

## Colombia: Terror from All Sides

From Testimony of José Miguel Vivanco, Executive Director  
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Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps, and Narcotics Affairs  
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Although their motives and goals are different, *both* the revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the paramilitaries allied under the umbrella group the United Self-Defense Groups of Colombia (AUC) commit similar abuses and crimes.

	<b>FARC</b>	<b>AUC</b>
<b>TERRORISM</b>	The FARC was designated a Foreign Terrorist Organization on October 1, 1997. According to the State Department, the FARC commits “bombings, murder, kidnapping, extortion, hijacking, as well as guerrilla and conventional military action against Colombian political, military and economic targets”	The AUC was designated a Foreign Terrorist Organization on September 10, 2001. The State Department noted that, “The AUC has carried out numerous acts of terrorism, including the massacre of hundreds of civilians, the forced displacement of entire villages and the kidnapping of political figures to force recognition of AUC demands”
<b>SIZE</b>	17,000 - the largest guerrilla organization in Colombia	11,000, according to AUC leader Carlos Castaño. This constitutes a 560% increase since 1996
<b>KIDNAPPINGS</b>	The FARC committed over 1,000 kidnappings of civilians in 2001	The AUC was responsible for 296 kidnappings between June 2000 and June 2001
<b>KILLINGS OF CIVILIANS OR POLITICAL KILLINGS</b>	The FARC was responsible for the killings of at least 197 civilians in 2001, and for 8% of all political killings	The AUC committed at least 1,015 killings and over 100 massacres in 2001 - at least 50% of all political killings
<b>TARGETS</b>	Perceived supporters of the military and the AUC, including politicians and political candidates, as well as civilians	Perceived supporters of the FARC and other guerrillas, as well as judicial officials, police officers, national and local politicians and activists
<b>DRUG TRAFFICKING</b>	At least two-thirds of the FARC’s units are believed to be involved in the drug trade	Carlos Castaño admitted in 2000 that nearly 70% of the AUC’s funding derives from the drug trade

### In Their Own Words

“We have to grab people from the Senate, from Congress, judges and ministers, from all the three powers (of the Colombian state), and we’ll see how they’ll squeal.” – Jorge Briceño, a.k.a. “Mono Jonoy,” a top FARC Commander, in 2002

“The methods the ‘self-defense’ forces used to recover Urabá were no less violent and disgusting than those used by (guerrillas)...This should be absolutely clear! We copied the guerrillas’ methods and confronted them with the same tactics.” – Carlos Castaño in his 2001 autobiography, *Mi Confesión*

