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TITLE: SUBJECT: INDEX OF MAJOR VIOLENCE FOR JANUARY 1990 (90-2)

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SUBJECT: INDEX OF MAJOR VIOLENCE FOR JANUARY 1990 (90-2)

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1. CONFIDENTIAL -- ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: GUERRILLA VIOLENCE INCREASED THIS REPORTING PERIOD WITH SUBVERSIVES ENGAGED IN A STILL INCIPIENT CAMPAIGN TO SABOTAGE THE 1990 ELECTIONS AND TO RETAKE PART OF THE MIDDLE MAGDALENA REGION. THE ELN RENEWED FREQUENT ATTACKS ON THE OIL PIPELINE, CAUSING HEAVY DAMAGES. THE MILITARY SCORED WITH TWO MAJOR OFFENSIVES AGAINST THE ELN AND FARC IN THE MIDDLE MAGDALENA AND IN THE EASTERN PLAINS, IN RESPONSE TO GUERRILLA VIOLENCE IN THOSE REGIONS. THE ARMY PLANS TO MAINTAIN OPERATIONS AGAINST BOTH THE NARCOS AND THE GUERRILLAS, WHILE PROVIDING SECURITY FOR THE ELECTIONS.

3. THE SECURITY FORCES FACED A 300 PERCENT INCREASE IN KIDNAPPINGS IN JANUARY AFTER NARCO GANGS JOINED GUERRILLAS AND COMMON CRIMINALS IN THIS ACTIVITY, PROMPTING THE GOC TO CREATE ANTI-KIDNAP GROUPS. LATE IN THE REPORTING PERIOD, HOWEVER, THE TOP NARCOS RELEASED HOSTAGES AND CEASED ANTI-GOC ACTIVITIES IN A BID TO PLACATE AUTHORITIES. MORE NARCOS FOUND MURDERED IN BOGOTA SUGGESTED TO AUTHORITIES THE CONTINUATION OF A SCORE-SETTLING CAMPAIGN. END SUMMARY.

I. GUERRILLA-RELATED ACTIVITY

4. THE MILITARY RESPONDED EFFECTIVELY IN KEY AREAS TO HEIGHTENED GUERRILLA ACTIVITY THIS REPORTING PERIOD. SUBVERSIVE ACTIONS CONFIRMED EARLIER INDICATIONS OF A

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior  
Reviewer

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NEW, WIDE-RANGING CAMPAIGN BY GUERRILLAS TO SABOTAGE THE ELECTIONS AND THE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE, AND, IN THE CASE OF THE FARC, TO RETAKE PART OF THE MIDDLE MAGDALENA REGION. IN LATE JANUARY, THE COMMANDER OF THE COLOMBIAN ARMY, GENERAL JESUS ARMANDO ARIAS CABRALÉS, TOLD THE DCM THAT THIS ELECTION YEAR THE ARMY WOULD BE CAPABLE OF SIMULTANEOUSLY MAINTAINING OPERATIONS AGAINST THE NARCOS AND THE GUERRILLAS, WHILE PROVIDING SECURITY FOR THE ELECTIONS.(SEE BOGOTA 976). ARIAS SAID THAT THE ELN FOCUS WAS ON INTIMIDATING VOTERS TO BOYCOTT THE ELECTIONS ENTIRELY, WHILE THE FARC AND THE EPL WERE ATTEMPTING TO PRESSURE VOTERS TO VOTE FOR CANDIDATES SUPPORTED BY THOSE GROUPS.

ARMY HITS FARC AND ELN IN MIDDLE MAGDALENA AND IN META

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5. ARMY TROOPS BEGAN A MAJOR OFFENSIVE AGAINST FARC AND ELN UNITS IN THE MIDDLE MAGDALENA ON JANUARY 6, AN OPERATION THAT CULMINATED IN WHAT ARMY SOURCES DESCRIBED AS THE "MOST ENERGETIC MILITARY OFFENSIVE EVER UNLEASHED AGAINST FARC OUTPOSTS IN THE MAGDALENA." THE ATTACK BEGAN AFTER THE FIFTH BRIGADE DETECTED THE PRESENCE OF 200 GUERRILLAS OF THE FARC'S 24TH FRONT AND THE ELN'S "DOMINGO LAIN" COMMANDO IN THAT AREA. THE MOST INTENSE FIGHTING OCCURRED IN A WIDE JUNGLE AREA BETWEEN SAN PABLO (SOUTH OF BOLIVAR DEPARTMENT) AND YONDO (ANTIOQUIA DEPARTMENT, ON THE BORDER WITH SANTANDER). IN YONDO THE FARC GUERRILLAS PUT UP A STIFF RESISTANCE. THE OPERATION LASTED UNTIL JANUARY 12 AND INVOLVED FIVE BATTALIONS (SOME 1,500 SOLDIERS). THE MILITARY, SUPPORTED BY ARMED HELICOPTERS, SUCCEEDED IN DISLODGING THE FARC'S 24TH FRONT FROM THE SAN PABLO-YONDO AREA. AUTHORITIES SEIZED SEVERAL FARC ELN ENCAMPMENTS, INCLUDING A LARGE FARC TRAINING SCHOOL, A HEALTH CENTER AND A COOPERATIVE. OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE REPORTED THAT FIVE MILITARY AND AT LEAST THIRTY GUERRILLAS WERE KILLED. IN THE MIDST OF THIS FIERCE BATTLE THE FARC LEADERSHIP STRUCK AN INVOLUNTARILY IRONIC NOTE: IT CALLED FOR A NATIONAL PLEBISCITE ON THE CONVOCATION OF A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TO DISCUSS COLOMBIA'S CURRENT

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PROBLEMS (SEE BOGOTA 523).

6. GENERAL ARIAS TOLD POLOFF THAT THE HEAVY CONCENTRATION OF FARC FORCES IN THE MAGDALENA MEDIO IS

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ATTRIBUTABLE TO FARC EFFORTS TO RETAKE PARTS OF THAT REGION, FROM WHICH IT WAS DRIVEN OUT IN 1982-84 BY SELF DEFENSE/VIGILANTE GROUPS. LENDING CREDENCE TO THIS INTERPRETATION IS THE FACT THAT THE FARC UNITS FOUGHT DOGGEDLY TO AVOID GIVING GROUND DURING THE SIX-DAY ENCOUNTER. ARIAS CLAIMED THAT THE FARC'S EFFORT TO REGAIN THE MAGDALENA MEDIO HAD BEEN STIMULATED BY CUT OFF OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT BY NARCO KINGPIN RODRIGUEZ GACHA'S ORGANIZATION, NOW IN DISARRAY, TO SEVERAL VIGILANTE GROUPS IN THE AREA. THE MILITARY CLAIMS THAT ITS CAMPAIGN HAS FRUSTRATED FARC PLANS TO RETAKE THE MAGDALENA. WE BELIEVE THAT THE SUBVERSIVES WILL TRY AGAIN, GIVEN THE FARC'S OBVIOUS DESIRE TO RETAKE THAT STRATEGICALLY LOCATED REGION, A COMMITMENT UNDERSCORED BY RECENT CLASHES BETWEEN FARC UNITS AND VIGILANTE GROUPS IN THAT REGION.

7. ANOTHER MAJOR CLASH BETWEEN THE ARMED FORCES AND THE FARC OCCURRED IN META DEPARTMENT ON THE EASTERN PLAINS. HEATED FIGHTING BEGAN JANUARY 28 AFTER A FARC UNIT AMBUSHED AND KILLED FIVE MEMBERS OF A MILITARY PATROL IN MESETAS. THE AMBUSH SITE WAS THE ROAD TO LA URIBE AND THE RUGGED MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN SHIELDING THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE FARC'S HIGH COMMAND. IN THE ENSUING PUNITIVE OPERATION JANUARY 29-31, MILITARY PATROLS PURSUED AND KILLED AT LEAST 5 FARC GUERRILLAS, WHILE FORCING THE REST TO FLEE TO THE ADJOINING CASANARE

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TERRITORY. THE ARMY'S INTENSE OPERATION IN THIS AREA, WHICH CONTINUED INTO FEBRUARY 1, WAS ALSO DESIGNED TO END FARC ATTACKS ON AND KIDNAPPINGS OF POLITICAL LEADERS IN THE REGION.

ELN LAUNCHES WIDE-RANGING TERRORIST CAMPAIGN  
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8. THE ELN'S LONG-THREATENED TERRORIST CAMPAIGN BEGAN IN EARNEST THIS REPORTING PERIOD. IN THE WEEK OF JANUARY 5-12, THE ELN ASSASSINATED TWO NORTHERN MAYORS, INCREASED THE NUMBER OF ABDUCTIONS FOR RANSOM (ESPECIALLY IN SUCRE AND BOLIVAR DEPARTMENT), RESUMED ITS OFF-AND-ON ATTACKS ON THE CANO LIMON-COVENAS OIL PIPELINE, AND STAGED MILITARY ATTACKS IN THE NORTH AND SOUTHWEST (SEE BOGOTA 250). THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF THE MONTH, THE ELN STAGED SEVERAL INCURSIONS IN THE ATLANTIC COAST DEPARTMENTS OF CESAR AND BOLIVAR AND IN NORTE DE SANTANDER AND SANTANDER DEPARTMENTS IN THE NORTH.

ELN RESUMES NEW SABOTAGE CAMPAIGN ON OIL PIPELINE  
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9. THE ELN STAGED THREE BOMBING ATTACKS ON THE CANO LIMON-COVENAS OIL PIPELINE IN JANUARY. THE ACTS OF SABOTAGE PREVENTED THE EXPORTATION OF ONE MILLION BBLs OF CRUDE AND CAUSED CONSIDERABLE ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE. THE WORST INCIDENTS WERE THOSE OF JANUARY 18 AND 25. THE FIRST OCCURRED IN SARAVERENA (CAUCA EASTERN PLAINS) AND CAUSED THE SPILLING OF 5,000 BBLs, SUSPENDED THE PUMPING OF 270,000 ADDITIONAL BBLs AND THE ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE INCLUDED FLUVIAL CONTAMINATION AND A FIRE. THE JANUARY 25 INCIDENT TOOK PLACE IN NORTE DE SANTANDER AND DESTROYED 20,000 BBLs, CAUSING HEAVY ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE FOR 20 KMS. IN 1989, THE ELN STAGED 29 ATTEMPTS ON THE OIL PIPELINE, SPILLING A TOTAL OF 00,000 BBLs AND COSTING 1.7 MILLION USD IN LOST EXPORT REVENUES AND 13 MILLION USD IN DAMAGES. AN ELN "TRUCE" ON PIPELINE SABOTAGE IN EARLY 1989, HOWEVER, REDUCED THE DAMAGE FROM THIS ACTIVITY FOR THAT YEAR IN COMPARISON WITH 1988, DURING WHICH THE ELN COMMITTED 56 ACTS OF SABOTAGE ON THE PIPELINE. SHOULD THE RENEWED SABOTAGE CAMPAIGN

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CONTINUE THROUGHOUT 1990, THE COST AND ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE FROM OIL PIPELINE SABOTAGE COULD BE WORSE THAN THAT OF 1989.

ELN LAUNCHES FUND AND RECRUITMENT DRIVES

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10. ELN ATTACKS AGAINST SMALL RURAL MUNICIPALITIES ALSO INCREASED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD (SEE BOGOTA 250). ALONG WITH THE INCREASE IN ABDUCTIONS FOR RANSOM, THE ELN ATTACKS ON AGRARIAN EXCHANGE OFFICES IN RURAL

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MUNICIPALITIES SUGGESTED AN ELN "FUND DRIVE." THIS NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS MAY BE LINKED TO THE FINANCING OF THE ELN'S INCIPIENT SABOTAGE CAMPAIGNS AGAINST THE ELECTIONS AND THE OIL PIPELINE. RAIDS ON SMALL TOWNS INCLUDED ELN HARANGUES URGING RESIDENTS TO SUPPORT THE ELN AND NOT TO VOTE IN THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS. THE ELN STAGED "ARMED RECRUITMENT" RAIDS (I.E. ABDUCTIONS OF CAMPESINOS -- SEE BARRANQUILLA 026), POINTING UP A SUDDEN NEED BY THAT GUERRILLA GROUP TO REPLENISH ITS CANNON FODDER. THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME ELN-RELATED ACTIVITIES WORTHY OF NOTE WHICH OCCURRED IN THE SECOND HALF OF JANUARY:

-- AFTER A HEATED ANTISUBVERSIVE CAMPAIGN IN THAT AREA, ARMY UNITS SEIZED AND DESTROYED AN ELN TRAINING CAMP IN THE PERIJA SIERRA IN CESAR DEPARTMENT IN THE NORTH ON JANUARY 16. AUTHORITIES RESCUED A KIDNAPPED RANCHER IN THE OPERATION, IN WHICH TWO GUERRILLAS WERE KILLED AND TWO OTHERS WOUNDED;

-- A JOINT COMMAND OF THE EPL AND ELN STAGED AN

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INCURSION INTO MUTATA MUNICIPALITY IN THE URABA REGION OF ANTIOQUIA DEPARTMENT JANUARY 16, KILLING FOUR POLICE AGENTS, WOUNDING SIX AND ABDUCTING NINE OTHERS, INCLUDING THE POLICE COMMANDER. THE GUERRILLAS RAIDED THE AGRARIAN EXCHANGE OFFICES (CAJA AGRARIA) AND SABOTAGED THE LOCAL TELEPHONE EXCHANGE;

-- THE NATIONAL POLICE DISCOVERED AN "ELN WEAPONS FACTORY" IN CODAZZI MUNICIPALITY IN CESAR DEPARTMENT ON JANUARY 28. THE FACTORY CONTAINED SEVERAL FULLY ASSEMBLED AUTOMATIC FIREARMS;

-- A 30-MAN ELN COLUMN ROBBED AND BLEW UP A HIGHWAY TOLL BOOTH ON THE ROAD TO MEDELLIN IN ANTIOQUIA DEPARTMENT JANUARY 28;

-- A LARGE ELN COLUMN ATTACKED THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF AGUACHICA, CESAR DEPARTMENT, ON JANUARY 29, KILLING ONE POLICE AGENT AND RAIDING THE LOCAL AGRARIAN EXCHANGE (CAJA AGRARIA). IN A COUNTERATTACK BY ARMY TROOPS, SOLDIERS KILLED A GUERRILLA AND MANAGED TO DRIVE THE ELN UNIT OUT OF THE AREA;

-- AN ELN UNIT KILLED ONE POLICE AGENT KILLED AND WOUNDED ANOTHER DURING A SUBVERSIVE RAID ON THE RURAL REGION OF ARBOLEDAS, NORTE DE SANTANDER DEPARTMENT ON JANUARY 30. AFTER DESTROYING THE POLICE POST, THE ELN RAIDED THE LOCAL AGRARIAN EXCHANGE AND FLED TO THE MOUNTAINS;

-- TERRORISTS PRESUMABLY BELONGING TO THE ELN KILLED MAJOR GERMAN CASTRO DIAZ, THE POLICE COMMANDER OF CURUMANI, CESAR DEPARTMENT, ON JANUARY 31. ALSO KILLED WERE THE MAJOR'S WIFE AND HIS POLICE ASSISTANT. GUERRILLAS AMBUSHED THE MAYOR'S VEHICLE BY PLANTING DYNAMITE CHARGES ON THE ROAD BETWEEN CURUMANI AND VALLEDUPAR AND THEN DISPATCHED THEM VICIOUSLY WITH AUTOMATIC GUNFIRE.

## II. NARCO-RELATED VIOLENCE

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SECURITY FORCES CAPTURE VIGILANTES, SEIZE NARCO ARSENAL  
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11. SECURITY FORCES CONTINUED HITTING RODRIGUEZ GACHA'S CRUMBLING EMPIRE AND CALI CARTEL PROPERTY IN THE REPORTING PERIOD (SEE BOGOTA 901). THE POLICE CAPTURED KEY FIGURES OF A NOTORIOUS NARCO-LINKED VIGILANTE GROUP CALLED "LOS MAGNIFICOS" (THE A-TEAM), SUSPECTED OF BEING INVOLVED IN SEVERAL CAMPESINO MASSACRES. ARMY UNITS SEIZED A 167-RIFLE ARSENAL STORED IN A FARM BELONGING TO THE LATE RODRIGUEZ GACHA IN CUNDINAMARCA DEPARTMENT.

12. NO/NO NARCOTERRORIST BOMBING ATTACKS AGAINST THE GOC OCCURRED IN JANUARY, BUT POLICE FOUND AND DEACTIVATED A HALF-TON CAR BOMB IN NORTHERN BOGOTA ON JANUARY 16. OTHER NARCO ACTIVITY DECREASED THROUGHOUT

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JANUARY, AS HE "EXTRADITABLES" RELEASED ABDUCTION VICTIMS AND HANDED OVER ONE TON OF DYNAMITE TO THE POLICE IN MEDELLIN AS PROOF OF "GOOD FAITH" OF THEIR PEACE OFFERING TO THE GOC (SEE BOGOTA 841, 877 AND 142).

MORE SCORE-SETTLING KILLINGS IN BOGOTA  
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13. KILLINGS ATTRIBUTED BY AUTHORITIES TO "SCORE-SETTLING AMONG NARCO GROUPS FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF KINGING GONZALO RODRIGUEZ GACHA (SEE REFTTEL, PARA 8) CONTINUED THIS REPORTING PERIOD. THE NUMBER OF BODIES FOUND STREWN IN NORTHERN BOGOTA HIGHWAYS REACHED A TOTAL OF 37 IN JANUARY. AS IN PREVIOUS INCIDENTS, MOST VICTIMS HAD POLICE RECORDS FOR TERRORISM, NARCOTRAFFICKING OR OTHER CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES. POLICE

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IDENTIFIED ONE OF THE LATEST VITIMS AS A SUSPECT IN THE CASE OF THE CAR BOMB DACTIVATED JANUARY 16.

## III. KIDNAPPINGS

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ABDUCTIONS INCREASE THREEFOLD IN JNUARY  
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14. GUERRILLA GROUPS, NARCOTRAFFICKERS AND COMMN CRIMINALS KIDNAPPED 143 VICTIMS IN JANUARY, ACORDING TO MILITARY AND POLICE INTELLIGENCE REPOTS PUBLISHED IN THE PRESS. THIS NUMBER REPRESENTS AN INCREASE IN KIDNAPPINGS OF ALMOST 300 PERENT, COMPARED TO THE SAME MONTH IN PREIOUS YEARS (NOTE: 41 PERSONS WERE KIDNAPPED IN ANUARY 1988, AND 47 IN JANUARY 1989). THE NUMBER O ABDUCTIONS FOR JANUARY 1990 COULD BE EVEN HIGHR, HOWEVER: MILITARY AND POLICE STUDIES ASSUME HAT 30 PERCENT OF ALL ABDUCTIONS IS NOT REPORTE TO THE POLICE BECAUSE SOME RELATIVS RFE DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS.

15. MOST ABDUCTION VICTIMS ARE CATTLE RANCHERS, INDUSTRIALISTS, BUSINESSMEN, POLITICAL FIGURES AND EVEN CAMPESINOS. KIDNAPPINGS OCCUR IN ALMOST EVERY REGION OF COLOMBIA. IN JANUARY MOST HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN ANTIOQUIA (54), SANTANDER (23), AND VALLE DEL CAUCA (10) DEPARTMENT. OF THE 143 ABDUCTIONS, THE AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THAT 37 WERE COMMITTED BY THE ELN, 15 BY THE FARC, 2 BY THE EPL, AND 89 BY "COMMON DELINQUENTS." THE MOST NOTABLE INCREASE IN ABDUCTION HAS OCCURRED IN THE LATTER CATCH-ALL CATEGORY, ACCORDING TO ARMY INTELLIGENCE. THE MILITARY BELIEVE THAT THE "SWELLING" IN THIS CATEGORY IS DUE TO INCREASED ACTIVITY BY NARCO THUGS FORMERLY IN THE PAYROLL OF THE LATE GONZALO RODRIGUEZ GACHA. AFTER GACHA'S DECEASE HIS NOW UNEMPLOYED GANG MEMBERS ARE INCREASINGLY RESORTING TO ABDUCTION FOR RANSOM. ANOTHER CAUSE OF THE INCREASE MAY HAVE BEEN A "LIQUIDITY CRISIS" AMONG MEMBERS OF THE EMBATTLED MEDELLIN CARTEL. REPORTEDLY, THESE NARCOS BEGAN ABDUCTING NOTABLES IN DECEMBER-JANUARY TO QUENCH A (TEMPORARY?) NEED FOR READY CASH. THE GUERRILLAS, ESPECIALLY THE ELN, HAVE ALSO INCREASED THEIR RATE OF

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ABDUCTIONS. AS REPORTED IN PARA 10, SUBVERSIVES ARE ENGAGED IN A "FUND DRIVE" TO FINANCE THEIR CURRENT CAMPAIGN TO SABOTAGE THE ELECTIONS AND ARE ALSO "RECRUITING BY ABDUCTION" IN RURAL COMMUNITIES.

GOC CATCHES FLAK, CREATES ANTI-KIDNAPPING GROUPS

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16. IN THE REPORTING PERIOD THE GOC FACED HEAVY CRITICISM FOR ITS INABILITY TO STAUNCH THE RISING WAVE OF ABDUCTIONS, ESPECIALLY IN MEDELLIN AND SANTANDER, AS DIFFERENT GROUPS PROTESTED THE INCREASE IN KIDNAPPING INCIDENTS. ON JANUARY 17, PRESIDENT VIRGILIO BARCO RESPONDED TO THE CRISIS BY ORDERING THE CREATION OF SPECIALIZED ANTI-KIDNAPPING GROUPS WITHIN THE SECURITY FORCES. THESE GROUPS WILL CONCENTRATE THEIR OPERATIONS IN THE MOST HEAVILY AFFECTED AREAS.

IV. OTHER VIOLENCE

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17. TWO MASSACRES, TANGENTIALLY RELATED TO COLOMBIA'S GUERRILLA AND NARCO VIOLENCE, OCCURRED IN THE REPORTING PERIOD:

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-- HOODED GUNMEN KILLED 7 AND WOUNDED 13 RURAL RESIDENTS IN NECOCLI (URABA REGION OF ANTIOQUIA) JANUARY 7. AUTHORITIES ANNOUNCED THAT KILLERS AND VICTIMS WERE ALL EPL MEMBERS INVOLVED IN A LOOT-SHARING DISPUTE (SEE BOGOTA 333);

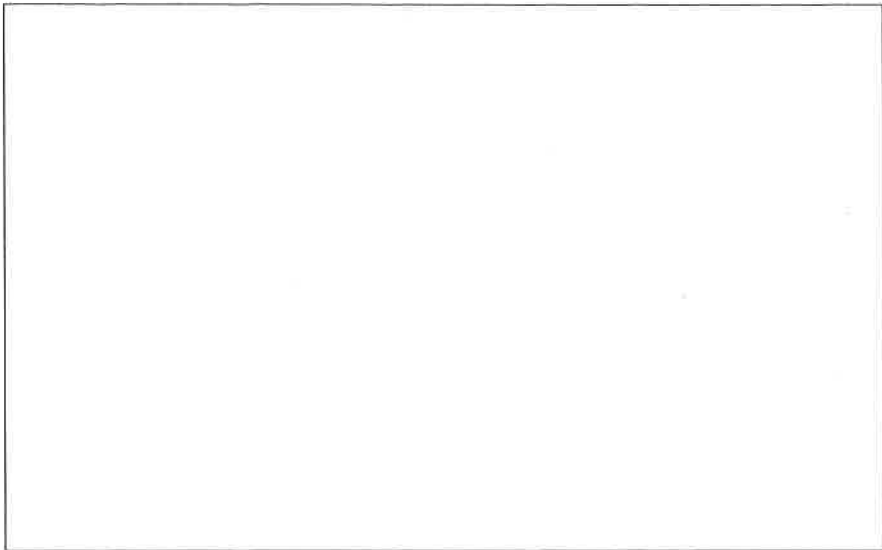
-- AUTHORITIES ATTRIBUTED THE MASSACRE OF 12 RURAL RESIDENTS IN GOMEZ PLATA, ANTIOQUIA DEPARTMENT, ON JANUARY 21, TO AN INTRA-NARCO DISPUTE. THE NARCO GROUP

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CALLING ITSELF THE EXTRADITABLES, HOWEVER, CHARGED AN ALLEGEDLY REVENGE-SEEKING POLICE GROUP WITH THE KILLINGS (SEE BOGOTA 1482). THE 12 VICTIMS WERE MEMBERS OF A VIGILANTE GROUP FINANCED BY NARCO KINGPIN PABLO ESCOBAR GAVIRIA, ACCORDING TO THE POLICE. THE SAME SOURCE INSISTED THAT THE 12 WERE KILLED IN REVENGE BY ANOTHER GANG WHO BELIEVED THEY KILLED NINE OF THEIR FEMALE ASSOCIATES LAST YEAR.  
MCNAMARA

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