ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS IN Colombia

On 24 March, Colombia entered a nationwide lockdown to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. There were concerns that the lockdown would increase the vulnerability of social workers, demobilized FARC members, and government officials to violence by armed groups. However, levels of violence against civilians have remained stable. While levels of violence against civilians have been steady, the characteristics of this violence have changed both geographically and in terms of the perpetrators.

Before the lockdown, violence against civilians was widespread, occurring in 17 provinces. Since the lockdown, violence against civilians has occurred in only nine provinces: during the lockdown 35% of events have occurred in Cauca, an area where several criminal organizations dispute cocoa production territories, compared to 6% of violence against civilians before the quarantine.

Additionally, the perpetrators of violence against civilians have changed during the lockdown. While a majority of reported violence against civilians cannot be attributed to a specific actor, FARC dissident groups have made up a larger portion of violence against civilians attributed to an actor since the quarantine has begun.

Perpetrators of VAC (Pre-Quarantine Start)

- Unidentified Armed Group
- Popular Liberation Army (EPL)
- National Liberation Army (ELN)
- FARC Dissidents
- Residual Organized Armed Group (GAOR)

Perpetrators of VAC (Post-Quarantine Start)

NOTE: This analysis does not include events of explosions and remote violence. Looking only at events of violence against civilians allows for an analysis of targeted violence against civilians.