

APPENDIX

Colombia, Nariño, armed conflict and peace

The Department of Nariño lies where the Amazonia and the Pacific Ocean meet and in southern Colombia on the border with Ecuador. It has a population of 1.7 million people scattered across a territory formed of 64 municipalities. It is perhaps one of the areas most affected by the armed conflict.

Sixty years of armed conflict in Colombia have left social consequences nationwide. Practices such as kidnapping, enforced disappearance, selective killing, massacres, forced recruitment or



displacement, among others, have turned Colombia into a territory that has over 8 million casualties, of which 49.5% are women. Of these, 3,085,575 are victims of displacement; 427,498 are through feminicides (although in the analysis it is referred to as homicide, this crime is categorised in this specific way for the case of women); 109,805 are from threats; 69,786 are caused by enforced disappearance; 33,477 from loss of property or housing and 32,472 are due to acts of terrorism, attacks, fighting and persecution.

Many of the consequences of the armed conflict have been felt more in rural areas. The Colombian countryside has been suffering from the incessant plunder of its farmers and, according to official figures, more than 8.3 million hectares (358,937 pieces of land) have been abandoned or dispossessed by force.

To be specific, the Department of Nariño has been the site of diverse expressions of the armed groups and the existence of some 20,000 hectares of illegal crops (out of the highest in Colombia). It is also one of the main corridors for drug smuggling and arms importation, taking advantage of the Pacific Ocean and its border with Ecuador.

In Nariño, the mestizo population (70.4%), people of African descent (18.8%) and native Colombians (10.8%) merge together; of the total population (1,541,000), the basic needs of 43.8% are not met and 27.4% live in a situation of misery.

At population level, roughly 26% of the rural population suffers from social and productive exclusion; it must be taken into account that another influential factor in these territories badly hit by the conflict is that more than 50% of their inhabitants are of African and indigenous ancestry, in some cases standing at 95% (Toribio, Cauca)¹.

¹ Report: Mission for Transformation of the Countryside, 2015

