

Case 07

The recruitment and use
of children
in the armed conflict

JEP | JURISDICCIÓN
ESPECIAL PARA LA PAZ



The JEP indicted six former members of the Secretariat of the FARC-EP for war crimes of recruitment and use of children and other associated crimes.

Indicted



RODRIGO
LONDOÑO ECHEVERRY



JAIME ALBERTO
PARRA RODRÍGUEZ



MILTON DE JESÚS
TONCEL REDONDO



PABLO
CATATUMBO TORRES



PASTOR LISANDRO
ALAPE LASCARRO



JULIÁN
GALLO CUBILLO

Why were they charged as the main perpetrators?

For the **recruitment and use of children**, as well as for other war crimes committed against them in the context of their life within the ranks, including **cruel treatment, torture, homicide, and sexual, reproductive, and discriminatory violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity**.

The Chamber of Acknowledgment determined that the six individuals, through their actions and omissions during their active life in the guerrilla, **are responsible for five identified macro-criminal patterns**.

Macro-criminal patterns:



Recruitment and use of children, including those under **15 years of age**.



Sexual violence against recruited children.



Cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, torture, and homicide against children recruited in the context of their life within the ranks.



Discriminatory violence against recruited children with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression (SOGIE).



Reproductive violence affecting recruited girls.

Key information:

» **18.677 children**

were recruited and used by the FARC-EP between 1971 and 2016.

» **1996-2016:**

is the period of greatest occurrence of events.

» **1999, 2002, 2007 and 2013:**

are the peak years of recruitment.

» **9.854: registered victims** in Case 07.

» **8.903: collective victims**

belonging to five Indigenous peoples.

» **19 % of the victims**

registered in the case suffered and survived forced abortions.

» **951: individually registered victims**

» **24%: of the survivor victims** registered in the case reported gender-based violence.

» **64%:** of the individually registered victims in Case 07 **were 14 years old or younger when they were recruited.**

» **135 recruited victims**

registered in Case 07 reported **having suffered sexual violence within the ranks.**



Key information:

» **28%** of the registered victims are still missing.

» **319** families of the recruited missing children have been heard in the case.

» **24%** of the women survivors of recruitment who were registered as victims in the case, suffered forced contraception.

8.903

Collective victims

from five Indigenous peoples were recognized by the JEP as victims of recruitment and use of children.

The Koreguaje

Located in the department of Caquetá, report victimizations by the Southern Bloc of the FARC-EP. 649 victims were registered.

The Sikuni

Located in the department of Guaviare, report victimizations by the former Eastern Bloc of the FARC-EP. 363 victims were registered.

The Barí

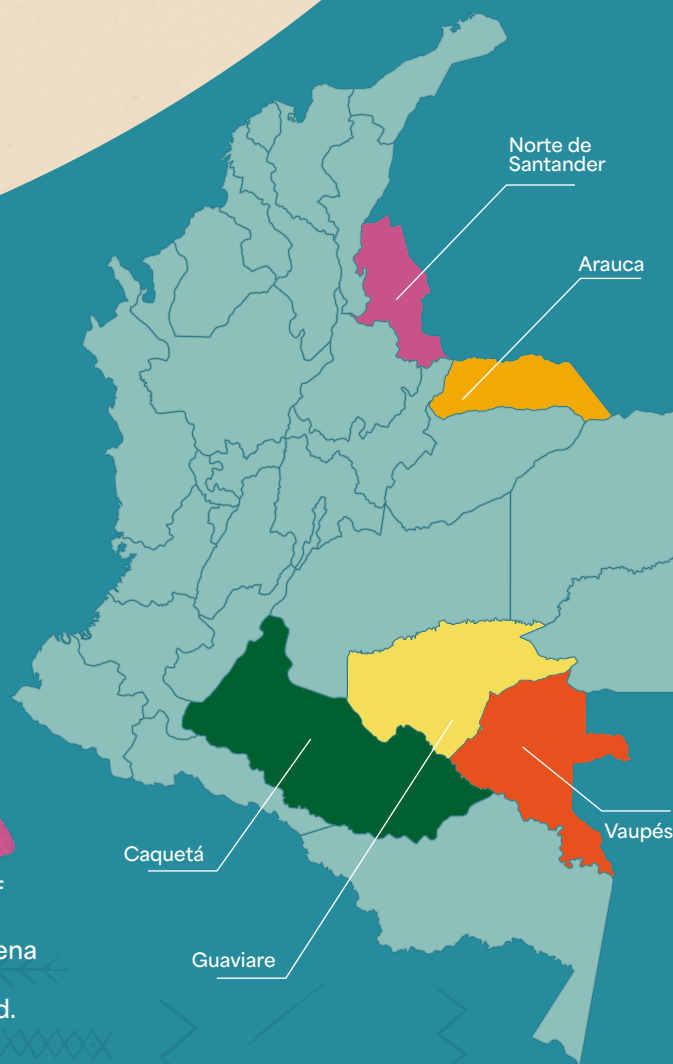
Located in the department of Norte de Santander, report victimizations by the Magdalena Medio Bloc of the FARC-EP. 2,400 victims were registered.

The Cubeo

Located in the department of Vaupés, report victimizations by the former Eastern Bloc of the FARC-EP. 3,010 victims were registered.

The Hitnu

Located in the department of Arauca, report victimizations by the former Eastern Bloc of the FARC-EP. 2,466 victims were registered.



Findings and identified harms:



This phenomenon occurred primarily in rural areas with high levels of poverty.



The Chamber determined that the recruited children suffered the loss of the essence of childhood and were denied the possibility of shaping their own identity.



The deepest impacts arise from the constant exposure to death, as well as the anxiety and suffering caused by various forms of violence endured within the ranks.



The impacts associated with leaving the FARC-EP include those caused by the State Security Forces, the invisibilization of their status as victims, and stigmatization.



The impact of the recruited missing children is analyzed by describing the suffering that permanently affects their families.



Within the ranks of the FARC-EP, children suffered rape, sexual slavery, forced unions, forced nudity, and other forms of sexual violence.



The Chamber determined that the recruitment and use of children belonging to Indigenous peoples aggravated the risk of physical and cultural extinction of these peoples.

Illustrative event: *Operación Berlín*



Military action carried out between **November 19, 2000, and January 5, 2001**, in the border area between Santander and Norte de Santander departments.



These events are related to the *Arturo Ruiz Mobile Column* of the FARC-EP, where the Chamber documented the presence of at least **201 children, including some under 15 years old**, who made up one-third of the members of the column.



The Chamber found that senior leaders of the organization, **including members of the Secretariat of the former FARC-EP**, were involved in creating this substructure.



Symbols



Bamboo plant

A symbol of the mothers, fathers, brothers, and sisters who search for the recruited children who never returned home. This plant represents their tireless struggle, the feminine and collective strength in the search. For years, this plant forms deep roots before it sprouts, only to then stand firm and grow. Its leaves intertwine as a symbol of collectivity, protection of life, and determination.



The Esperanza doll

It was given to Magistrate Lily Rueda by some of the victims, representing the children who were recruited. It is called Esperanza (*Hope*) in tribute to a girl who was recruited as well as to the expectations that the victims have placed in the JEP.



Painted hands

They are the global representation of the movement against the recruitment of children in armed conflicts. The hands made of cardboard in Case 07 have been painted by the victims, with various colors and messages. Each hand was created by a victim who participated in the different encounters and also represents the mark they left on the JEP by sharing their painful life stories. They are also a constant reminder that childhood must be protected, educated, and loved, not used as an instrument of war.



White candles

They represent the memory of the recruited children who remain missing, lighting the path for their families and institutions in their search. They also symbolize the strength and resilience of the surviving victims.

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<https://www.jep.gov.co/macrocasos/caso07.html>