.

4. Status of demobilized groups

a. *Developments with regard to reinserted members of Bloque Cacique Nutibara (AUC-BCN)*

The reinsertion process supported by the High Commissioner for Peace, the Medellín Mayor's Office, and the *Corporación Democracia*, an organization of demobilized paramilitaries, is generally continuing on a positive course. The work of training and psychosocial care continues to proceed in a normal fashion, although cases of lack of care of demobilized paramilitaries have been on the rise. Over 70 percent have work at the present time.

Process of reinsertion of former members of *Bloque Cacique Nutibara*. Medellín.

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Demobilized persons employed  | 762 (88%) |
| Demobilized persons in the process of being employed                                | 79        |
| Registered in elementary and secondary schools                                      | 382       |
| In institutions of higher education   | 32        |
| Psychological and emotional support and instruction                                 | 868       |
| Registered in SENA's technical training program                                     | 56        |
| Training in business skills and creation of productive units                        | 400       |
| Instruction in community leadership, civic affairs, citizen security, and democracy | 72        |
| Economic subsidy of 300,000 pesos a month (1st month)                               | 631       |
| Economic subsidy of 300,000 pesos a month (2nd month)                               | 152       |
| Economic subsidy of 300,000 pesos a month (3 <sup>rd</sup> month)                   | 125       |

Source: Office of the High Commissioner for Peace  
July 2004

The number of demobilized young people who have been victims of murder increased during this period of time. So far, seven (7) demobilized youth have lost their lives. However, following verification of each of these cases, there is no evidence that they occurred for political reasons. In addition, the number of demobilized persons arrested and tried has increased to 31.

The Office of MAPP/OAS in Medellín, as we stated earlier, is monitoring these cases to verify the progress of investigations and fact-finding.

At the same time, the mission continues to verify the status of detainees, and to make visits to the prisons and have conferences with the Medellín Public Prosecutor's Office, to follow up on cases and obtain access to official information on the offenses committed.

LIST OF DEMOBILIZED MURDER VICTIMS IN MEDELLIN  
UPDATED ON AUGUST 19, 2004

| No  | IDENTIFICATION | FIRST NAMES       | LAST NAMES          | DATE OF EVENT |
|-----|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| 213 | 71 189 695     | GUILLERMO         | ECHAVARRIA CORREA   | 03/01/04      |
| 126 | 71.757.324     | ASDRUBAL DE JESUS | CAMPUZANO ZAPATA    | 15/02/04      |
| 258 | 98.695.572     | FRANKI ALEXANDER  | GARCIA GALEANO      | 04/06/04      |
| 212 | 98.622.347     | JOVANY DE JESUS   | DURANGO QUIROZ      | 26/06/04      |
| 359 | 71.220.342     | SANDRO ALCIDES    | HIGUITA CHAVARRIAGA | 16/07/04      |
| 555 | 71.263.163     | MARLON ANDRES     | ORTIZ LONDOÑO       | 17/07/04      |
| 250 | 71.743.812     | OCTAVIO DE JESÚS  | GALLEGO LONDOÑO     | 08/08/04      |

Procesado: MAPP/OEA, Bogotá.

*b. Developments regarding demobilized persons from the Ortega Campesinos Self-Defense Forces*

The process of reinsertion of demobilized paramilitaries from the Ortega Campesinos Self-Defense Forces continues to proceed satisfactorily. The social and production programs are being carried out in accordance with plans, construction of basic infrastructure is proceeding, and the presence of law enforcement forces guarantees security in the area.

Despite the fact that this is taking place in a limited area of the country, and this group is somewhat different from other self-defense forces, the process of reinsertion and institutionalization in this zone of Cauca should be given special mention, since it provides a model built on the possibility of peace, moving towards the desired objectives in this type of process.

Process de Reinsertion of former members of the Ortega Campesinos Self-Defense Unit, Cajibío (Cauca)

|   |
|---|
| Construction of 25 km. of roadway between Ortega and Dinde (in process).  |
| Permanent presence of the army in the zone  |
| 160 persons with technical training from Sena   |
| 5 new teachers to reinforce the education staff in the community  |
| Feasibility studies and studies on legalization of school premises, and health and community centers, with INCODER. |
| Acquisition of 180 hectares in Popayán by INCODER, to relocate 15 families.   |
| Breakfasts for children and maternal and child care, covering about 250 persons - ICBF.                             |

Source: Office of the High Commissioner for Peace  
July 2004

## 5. Verification

Among the relevant functions making up the mandate of MAPP/OAS, verification is particularly important. The credibility of the process and its transparency are based to a large extent on the procedures implemented for verification of the peace process.

In the Tierralta relocation zone, Department of Cordoba, where most of the commanders of the AUC are concentrated, MAPP/OAS has certain, specific functions that it is performing. They include the following:

- Verification of the agreement underlying establishment of the relocation zone and operation of all the internal control mechanisms;
- An inventory of weapons of the four hundred guards accompanying the AUC commanders;
- The entry and exist of the commanders who request special permits to carry out activities related to the peace process for specific periods of time;
- Receipt of complaints and reports on possible violations of the cessation of hostilities.

Within this framework, the mission may hear complaints and reports of possible action by the AUC that affect the civilian population and decide on verification of them in evaluating the cessation of hostilities in Colombia.

We will describe the information, complaints, and reports received, as part of the process of verification by the Mission, during the period covered by this report:

### a. In Medellín

- The MAPP/OAS received information and complaints regarding persistent illegal activities allegedly carried out by members of the *Bloque Cacique Nutibara* which agreed to demobilize. This situation has led it to consider the possible persistence of the illegal armed group, despite the November 2003 demobilization. Sectors of civil society, government, religious, and human rights institutions support this concern. It should be added that MAPP/OAS has not received specific reports on such action.
- This information, which is part of the process of verification specified in the Mission's mandate, is particularly relevant and should alert the commanders of the demobilized group and local and national authorities to the fact that the presumed persistence of such illegal action jeopardizes the process initiated in Medellin in November 2003 and is counter to the intent of the AUC as stated in the demobilization agreement.
- In addition, reports have been received regarding the illegal holding of real property by members of *Cacique Nutibara*. The mission is taking informal steps to ensure that this property is returned to its legitimate owners.
- The MAPP/OAS is required to report on these aspects of the verification process, to recommend special attention to them, and eventually to correct and/or fully clarify this information and these complaints. The process initiated in Medellin and achievement of

its objectives, insomuch as they are designed to ensure the reinsertion of the armed group and its return to a legal status, constitute a precedent which will largely serve as a basis for peace activities with other AUC units.

b. In Tierralta, Córdoba

- The report of the kidnapping of Ovidio Domicó, the indigenous governor of the Emberá people in the Municipality of Tierralta, Department of Córdoba, by a group belonging to the AUC, put the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights and the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL) on the alert. The release of the hostage and his return safe and sound to the community was achieved through intervention by the Mission.
- A few days following this event, a group of five members of the same Emberá ethnic group was taken from their canoes and held by AUC groups. Again, the MAPP/OAS took steps to achieve the release of these persons.
- Two members of the guards of the AUC commanders died as victims of suicide.
- An inhabitant of an area bordering the relocation zone was murdered, allegedly by members of the AUC, as a result of a report filed with the illegal armed organization by the next-of-kin of a minor who was the victim of sexual violation. The police and the public prosecutor's office intervened in the event, and the relevant proceedings are being conducted.

c. In Valledupar

- In Valledupar, a member of the Kankuamo Fredy Arias ethnic group was murdered. Various human rights organizations pointed to an AUC group as being responsible for this crime. The Mission officials in that city are taking all the necessary steps to verify this act. The report was taken to the Verification Committee in Santafé de Ralito where the AUC commanders are concentrated and put to them for their consideration. A response is currently awaited. The Mission also verified the action of the judicial authorities.
- The kidnapping of a member of the Arahuaco ethnic group in the area of Caminos de Tabacal, Sabana Crespo was reported, allegedly perpetrated by the AUC, with a death threat if a brother, belonging to the same ethnic group, is not handed over. The Mission used its good offices to contact the commanders who were meeting in Santafé de Ralito. The situation was favorably resolved.

#### IV. Conclusions

1. The Mission is working to fulfill the mandate in accordance with the dynamics of the Colombian peace process, within the limits imposed by the resources available for implementation.
2. In the coming weeks, it will have to take on greater responsibilities in view of the certain possibility of the demobilization of around 3,000 men belonging to the AUC in the Eastern Plains, which will require logistical resources and manpower that the Mission does not have.

3. Important progress has been made in the verification work in the relocation zone in the Department of Córdoba, where the AUC commanders are concentrated; the Mission is working daily with the civilian population affected by the violence, in coordination with government institutions.
4. The gradual installation of regional offices is helping the Mission to be present in the area of conflict, to put it in contact with the local institutional and social stakeholders, and to enable it to act with greater diligence at the site of the events.
5. In our view, the process of reinsertion of the Cacique Nutibara in Medellín is going through a credibility crisis, as a result of the alleged persistence of criminal activity on the part of that group.
6. The May 15 agreement of Santafé de Ralito, in which the zone for concentration of all the AUC commanders was established, and the August 12 meeting that same year, when the demobilization of the AUC of the Eastern Plains was decided, represent landmarks in the peace process in Colombia. The possibility of the effective demobilization of a very large number of AUC members, from 3,000 to 5,000 armed combatants, appears certain before the end of the year.
7. Coordination to ensure the advisory services of the IACHR is a key part of the Mission's mandate. Progress is being made in this direction, both in developing institutional aspects with the Commission, and in communications and the presence of MAPP/OAS officials in the communities of Emberá Catío, Kankuamo, and Arahuaco affected by the violence and protected by IACHR precautionary measures.
8. The initial work with communities affected by the violence, especially in the concentration zone for dialogues with the AUC, has made it possible to begin to develop programs linked to human rights, justice, and the peaceful settlement of conflicts. This function, coordinated with government institutions, takes on special importance, since the continuity and sustainability of peace activities are focused on the members of these communities.
9. The decision by the General Secretariat and the Permanent Council to give their strong support to the Colombian government and people in meeting the challenges of building peace now requires more support than ever from the international community. The Mission is continuing its efforts to open greater space for understanding in this regard.

<http://scm.oas.org/pdfs/2004/CP13354E.xls>