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From Below
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Colombia is experiencing its worst humanitarian crisis since the Peace Accords: International Red Cross

Once the report was known, and as is typical in Colombia, the Government spoke out against the statement.



Lorenzo Caraffi, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), presented on Wednesday, March 23, a new report on the humanitarian situation in Colombia ([see here](#)) and in which he records, as other non-governmental organizations have also affirmed, that the [signing of peace in 2016](#) between the then government of Juan Manuel

Santos and the FARC insurgency, it did not serve to contain the armed conflict in the country, and that the violence continues to leave a trail of death, displacement, threats, mined territories, dispossession, confinement, with 2021 as the year of highest records of these events and, even, with growing signs so far in 2022.



Lorenzo Caraffi, head of the

According to the records presented by the ICRC, during 2021 the victims of explosive devices rise to 486 (in 2020 there were 392), 53 percent civilians, and among these 40 of the victims are minors. Of the 486 victims, 50 died.

The dispute between armed groups continues throughout the national territory, and some spaces are being taken over by armed organizations by drug traffickers. The absence of state forces or their belated response to various events of this type is remarkable.



Forced displacements also do not cease and the CIRC registers, based on official data, 53 thousand people throughout 2021, *"which represents an increase of 148% compared to 2020"*.

But not only this, the confinement of thousands of people was also remarkable during 2021, and this accounts for about 45,000 peasants and indigenous people who were forced not to leave their housing areas, by those who dispute control of these territories, 60 percent more than the previous year.

A tragic sign of the protracted armed conflict that marks the history of Colombia, forced disappearance, also registered in 2021, and according to the CIRC [...] every two days, on average, a new case of disappearance related to armed conflicts and violence was registered, the highest statistic of the last five years.

A reality, that of the disappeared people that is leaving Colombia as an extensive grave. The location in cemeteries of various municipalities of the country, of bodies not registered as buried and their subsequent exhumation is leaving a record of the more than one hundred thousand disappeared that the country registers, and that some unofficial sources raise even in thousands of others, figures that did not register, not even closely, the dictatorships that lived different countries of the continent.

"These figures are painful and yet fall short of reflecting the fear, uncertainty and hopelessness experienced by thousands of people because of the armed conflicts in Colombia," said Lorenzo Caraffi, head of the CIRC.



But the situation seems to have no limit, and in 2022 "[...] *the picture could be even more complex than it was last year.*"

According to the head of the humanitarian agency, in the first two months of 2022 25 percent of the total victims of explosive devices documented in 2021 were registered, for which he emphasized: "We see a continuation of these trends and we are noticing an acceleration in the first months of 2022."

Once the report was known, and as is typical in Colombia, the Government spoke out against the statement. Jefferson Mena, Presidential Advisor for Human Rights and International Affairs, said that "[...] it is surprising that the ICRC report does not identify those really responsible for the violation of international humanitarian law in Colombia."

[from below](#), Bogota, April 1, 2022

Edited by [María Piedad Ossaba](#)

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