

THIRD QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE
MISSION TO SUPPORT THE PEACE PROCESS IN COLOMBIA (MAPP/OAS),
IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTION CP/RES. 859 (1397/04)

MAPP/OEA

Note: This report was presented verbally to the Permanent Council by the Director of the Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia on December 8, 2004. Its content reflects the activities of the MAPP/OAS up to that date.

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**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
MISSION TO SUPPORT THE PEACE PROCESS IN COLOMBIA**

THIRD QUARTERLY REPORT

December 8, 2004

1. Background

In compliance with resolution CP/RES. 859 (1397/04) in which the Secretary General was instructed: "... to provide quarterly reports to the Permanent Council on the work of the Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia (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," MAPP/OAS presented the first and second quarterly reports to the Council in May and August 2004, respectively.

The aforesaid reports informed the Permanent Council of the general situation and status of the peace process and the Mission's activities.

With regard to the peace process, we highlighted the August 12 agreement reached by the parties in Santafé de Ralito, for the demobilization of a significant number of self-defense forces. The Self-Defense Forces of Colombia [*Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia*] (AUC) agreed to demobilize the majority of their forces in the short run, with a schedule to be determined by mutual accord with the government. Achievement of this step in the dialogues was one of the most important steps forward in the process, and we will describe it in this report.

As for the activities of the Mission, in previous reports we referred to progress made with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in exploring the possibility of signing a memorandum of understanding that would determine the specific advisory functions of the Commission to the Mission. Work on preparing a specific proposal in this regard continues.

We also reported on the work being pursued with the communities affected by the violence, including awareness-raising activities and the design of projects to strengthen those communities and promote their transition to institutionalism.

As regards verification, which is one of the key roles of the Mission, we also explained in an earlier report that, despite budgetary difficulties and the complexity and dangers of this task, verification of demobilized illegal armed groups has continued in Medellín, and verification has begun in the Santafé de Ralito "placement" zone [*zona de ubicación*], by performing certain specific functions that are fully under way at this point. Finally, the process of verification of compliance with the cessation of hostilities has been initiated at the national level, with the start of operation of the Verification Committee, a mechanism established under the Fatima Agreement of May 15, 2004 to create a tripartite entity (OAS-Government-Self Defense Forces) to examine complaints related to hostility and the cease-fire.

In this report, MAPP/OAS relates how it has managed to overcome difficulties and move forward in its tasks of verification and rapprochement to the communities. The Mission, however, continues to deal with substantial limitations, especially budgetary ones.

2. General Status of the Peace Process with the AUC

2.1. General status of the Dialogue

During the time covered by this report, the National Dialogue has been taking place on a regular basis, and despite various moments of tension and uncertainty, on October 7, 2004, the United Self- Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC) announced in a press release entitled “Act of Good Faith in Peace” that by December 31, 2004, over 3,000 men from the following eleven (11) *bloques* (units) and fronts would be demobilized:

1. Bloque Catatumbo (Northern Santander)
2. Bloque Bananero (Antioquia)
3. Frente del Suroeste Antioqueño (Antioquia)
4. Bloque Calima (Valle del Cauca)
5. Bloque Pacífico (Valle del Cauca)
6. Frente Alto Sinú (Córdoba)
7. Frente Medio Sinú (Córdoba)
8. Frente Bajo Sinú (Córdoba)
9. Bloque Cundinamarca (Cundinamarca)
10. Frente Mojana (Sucre)
11. Self-Defense Forces of Southern Magdalena and Isla de San Fernando (Magdalena)

On November 3, 2004, the High Commissioner for Peace, Luis Carlos Restrepo, announced at a press conference in Santafé de Ralito (site of the dialogues) that the demobilization process was beginning and presented the methodology for the process, including reinsertion or reintegration. With this, the stages of identification of “concentration” zones and awareness-raising of departmental and local institutions and the communities began. One of the commitments made by the government in this process is recovery of territories for institutionalization and support for demobilized soldiers, through affiliation with the State Subsidized Health System, humanitarian aid for 24 months through a subsidy (training programs or companies are being formed for this), psychosocial care, formal technical and administrative training (at primary, secondary, and higher education levels), and assistance in preparation for and inclusion in productive enterprises.

As a result of this, on November 25 these agreements began to be implemented, with the demobilization of the AUC’s Bloque Bananero under the command of “Hernán Hernández,” which included 50 men from the Frente del Suroeste Antioqueño [Southwestern Antioquia Front] commanded by “Jhon Santamaría.” As the process developed, cooperation was noted on the part of local and departmental officials and on the part of the leaders of the Bloque Bananero, and this contributed to making the demobilization a positive experience, which could be used in a number of ways as a model for implementing subsequent processes. The main question being raised now and the greatest challenge of this process will be reinsertion.

At the present time, preparations are under way for the concentration and demobilization processes in Northern Santander, where around 1,400 men belonging to the Bloque Catatumbo are to be demobilized, in Cordoba, for demobilization of the Cordoba (comprising the High, Middle, and Lower Sinú Fronts) and the Mojana Front, in Cundinamarca, for the Bloque Autodefensas Campesinas de Cundinamarca, in Valle del Cauca, for demobilization of the Bloque Calima and the Bloque Pacífico, and in Magdalena, for demobilization of the Self Defense Forces of Southern Magdalena and Isla de San Fernando.

2.2. *Indicators of Violence*

In general terms, the cessation of hostilities is perhaps the issue in the peace process that is most discussed with the self-defense units and which has generated doubts and questions, many of which are justifiable.

Given the multiplicity of factors that hamper compilation and management of violence indicators, it is inevitable that there is considerable under-recording at all the sources. This trend is usually more accentuated in the zones most affected by the conflict and the situation of violence, which is precisely where most of the violations of the cessation of hostilities occur. As a result, there are no absolutely reliable data on the cessation of hostilities.

However, statistical indicators make it possible to detect reasonable trends as to how the cessation of hostilities is or is not being respected at a given time. By reviewing currently available statistical information, the Mission has the following observations to make.

In addition to the studies and reports that are the result of the Mission's work, other indicators that allow it to assert that there is a substantial, cumulative decline in violations of the cessation of hostilities are the ones contained in the table "Summary of Indicators of Violence" (Annex 1). These figures mostly refer to violations committed by AUC forces and are derived from cross-checking information from both government and nongovernmental sources, such as the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OHCP), the Observatory for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law of the Office of Vice-President of the Republic, the People's Education and Research Center (CINEP), Justice and Peace, Consultancy for Human Rights and Displacement (CODEES), and the Escuela Nacional Sindical [National Labor Union School] (ENS).

As you can see in the table in Annex 1, all the indicators, i.e., homicides, massacres, disappearances, and abductions, which are alleged to have been perpetrated by self-defense groups, have declined significantly since the cessation of hostilities has been in effect and the Mission has been present in the zones of conflict. This reduction is seen both in official figures and in figures and statistics provided by NGOs working as human rights defenders, although it is important to emphasize that the situation continues to be serious and worrisome, and that it is essential to continue improving and perfecting the cessation of hostilities until the total demobilization of these outlaw groups is achieved.

3. **Development of the Mandate**

The following activities have taken place as part of the mandate of MAPP/OAS:

3.1. *Activities of the Mission*

The Mission currently has eleven (11) international and ten (10) national verification officers, distributed in six (6) regional offices and two (2) in the placement zone. However, in view of the needs imposed by the demobilization process, the MAPP/OAS has decided to reallocate human and logistical resources to this process, so that it can be carried out in a more timely and effective manner. To this end, the Mission will temporarily close the Barrancabermeja and Villavicencio offices and use those resources to cover the Reference Centers¹ established as part of this process.

With regard to the Mission's funding, it is important to point out that a series of contacts has been made with the embassies of member and observer countries, in addition to donor agencies, and that to date a positive response has been received only from the Embassies of Bahamas, Sweden, and Holland. Talks have been held with those embassies to expedite the financing.

3.2. *Monitoring the Dialogue*

In accordance with the mandate, MAPP/OAS has been monitoring the dialogue between the government and the illegal armed groups which have been taking place during the time covered.

It is important to note that the Mission is participating in the dialogues with the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia solely at the request of the Colombian Government, without taking on the role of mediator.

3.3. *Work with the Communities Affected by the Violence*

As regards the work with the communities affected by the violence, MAPP/OAS is continuing to pursue awareness-raising and monitoring activities, and to facilitate transition to institutionalism, especially in communities that are located within the AUC location zone. This work has been expanded in the past month to include zones where concentration and demobilization of different AUC *bloques* and fronts are occurring.

In September in the community of Sabana Crespo, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Cesar Department, for instance, the Mission met with indigenous authorities of the Arhuaco ethnic group for the purpose of establishing a MAPP/OAS monitoring commitment in defense of the rights of the Arhuaco people, to get an idea of that ethnic group's view of the peace process. Along similar lines, the Mission is continuously monitoring the Emberá Catío indigenous community in the municipality of Tierralta, Córdoba, which has been affected by the conflict among different armed groups.

In October, in the Community of Nabusimake, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Cesar Department, the Mission joined with the Catholic Church to monitor the return of six indigenous Arhuacos who deserted the FARC-EP to return to their community.

1. The Reference Centers are information and guidance points of the National Government for complete identification (identity card, judicial certificate, and military pass), humanitarian support, guidance and advice in the area of training and productive projects, and monitoring of reinsertion of the demobilized, located in the urban areas closest to the residence of those persons.

In November, monitoring activities were carried out in the *Corregimiento* of La Mesa, municipality of Valledupar, in response to reports of possible displacement in that territory, as a result of the recovery of that section by the Army. Periodic talks are being held with the community leaders in the section to monitor the situation. Moreover, on November 25, in that same *Corregimiento*, a meeting of the Arhuaco community was monitored to explain its territorial problems related to the expropriations by the AUC. At that meeting, the possibility of establishing a permanent mechanism for information on the situation of that ethnic group was discussed.

In addition, the Mission is monitoring and assisting the Committee on Displaced Persons of the municipality of Pailitas, Cesar Department, coordinated by the Secretary of the Municipal Government. These activities are designed to verify the situation in relation to displacement of the population located in the mountainous region of Perijá, whose receiving center is the urban center of the municipality.

3.4. *Coordination with Nongovernmental Organizations and Embassies*

During this period of time, the Mission participated in various forums convened by nongovernmental organizations to explain the work done under the mandate and strengthen ties of confidence and cooperation. The Mission received different sectors of society for the same purpose, and maintained a close relationship with the embassies of member and donor countries.

European Union: At the invitation of the Embassy of the Netherlands in Bogotá, which is currently serving as President of the European Union, the Mission had an opportunity to travel to Europe and make two presentations: one at the Foreign Ministry in the Hague; and, the second one at the Latin American Committee for the Council of Ministers of the European Union (COLAT) in Brussels. As a result, on December 7, 2004, the government of Holland signed a cooperation agreement for 953,778 Euros with the General Secretariat.

Canada: The Canadian government, through its embassy in Bogotá, invited the Mission to Ottawa to discuss issues related to the mandate and the peace process.

3.5. *Verification of Cessation of Hostilities*

With a view to opening up a space for improving compliance with the cessation of hostilities, the Verification Committee was set up in Santa Fe de Ralito, with the OHCP, AUC, and MAPP/OAS as its members. Reports received both by MAPP/OAS and the Office of the High Commissioner are presented to it. It should be noted that not all the reports or complaints received are presented to the Committee, since the idea is to present to that Committee those reports that could serve as a deterrent or that involve situations that could be corrected, rather than reports on *faits accomplis*. Notwithstanding this, the Mission is fulfilling its mandate in an independent, autonomous manner.

The verification mechanism has managed to do the following, among other things:

1. Withdraw troops from zones where the AUC were present (for instance, the AUC's Bloque Central Bolívar (BCB) withdrew its troops from the region lying between Risaralda and Caldas), which has led to a reduction in violence in those zones;

2. Deter violent action in places where complaints have been received and where the MAPP is conducting verification operations;
3. Reduce the violence in zones where the MAPP is present;
4. Liberate persons abducted by members of the AUC;
5. Prevent forced displacements and reduce hostilities and extortion.

The Mission believes that although the AUC have not completely ended hostilities, as mentioned in the section on violence indicators and shown by the work in the regions, in the zones under the control of self-defense groups, hostilities have diminished. This is especially true in those regions where the Mission is present. However, in those zones where fighting is still taking place, either between self-defense groups or between them and other illegal armed groups, hostilities continue and in some cases have increased.

Although complaints filed against the AUC affecting the local people constitute violations of the cessation of hostilities and are therefore subject to verification, not all of the acts of hostility are equally verifiable. In practical terms, MAPP/OAS has given priority to the most serious acts, which are in fact the easiest to verify, and to those that will help improve the cessation of hostilities. This entails the risk that abuses of the local people will continue to be perpetrated, as they are unlikely to be verified. These practices include threats against the local people, social control of armed persons, reports of corruption and infiltration of government institutions, extortion and the so-called “*vacuna*.” If this situation continues to persist, it can affect the credibility of the process.

In addition, it is important to point out that the shortage of personnel and resources, the fear of the citizens, and the complexity of the geographical area, in addition to the action of the self-defense groups, all hamper the verification process. However, the Mission believes that progress has been made in generating trust and in assessing the areas of influence of the self-defense forces.

Complaints

From the time that the Mission began its verification work up to November 16, it received 56 complaints.

The Verification Committee received a total of 67 complaints, 19 of which went to MAPP/OAS and 42 to the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (see table). Up to now, the self-defense forces have responded to 31 of them. The Mission has verified a total of 15 complaints. Seven of them were not verified because of a lack of evidence, and 45 are currently being verified, since they involve the phenomena of harassment, extortion, and collection of “*vacunas*” which, because of their nature, are part of a special study the Mission is conducting and will be reporting on in the next report.

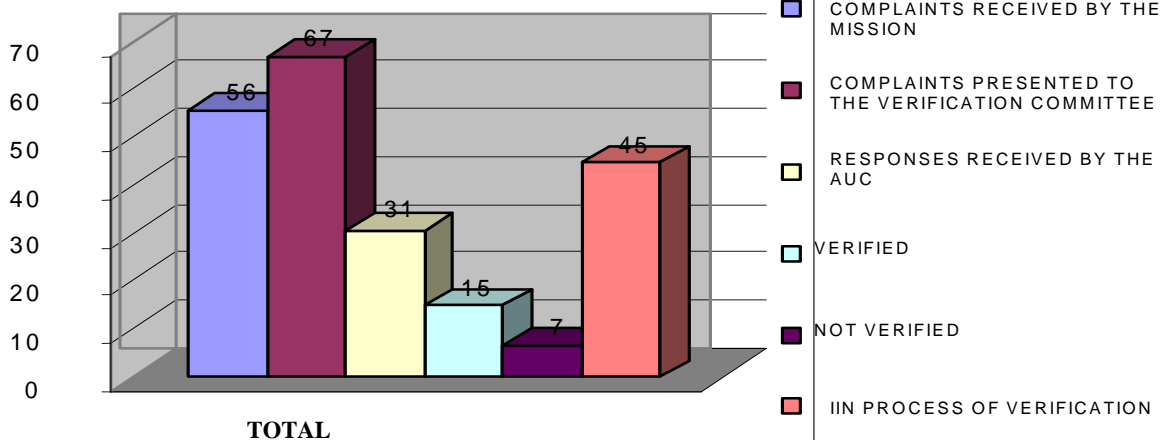
A table summarizing the complaints received and presented to the Verification Committee follows. We should point out that of the 67 complaints presented to the Committee, 14 are still within the valid period set by the Committee for answering, and the rest are awaiting a response. The responses to them will therefore appear in the next report.

MAPP/OAS						
Report of Complaints from the Regional Offices						
As of 11/16/04						
REGIONAL OFFICE	COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY THE MISSION	COMPLAINTS PRESENTED TO THE VERIFICATION COMMITTEE	RESPONSES RECEIVED FROM THE AUC	VERIFIED	NOT VERIFIED	IN PROCESS OF VERIFICATION
BARRANCA	3	1	-	-	-	-
BOGOTÁ	8	3	2	3	-	3
CÚCUTA	12	2	1	1	-	9
MEDELLÍN	5	2	2	1	-	5
MONTERÍA	3	1	1	2	-	1
VALLEDUPAR	17	8	4	3	-	10
VILLAVICENCIO	7	2	2	-	-	2
OACP		48	21	5	7	15
TOTAL	56	67	31	15	7	45

* Verified: These complaints include cases in which the AUC accepted responsibility for the act and those cases in which the Mission has determined that there is insufficient evidence to determine responsibility.

* Not verified: These include complaints where there was insufficient evidence to determine responsibility.

COMPLAINTS PRESENTED



Good Offices^{2/}

Since one of the objectives of MAPP/OAS is to improve compliance with the cessation of hostilities, help reduce violence, and assist in efforts to safeguard the life and safety of persons and communities affected by human rights violations, the “good offices” approach has proved effective in

2. We have not used the names of the persons affected by these events for reasons linked to their security and preservation of the good offices mechanism.

finding a solution for certain violent acts. There follows a description of the good offices performed by the Mission in interaction with the AUC during the period covered by this report:

1. In August, in response to a complaint by the Arhuaco indigenous people, prompt mediation with the AUC commanders during the dialogue in Santafé de Ralito resulted in the release of a member of that community, thereby putting an end to the threat it had perpetrated against them.
2. At the end of September, through the good offices performed with AUC commanders in Santa Fe de Ralito, a minor, who had been abducted in Putumayo in August, was returned.
3. In October, through a coordinated effort in Santafé de Ralito, the AUC handed over to the Valledupar MAPP/OAS, working together with the International Red Cross, two residents of Cesar Department who had allegedly been held by a commander of the ELN's December 6 Front.
4. During the same month of October, MAPP/OAS succeeded in obtaining the release of an indigenous member of the Koggi community who had been detained a week earlier by the AUC. That mission was coordinated with the Guajira Ombudsman's Office.
5. Also in October, a campesino held by the AUC, in the village of La Honda at "El mundo el Día" Ranch, allegedly for being a member of the National Liberation Army, was turned over to MAPP/OAS. The release was coordinated by the Valledupar Ombudsman's Office.
6. The Mission's Montería Office, engaged in three acts of good offices with the AUC to obtain information on three disappeared persons. These events occurred in August, September, and October. At this point, two of the cases are still pending a response, and in one of them, the unit denied responsibility, and so the Mission will continue to verify the facts.
7. As a result of a reported death threat against a priest in a community in the southern part of Bolivar Department, the Mission performed good offices with the AUC commanders in Santafé de Ralito, and managed to lift the threat.

3.6. *Participation in Demobilization*

As part of the demobilization process, MAPP/OAS carried out the following activities:

In the Stage Prior to demobilization

Monitoring of the self-defense groups: MAPP monitored self-defense groups that will be demobilizing both in the concentration zones and on the way back to their places of origin.

Awareness-raising in the communities: In this area, MAPP has assisted the government in awareness-raising activities carried out both in the communities and with local and departmental government institutions.

Awareness-raising in the self-defense groups: At the request of the parties, MAPP has assisted the government in raising the awareness of self-defense groups with regard to the steps they need to take for reinsertion in civilian life.

During the stage of concentration of self-defense groups

Verification of lists of persons: Verification of lists of persons involves simply recording the names that appear on the lists handed over by the AUC and approved by the government, pursuant to Law 782, section 3, paragraph 2. This activity does not mean that the MAPP is going to record and verify the real identity of the person and his or her legal status at the time of demobilization.

Induction: MAPP/OAS has assisted the OHCP induction courses given to troops regarding the procedures to follow at the time of demobilization and the functions of the reference centers. MAPP explains the mandate for the information of the demobilized soldiers.

Verification of lists of arms: MAPP verifies that the arms actually turned in at the time of demobilization concur with the lists of arms provided by the AUC and approved by the government. As part of this work, MAPP checks the type of weapon, the model, and the general condition of the arm. MAPP does not assume any responsibility for the final destination of the equipment once it is officially received by the competent officials.

Reference Centers

MAPP will maintain a continuous presence at the reference centers during the stage of presentation of demobilized soldiers (8 days). During the next 24 months when the centers remain open, its presence will be partial but continuous, to monitor reinsertion. Its work at the centers will involve verifying participation by the demobilized persons in the process and collecting information on the activities selected, so as to ensure follow-up on their effective reinsertion. At the same time, it will verify compliance with commitments assumed by the State.

At the current time, MAPP/OAS is present at the reference center located in Turbo, Antioquia, to monitor and follow up on reinsertion of members of the Bloque Bananero and the Frente del Suroeste de Antioquia.

3.7. Demobilization of the Bloque Bananero

MAPP/OAS took an active part in the demobilization of the Bloque Bananero, by awareness-raising activities in the communities and self-defense groups, and it verified the lists of persons and arms turned in by the Bloque. According to the verification work done by MAPP/OAS, 452 men and women demobilized and turned in a large number of weapons of war, consisting of 253 shotguns, 82 small arms, and other support weapons and explosives, for a total of around 650 weapons of war, including the following ones:

69 5.56 cal. AK-47s;
46 7.62 cal. AK-47s;
92 7.62 cal. AKMs
16 223 cal. Colts;
3 7.62 cal. M14s;
3 223 cal. Galil; 4 60 mm mortars;
2 M-60 Machineguns;
6 40 mm. Grenade launchers;
4 Submachine guns;
38 Pistols;
44 Revolvers;
232 Assortment of grenades;
700 gun cartridges/ ammunition xxx;
61 Communications radios;
41,000 Ammunition of different calibers;
370 camouflage gear, among other military materiel.

3.8. *Monitoring Reinsertion*

In the context of the demobilization process described earlier, this task represents one of the major challenges of the Mission. It is without a doubt the stage of the process that will require the utmost efforts to ensure the viability and credibility of the peace process. As it has been doing with the demobilized soldiers from the former Bloque Cacique Nutibara, MAPP/OAS will verify the actual reinsertion of the demobilized persons in all its aspects, including legal, psychosocial, and professional ones. In addition, MAPP/OAS is verifying fulfillment by the State of the commitments it assumed.

Situation of the reinserted former members of Bloque Cacique Nutibara (AUC-BCN)

The reinsertion process, supported by the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace, the Office of Mayor of Medellin, and the Democracy Corporation (an organization made up of demobilized persons), is generally continuing on a positive tack. Training and psychosocial care are progressing normally. At present, according to information provided by the Peace and Reconciliation Program, 819 youth are receiving income under different types of contracts, and the ones who are not working under any contractual arrangement are receiving a subsidy, provided they are involved in an academic activity of some kind. There are 836 young people pursuing academic activities, either in primary or secondary school or at university or a vocational training center, and 500 are participating in vocational guidance activities.

The number of young demobilized victims of homicide has gone down since the previous quarter when seven homicides were reported. To date, 15 demobilized soldiers have lost their life, five of them during this quarter. However, based on the verification performed in each case, there is no evidence that these deaths were politically motivated, and in two cases, there was no information on the death. As for arrests of demobilized persons, this figure has also declined slightly, as seven persons were arrested this quarter, and two of them were convicted. The Regional Office in Medellin is currently handling a total of 32 demobilized persons who are being held in different prisons. Around 250 demobilized soldiers have been prosecuted for various reasons to date.

The Medellín Office of MAPP/OAS, as mentioned earlier, is monitoring these cases to verify the course of investigations and their results and findings. At the same time, the mission is still working to verify the situation of detainees, through visits to the prisons and hearings with the Medellín Public Prosecutor, to follow up on cases and obtain official information on the crimes committed.

On another tack, MAPP/OAS has established an arrangement of periodic meetings with the Democracy Corporation for the purpose of evaluating complaints received and the reinsertion process in general.

Finally, it is important to note that on November 25, the anniversary of the demobilization of the former Bloque Cacique Nutibara was celebrated with a ceremony and the mobilization of around 30,000 persons, who marched for peace. Local and national officials participated in the event and highlighted the significant progress made in this process.

3.9. *Agreements with Institutions*

Under its mandate, MAPP/OAS has been developing possible agreements with various institutions in Colombia, including the following ones:

- a. Pre-Agreement between the Catholic Church (Pastoral Social working in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta) and MAPP/OAS for Recovery of the Memory of Human Rights Violations in the Sierra Nevada. The purpose of this is to seek testimony, and reports of human rights violations, exchange of information, and joint verification procedures in the case of complaints of human rights violations alleged to have been committed by the Colombian United Self-Defense Forces, among others.
- b. Proposed Film Register presented by the Tayrona de Cabildos Council, for the purpose of using videos, photographs, and texts to inform the international community of the principles governing interpretation of the universe and the forms of expression found in the territory of the Tayrona Community, to guarantee their rights and integrity and the permanency of their culture in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.
- c. Cooperation Agreement with the Antioquia Facilitating Committee, to establish a mechanism for mutual support and assistance for verification of the peace processes in Colombia, within the framework of the agreement in force between the OAS General Secretariat and the Government of the Republic of Colombia.
- d. Cooperation Agreement with the Ombudsman's Office, with a view to establishing a broad-based mechanism for cooperation between the two institutions for effective fulfillment of the Mission's verification duties and the joint generation of projects in the field of human rights, justice and peace.
- e. Agreement with the Office of the Mayor of Medellín. Efforts are being pursued to conclude an agreement between the Mission and the Office of the Mayor of

Medellín, with a view to strengthening the information and communication capacity with the communes in that city, which has been the scene of violence for many years.

3.10. Follow-Up on the Relationship with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)

As indicated in the previous report, the Mission and the IACHR are considering a memorandum of understanding, to comply with the mandate of the Permanent Council. To this end, the Mission sent a letter to the IACHR with a few points that it deems important to bear in mind when said memorandum is prepared, for the purpose of ensuring the valuable advisory services of the Commission:

- a. Training of Mission officials by the IACHR;
- b. Provision of information on cases to the Mission, by the IACHR;
- c. Follow-up on precautionary measures by the Mission;
- d. Joint field visits;
- e. Guide on justice criteria for the Peace Process.

These measures will improve the performance of the Verification Officials specifically and the Mission in general, while they will convert members of the Mission into persons well qualified to promote the inter-American human rights system. At the same time, they will provide valuable inputs to our work and a guide for observance of human rights in the local conflict. Moreover, they will enable the IACHR to have firsthand knowledge of the development of the local conflict, and to have the Mission as a permanent collaborator.

In another vein, the Mission has been invited to certain activities to assist communities where IACHR precautionary measures are in place. In this regard, and in the context of agreements reached with members of the Commission at the latest meeting, a series of visits and meetings with these communities has taken place to inform themselves of their everyday situation. These visits have included the following: 1) A visit to the Emberá Catio indigenous community, which invited the Mission to attend as an observer the Joint Commission for monitoring precautionary measures established by the IACHR to protect the fundamental rights of this ethnic group; 2) In October, the Mission met with representatives of the Cañamomo Lomapieta reservation of the Emberá Chamí indigenous community in the municipality of Río Sucio, Department of Caldas, with a view to hearing complaints of violations committed by the self-defense groups against this ethnic group, and especially complaints that fall within the mandate of MAPP/OAS.

4. Challenges and Prospects of the Process and the Mission

4.1. Challenges and prospects of the process

- Demobilize 3,000 men before January 2005.
- Begin the work of re-institutionalization in the demobilized zones.
- Adequately reinsert former combatants into civilian life.
- Establish a viable mechanism for the future demobilization of other armed groups operating outside the law.
- Guarantee security in the demobilized zones.

- Develop projects that contain demobilized persons and ensure that when the institutions return, they fulfill the expectations of the communities.

4.2. *Challenges and prospects of the Mission*

- Verify the reinsertion of the demobilized persons.
- Support demobilization efforts.
- Agree on and put into practice a memorandum of understanding with the IACHR.
- Work with the communities affected by violence in the areas of justice, human rights, and alternate settlement of conflicts.
- Continue improving the verification process.

5. **Conclusions and Recommendations**

- The OAS presence in the peace process in Colombia is contributing to the transparency and credibility of the efforts being made in that country to obtain a lasting peace. The decision to monitor the peace process has provided the Colombian government with an important political opportunity and has helped garner the support of other countries for the Colombian process.
- The peace process with the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia has made great strides during this period of time, despite the issues and obstacles observed. Today we are confronted by the concrete fact that the demobilization of eleven structures, including AUC *bloques* and fronts, is beginning. The major challenge for Colombians, as we stated in the report, will be the reinsertion of the demobilized persons in civilian life.
- In the course of 2004, despite reduced violence on the part of the self-defense groups, there were serious complaints of violations of the cessation of hostilities, including homicides, massacres, disappearances, acts of torture, and death threats. We have also received complaints and information on continued widespread practices less serious in nature, such as extortions and, in general, pressure on communities in areas where the self-defense groups exert influence.
- The Mission is deeply concerned over the situation of violence against the indigenous communities of Colombia. It is suggested that the present monitoring activities be increased and programs developed with indigenous peoples, within the terms of the mandate.
- The cessation of hostilities is not being fully respected, as mentioned earlier.
- MAPP/OAS will monitor and verify the reinsertion of demobilized combatants through its usual procedures and educational and productive activities, to ensure that they do not return to unlawful activities.
- MAPP/OAS will verify the dismantling of the armed structure of self-defense groups and their reinsertion in civilian life.

- The shortage of both economic and human resources needed to fully comply with its mandate is a major concern.
- The complexity of the legal situation of the demobilized persons is one of the factors jeopardizing the reinsertion process. The time it could take to clarify the legal situation of each person and the fears of being detained may lead many of the demobilized persons to go back to being a member of an illegal group.

With a view to helping improve the peace process, the Mission would make the following recommendations:

- The lack of an adequate legal framework is hampering the process. The Mission is confident that the Government of Colombia, through its democratic institutions, will establish an adequate legal framework for such a massive demobilization. In any event, any peace process is essentially a dynamic, creative process in which it is impossible to expect everything to be resolved in a day.
- The Mission would emphasize its recommendation that the legal obstacles to destruction of the arms turned in by the AUC must be overcome.
- As part of the process of the return of the territories to institutionalism, it is essential that resources be found to initiate projects on community justice, human rights, and alternative means for settlement of conflicts.



MAPPIOEA

SUMMARY OF INDICATORS OF VIOLENCE ATTRIBUTABLE TO SELF-DEFENSE GROUPS

Category	Source	2001		2002		2003		2004	Percentage change: Jan-June 2003-2004
		First Semester	Second Semester	First Semester	Second Semester	First Semester	Second Semester	First Semester	
Homicides	National Police	27.841		28.837		12.048	10.965	10.695	-11%
Homicides committed by self-defense groups	National Police	No data	No data	No data	No data	288		250 (January-September)	- 11,2% (compared with 2003)
Extrajudicial executions by paramilitaries	Data Bank, CINEP Justice and Peace	870	774	510	974	605	549	304	-48,8%
Victims of massacres	National Police	1,044		680		273	150	157	-42%
Victims of massacres committed by self-defense groups	National Police	281		59		13		8	-38,5% (compared with 2003)
Number of massacres (incidents) committed by self-defense groups	National Police	42		12		3		2	-33,3% (compared with 2003)
Murders of union members committed by paramilitaries	Escuela Nacional Sindical (ENS)	67		32		14		No data	-
Murders of indigenous people by self-defense groups	Observatorio de Derechos y DIH / Office of Vice-President of the Republic	59		78		75		14 (January-September)	-81,3% (compared with 2003)
Kidnappings committed by self-defense groups	FONDELIBERTAD	268		191		101	73	123 (January-September)	- 29,3% (compared with 2003)
Forced disappearances committed by paramilitaries	Data Bank, CINEP Justice and Peace	133	120	90	138	98	30	48	-51%
Displaced persons	Social Solidarity Network (RSS)	373,531		422,229		126,963	93,000	66,559	-47.6%
Displaced persons	CODHES	341,925		412,553		207,607		130,346 (9/24/04)	-37.%
Victims of torture by paramilitaries	Data Bank, CINEP Justice and Peace	104	70	44	121	79	53	44	-43.3%
Cases of threats by paramilitaries	Data Bank, CINEP Justice and Peace	312	125	163	742	122	116	119	-2.5%
Threats to union members by paramilitaries	Escuela Nacional Sindical (ENS)	150		89		87		No data	-

Note: Methodology of the Summary Table of Indicators: The data in the summary of indicators were obtained by cross-checking the sources indicated, and refer primarily to violations alleged to have been committed by the AUC. The semesters run from January-June, July-December. None of the sources systematically distinguishes between self-defense groups that are part of the cessation of hostilities and those that are not. The colors red and yellow represent the years before and after the entry into force of the AUC cessation of hostilities (1 and 8 December, 2002), except that there were no data that made it possible to take out the month of December 2002, and so the comparison "before and after the entry into force of the cessation of hostilities" has to be approximate. Some official sources provide data from January to September 2004. In the case of the Data Bank's statistics, these figures are derived from cross-checking information in the "Noche y Niebla" Reviews, Nos. 20-29. Since the categories used in the Data Bank reflect some changes in classification from one year to the next, the figures represent all the self-defense groups registered in the "Noche y Niebla" Reviews cited.