

## **Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms: 20 Years After Vienna**

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It has been recently calculated by the National Centre of Colombia's Historic Memory that the internal armed conflict in Colombia between 1958 and 2012 has caused at least 220.000 deaths, 8 of every 10 being civilians. The consequences of militarization in Colombia have been devastating in the lives of civil society, with fear as a control mechanism victims do not dare to seek justice. Civilians are victims of crossfire in combat, bombs, situations of extortion, threats, torture, forced displacement and forced recruitment. Militarization creates uncertainty in the lives of civilians, and women are particularly vulnerable. Their movements are monitored, their private spaces are invaded, their sexual and reproductive rights are threatened, sexual violence becomes a common denominator ranging from pressures and insinuations to rape and mutilation. The body of women becomes a symbolic territory of aggression against communities covered by the dark veil of impunity.

Certainly, militarization can not occur without the presence of arms. Brazil is number one producer of arms in Latin America since the 1960's, the fourth biggest global exporter of light arms being Colombia its major client in the region after the U.S.A. Currently Brazil is expanding its regional market by planning a stronger collaboration within the military and security sectors of Argentina and Uruguay. There is currently not official ciphers on the production of light arms in Brazil, no official database nor information made publicly available by the production companies; a confidentiality assumed in order to benefit the production companies. The world wide fluxes of arms are not registered since there is not international legislation nor organization that monitors it, the UN data Register is voluntarily sent, which means that nobody knows how many or where arms end up going. This is especially worrying since arms with appropriate care are long lasting objects. The Arms Trade Treaty adopted by the UN General Assembly on 2 April 2013 is a step forward towards the control of arms trade, signed by 85 states it still needs the ratification of 50 states to enter into force. In addition to the legal commerce of arms, arms trafficking are a constant world problem. Due to Colombia's internal armed conflict, arm trafficking is a constant in our country. Trafficking routes are known from Panama, Ecuador, Venezuela, and Brazil. Small-arms have been proven to enter Colombia come from Central American countries (El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and Costa Rica); but also through Venezuela, some registered to the Venezuelan Armed Forces and others coming from Brazil, Israel, Spain, and Mexico.

Legal and illegal arms in Colombia have determined a history of blood, crime, terror, and impunity. As a consequence, we denounce the militarization of our lives in the name of the war on drugs, the war on terror, the war against all threats to capitalism and the financial world. We demand social and political responsibility of the United States and the European Union for the crimes committed in Colombia on behalf of the war on drugs. We seek justice, reparations and truth for the crimes of legal and illegal armies' committed with the use of arms.

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