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FARC Territorial Expansion and **Extortion** in Colombia 2010-2015

Extortion in Colombia 2010-2015

FARC Territorial Expansion 2010-2014



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FARC Territorial Expansion 2010-2014



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Extortion in Colombia 2003-2015



2010-2014 FARC
TERRITORIAL EXPANSION

A FARC's absolute territorial increase, with growth in 24 affected municipalities, becomes evident by observing their territorial presence, during the 2010-2014 period. This conclusion can be reached based on their actions and on the indicators of sabotage to economic infrastructure, terrorist acts, attacks against the Public Forces and crimes against individual freedoms of civilians, such as kidnapping and extortion. All of this in spite of the fact that this Guerrilla entered into a unilateral truce at the end of 2014 this means that, from 207 territorial entities in 2010 their presence rose to 231 in 2014, which, in percentage terms, means a 12 % increase.

Despite the fact that, in dominant terms, this territorial increase can be seen as relatively low, when comparing the volume of actions occurred out of the total indicators analyzed, there is an increase of 262 hostile operations (38% more), i.e. that from 690 events in 2010 they went to 952 events in 2014.

Likewise, when comparing the dynamics of FARC's actions in the same period (2010-2014), it was found that 102 municipalities were affected for the first time, their armed presence was maintained in 97 towns and; just in 2010, violent

actions by the armed group were detected in 78 towns.

At the department level, there were also increases in the number of affected municipalities when comparing 2010 and 2014, with higher increases -in percentage terms- in Cundinamarca, which went from 1 affected municipality to 12 (1100%); La Guajira, from 3 to 7 (133%); Bolívar and Córdoba, each one with 2, after having 1; Chocó, went from 4 towns to a record of 8 (100%); Meta rose from 12 to 22 (83%) and Norte de Santander with a territorial expansion of 57%, which rose from 7 to 11 municipalities. On the other hand, data showed total re-

ductions in the departments of Caldas, Cesar, Risaralda and Sucre, which had events in between 1 and 3 municipalities, during 2010.

It should be noted that in the 12 departments which were affected by this expansion of the FARC, violent actions of this terrorist group increased by 84%

(from 266 to 490 shares). This shows that the resurgence of terrorist actions in recent years is an unconcealable reality which is also reflected in the increased perception of insecurity reported in recent opinion polls.

Expansion of the FARC guerrilla by department

2010-2014

Department	# Municipalities 2010	# Municipalities 2014	Var. %
Cundinamarca	1	12	1100%
Boyacá	4	10	150%
La Guajira	3	7	133%
Bolívar	1	2	100%
Chocó	4	8	100%
Córdoba	1	2	100%
Meta	12	22	83%
Norte de Santander	7	11	57%
Guaviare	2	3	50%
Tolima	11	16	45%
Huila	16	22	38%
Arauca	6	7	17%

Source: Ministry of Defense and Security and Democracy Center.

AREAS OF HIGHEST EXPANSION

Analyzing the situation by municipalities and departments, we can conclude that between 2010 and 2014 the FARC managed to expand their violent actions to 102 new municipalities and ceased to manifest violently their presence in 78 municipalities. Likewise, in 61% (20), out of the total of departments in Colombia, there were increases at the municipal level; increases that were seen in Cundinamarca, Meta, Nariño, Antioquia, Huila, Boyacá and Cauca, as the regions of greatest expansion:

- **Cundinamarca**, with 11 new municipalities under guerrilla harassment

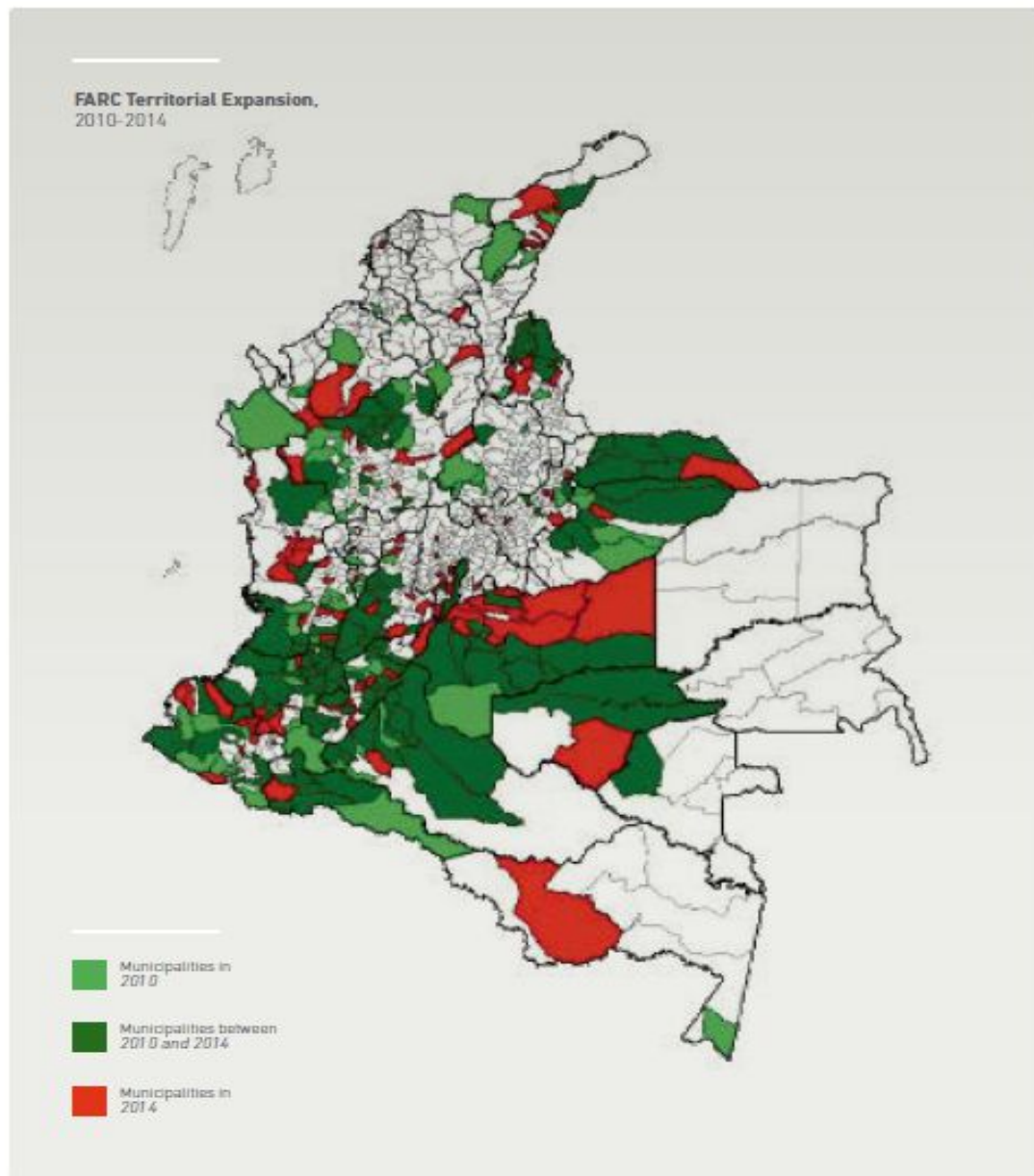
and one municipality with insurgent presence; which gives account for the increase in the volume of actions of this guerrilla by 1,400% going from 1 to 14.

- **Meta**, with 11 new municipalities in 2014 and eleven more with actions by the FARC both in 2010 and in 2014, and one without any attacks in 2014. In this department, FARC's actions grew 245%, going from 47 in 2010 to 162 in 2014.

- **Nariño**, where 9 municipalities were added to the 19 that were already hit by the guerrillas, with a reduction of 22% in violent actions, which meant going from 81 to 63 towns.

- **Antioquia** had an increase of 8 municipalities; with 16 towns where cases were reported in both years, whereas in other 16 municipalities there were no cases reported in 2014 and but there were in 2010. This Department had an increase of 4 % in the volume of actions perpetrated by the FARC, i.e. going to a total of 71 in 2014 from 68 in 2010.

- **Huila** also added 8 municipalities; in both periods there were FARC actions in 13 municipalities meanwhile only 2 cases were reported in 2010. Consequently, the number of violent actions by this guerrilla grew 121% (increased from 56 in 2010 to 124 in 2014).



- **Boyacá**, with a general municipal increase of 150%, which went from 4 municipalities in 2010 to 10 in 2014; situation that showed the following expansion structure: 7 new municipalities, 3 that reported actions in both periods and 1 in which ceased presenting cases in 2014. The FARC's armed actions grew by 71%; they went from 7 cases in 2010 to 12 in 2014.

- **Cauca** added 7 municipalities in 2014, 19 in which the FARC had armed presence in 2010 and 2014, and 7 in which no cases were reported in 2014 compared to actions in 2010. FARC's operations showed a slight decline (-5%); going from 127 in 2010 to 121 in 2014.

IMPACT ON THE DEPARTMENTAL TERRITORY

Depending on the percentage of affected municipalities, departments under siege from the FARC's violence can be classified into four groups:

1- Those with more than 50 per cent of municipalities affected: Arauca (100%), Caquetá (94%), Meta (79%), Guaviare (75%), Putumayo (69%), Huila (65%), La Guajira (60%) and Casanare (53%).

2- Those with between 20 and 50 per cent of municipalities affected, which are: Valle del Cauca (45%); Nariño (44%); Tolima (36%); Antioquia and Chocó, 32 per cent; Norte de Santander, 30 percent; and Quindío, 25 percent.

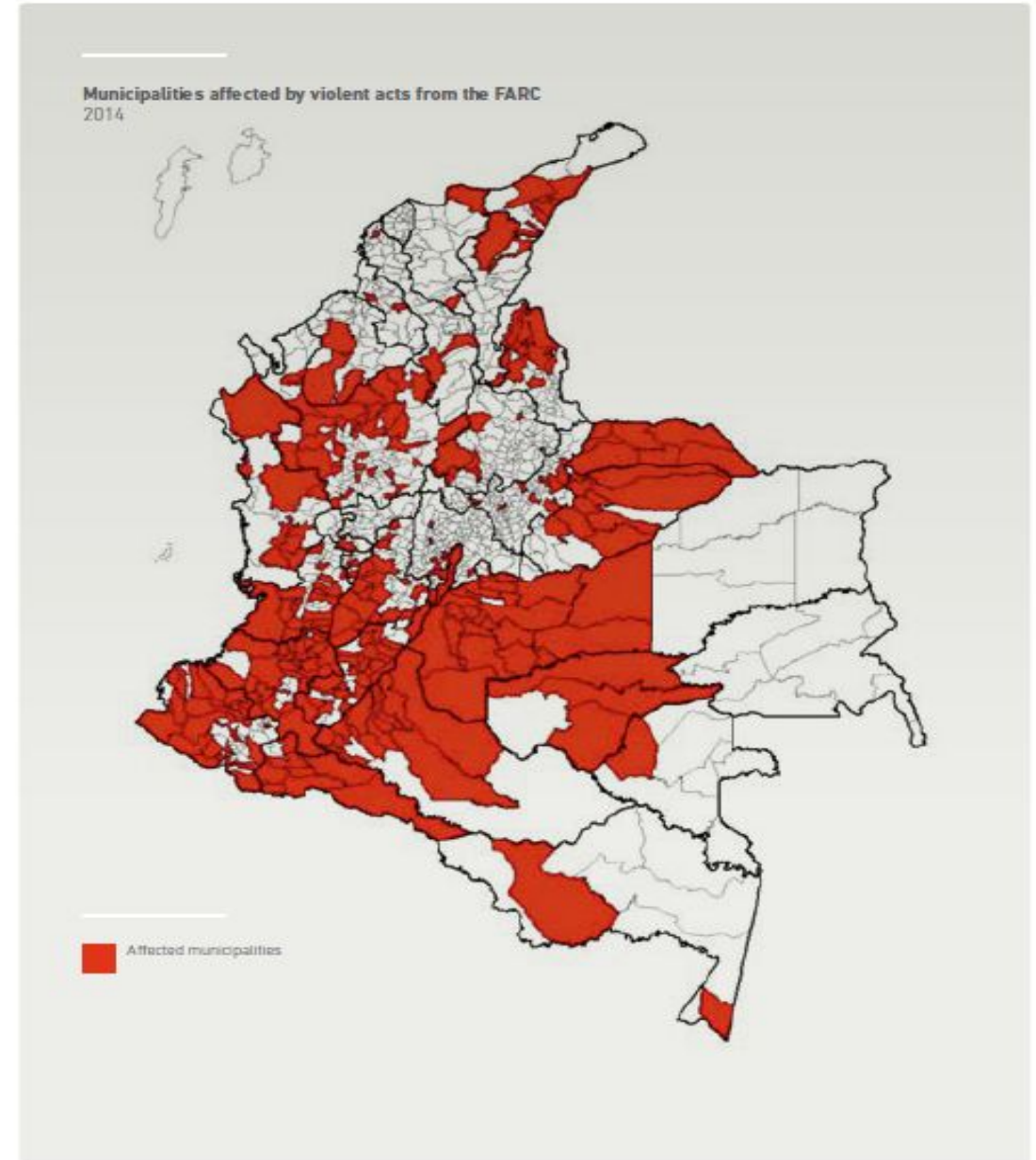
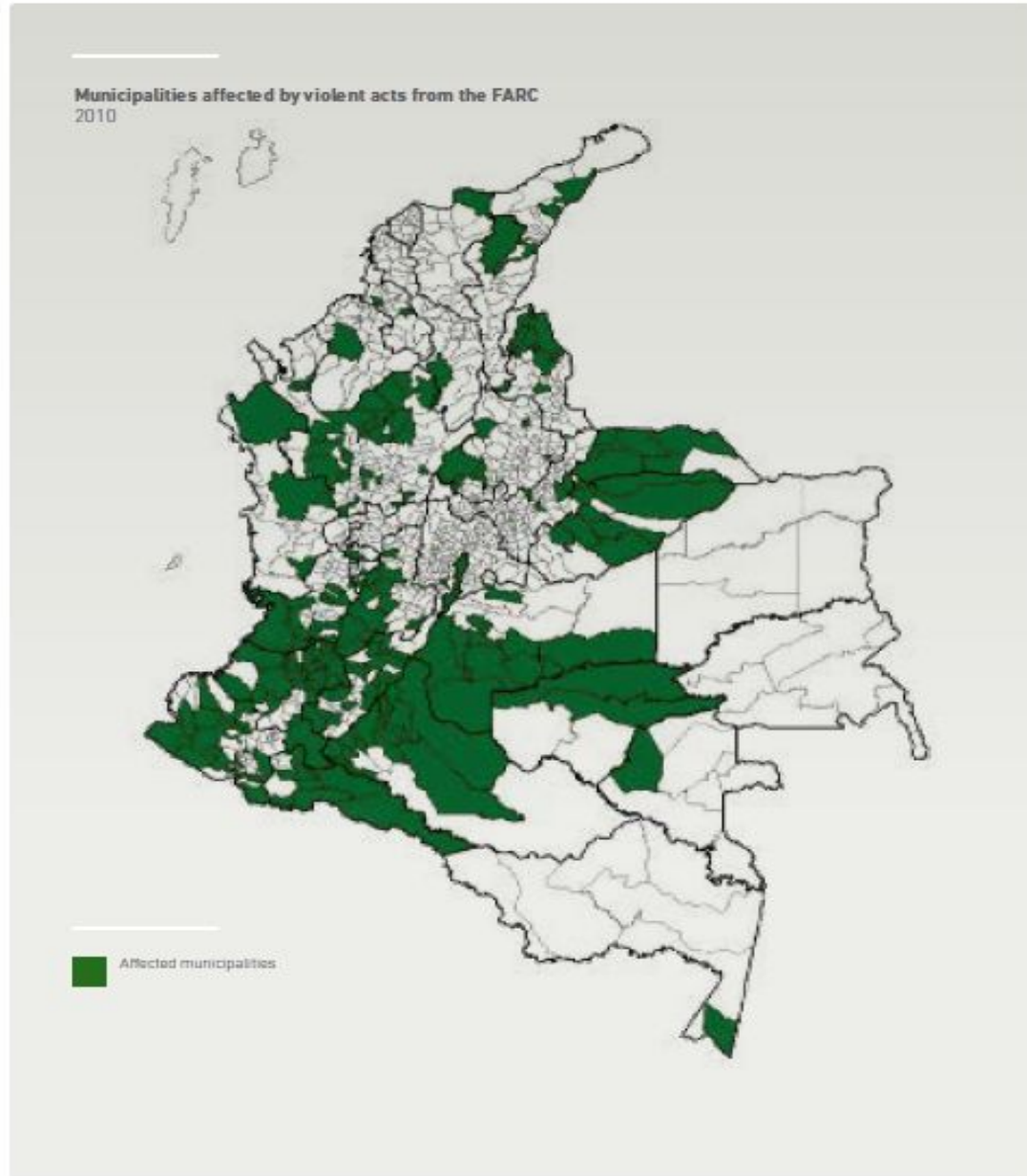
3- Between 10 and less than 20 per cent of municipalities affected, which are: Amazonas (18%), Vaupés (17%), Cesar (12%), Córdoba (11%), Cundinamarca (10%), Boyacá (9%), Sucre (8%); Risaralda, Bolívar and Magdalena, (9%); Santander (6%) and Caldas (4%).

Similarly, departments can be grouped into three categories according to the absolute number of municipalities impacted by the FARC's violence:

1. Departments with more than ten municipalities: Antioquia (40), Cauca (33), Nariño (28), Huila (24), Meta (23), Valle del Cauca (19), Tolima (17), Caquetá (15); Norte de Santander and Cundinamarca (12, respectively); Boyacá (11); Casanare and Chocó (10 each).

2. Departments with more than 4 and less than 10 affected towns: Putumayo and La Guajira, with 9, respectively; Arauca with 7 and Santander with 5 municipalities.

3. Departments with less than 5 municipalities impacted: Guaviare, Quindío, Cesar, Córdoba and Bolívar, each one with 3 municipalities; and Amazonas, Sucre and Magdalena with 2 municipalities each.



INTENSITY OF THE GUERRILLA VIOLENCE

Between the analyzed periods (2010 and 2014), a high correlation between the growth in the number of municipalities affected by the FARC's presence and the increase of violent actions by this group can be observed in the departments, including: attacks against the public security forces, illegal roadblocks, sabotage to economic infrastructure, acts of terrorism, kidnapping and extortion. However, as it was already stated, this groups' expressions of violence are very different, according to the department in which they act.

In fact, in this period, the increase of the violent actions by the FARC in the department of Cauca (where the presence of guerrillas extended to 11 municipalities) was 1,300%, suggesting that it went from 1 to 14 violent actions among those municipalities examined. The most significant increase is seen in the extortion, which grew by 1,200 % (it went from zero in 2010, to 13 in 2011). Attacks against Military Facilities also increased (100%). From zero attacks reported in 2010 it went to 1 in 2014, and abductions were entirely reduced (they fell from 1 to 0).

In the department of Meta, where the number of municipalities with guerrilla presence increased by 11, the FARC's violent actions rose 247%, which went from 47 cases in 2010 to 163 in 2014. Also in this department, the extortion had the highest increase in relation to other guerrilla's violence expressions,

i.e. it rose 1,525% going from 8 in 2010 to 130 in 2014. Illegal roadblocks increased 800%: from not carrying out any one, the figure rose to 8; the number of sabotage actions against several economic infrastructures increased 200%, going from 3 to 9; kidnappings grew 150%, increasing from 2 to 5, while acts of terrorism increased by 125%, going from 4 to 9. On the other hand, decreases were reported in most of the armed actions against the Public Force; something that was reflected in the total reduction of attacks against National Police facilities, 94% in harassments and 91% in ambushes.

In Nariño, where the violent presence of the FARC guerrilla showed activity for the first time in 9 municipalities, indicators as a whole went down by 22% with 18 fewer cases than in 2010.

However, there were increases in cases of extortion by the guerrilla (1,100 %), from 1 case to 12; in kidnappings (100%), it went from 2 to 4; in acts of terrorism, with an increase of 80%, 5 actions went to 9; in ambushes, there was an increase of 75%, by going from 8 to 14 and sabotage acts grew by 11%. In contrast, the generalized decline was driven by reductions in harassments (-81%), in attacks against the Colombian National Police (-75%), in the illegal roadblocks (-50%) and in the reduction of attacks against physical structures of the Military Forces (-33%).

In Antioquia, with 8 municipalities subjected, for the first time, to guerrilla violent acts in 2014, the volume of attacks grew by 4%. Acts of terrorism

have monopolized the vast majority of the terrorist operations, rising from 12 to 26 with an increase of 117%. Illegal roadblocks also increased by 110% going from 10 to 21 and ambushes against Public Force members were 18% more. Sabotage acts against different infrastructures were reduced by 43%, going from 7 to 4; harassments against public force units were reduced by 50%, decreasing from 4 in 2010 to 2 in 2014; extortion fell 71%, dropping from 17 cases to five, while attacks against National Police facilities ended entirely.

In Huila, where 8 municipalities were affected for the first time in 2014 by guerrilla actions, the increase of the terrorist acts was 121%. The largest increases were evident in the illegal roadblocks (800%), rising from 1 to 9, and in the same proportion, in actions of sabotage, going from zero cases in 2010, to 8 in 2014. There was also an increase in the number of extortions reported with 197% more, moving from 29 cases to 86, while in acts of terrorism carried out by this guerrilla, we saw an increase of 80%, going from 10 to 18 cases.

In Boyacá, with 7 municipalities affected for the first time in 2014, there was an overall increase of 86% in violent actions by the FARC, being the largest increase in cases of extortion, with 333% more cases, i.e. it increased from 3 in 2010 to 13 in 2014.

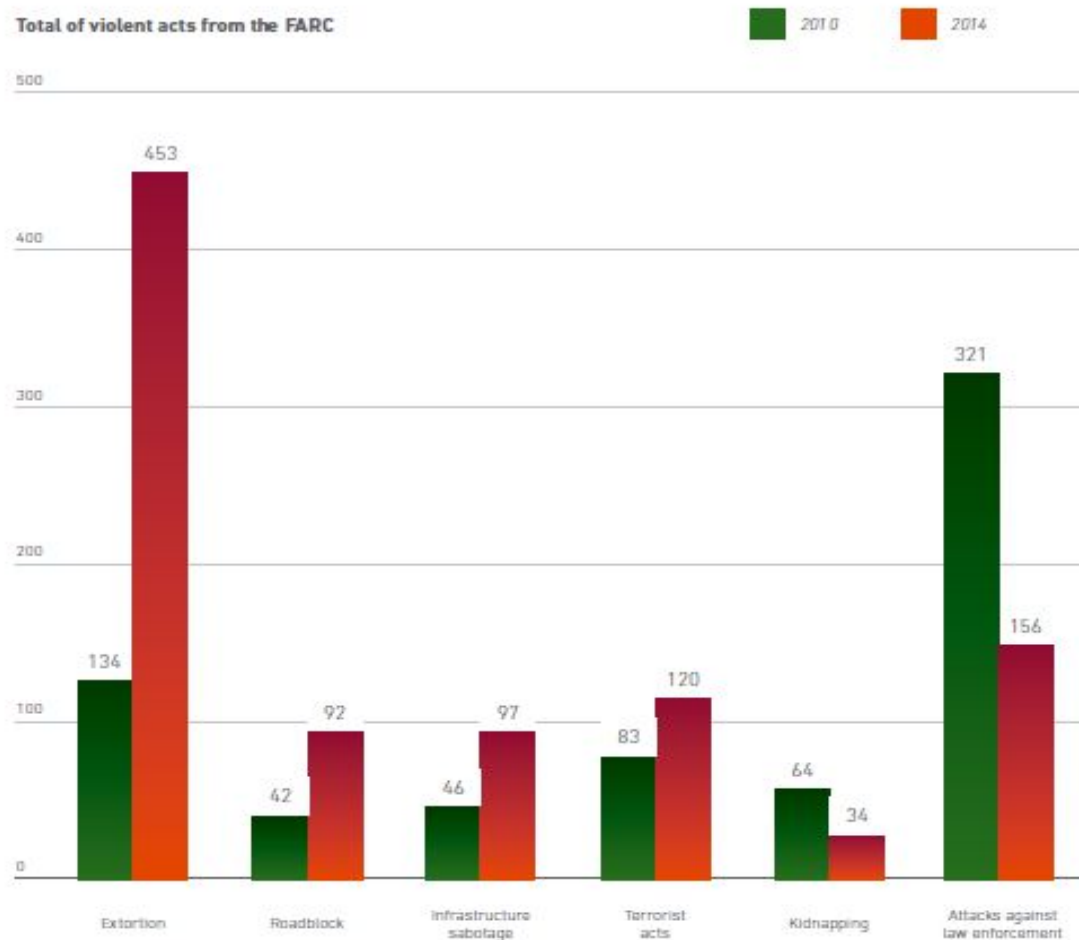
In Cauca, there were terrorist actions for the first time in 7 municipalities. Al-

though there was a slight decline in the volume of violent actions (-5%), indicators showed increases in the cases of extortion (900%), rising from 4 in 2010 to 40 in 2014; in acts of terrorism, with an increase of 60%, going from 10 to 16 and, and in the same proportion, sabotage acts went from 5 to 8 cases.

On the other hand, when comparing the violent actions committed by the FARC between 2010 and 2014, as mentioned earlier, there is an increase of 38% in violent actions, from 690 to 952 attacks. In this regard, extortions by this guerrilla grew by 238%, from 134 to 453 cases; illegal roadblocks

increased 119 per cent, from 42 to 92; sabotage acts against economic infrastructure grew by 111%, going from 46 in 2010 to 97 in 2014 and acts of terrorism increased by 45% rising from 83 to 120. Overall increase was not higher thanks to the declines in direct attacks against the Public Force, dro-

Total of violent acts from the FARC



pping by 51%, going from 321 attacks to 156 and, in cases of abduction, the reduction (which should have gone to a total cease since the FARC committed to stop kidnapping)- was 47%, going from 64 to 34 kidnappings.

Finally, this analysis also allows us to conclude which departments have had higher relative deterioration of their security, i.e. the highest percent increase of actions by the guerrillas, thus: between the 2010 and 2014 there was an increase of

crime, derived from the FARC's actions in 16 departments, showing the greatest percent variations in Cundinamarca (1300%), La Guajira (300%), Bogota (273%), Meta (247%), Putumayo (132%), Huila (121%) and Tolima (106%).

Higher increase on the intensity of violent acts from the FARC 2010-2014

