

Bogotá D.C., April 6 2026

António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres
Secretary General
United Nations Headquarters – New York

Marco Rubio
Secretary of State of the United States
Department of State – Washington D.C.

Nancy Hernández López
President Inter-American Court of Human Rights
San José - Costa Rica

Subject: Urgent Concerns Regarding Colombia's "Total Peace" Policy and Electoral Integrity

Excellencies,

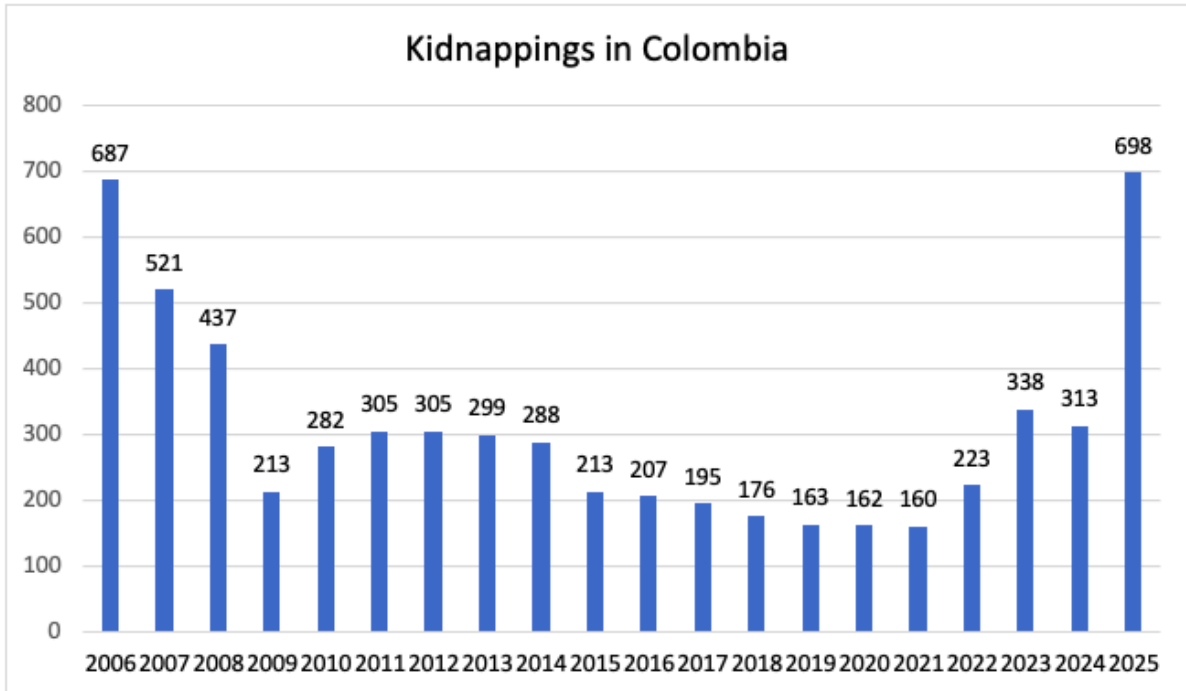
On March 27, Colombia's Attorney General—at the request of the High Commissioner for Peace—ordered the suspension of arrest warrants against 23 high-profile criminals linked to deadly illegal organizations operating in the Medellín metropolitan area.

This decision was made within the framework of "Total Peace," a security policy of the Petro Administration (2022–2026) that sought to establish negotiations with illegal groups. In practice, however, this policy has allowed criminal and terrorist organizations to expand their influence across the country.

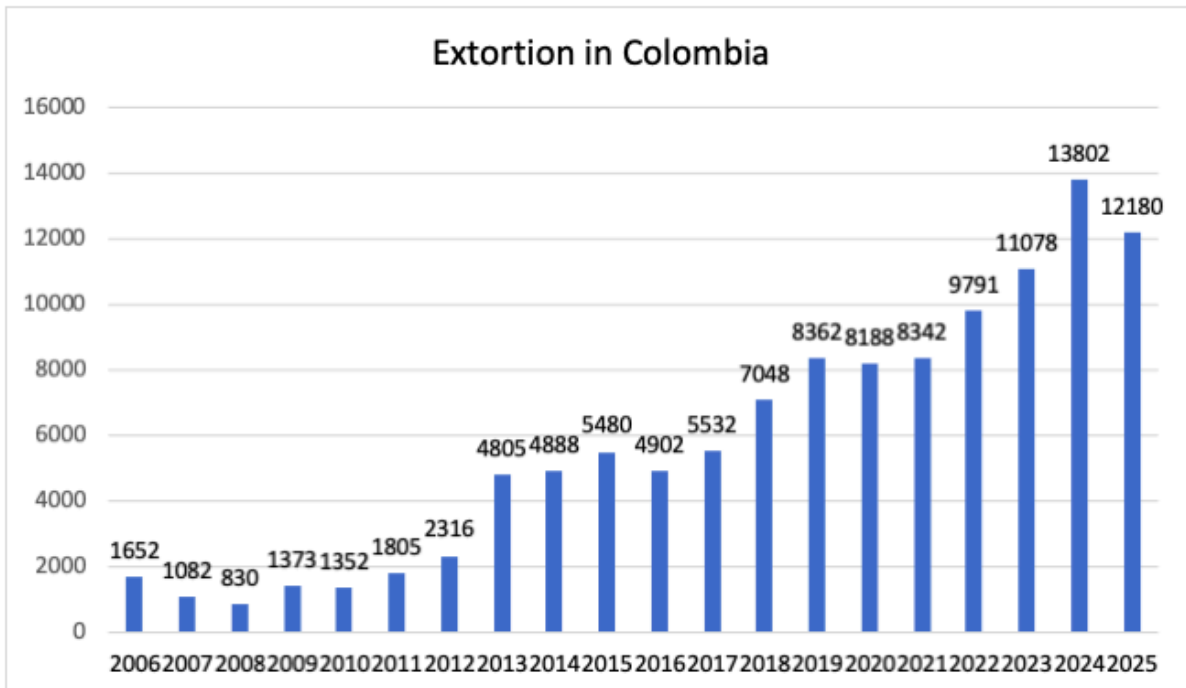
The security situation has deteriorated significantly:

Kidnappings: In 2025, 698 people were kidnapped, the highest number recorded since 2006. This represents a 336% surge in kidnappings compared to 2021, when there were 160 victims¹.

¹ Ministerio de Defensa. Información de criminalidad, resultados operacionales y delitos contra las propias tropas.

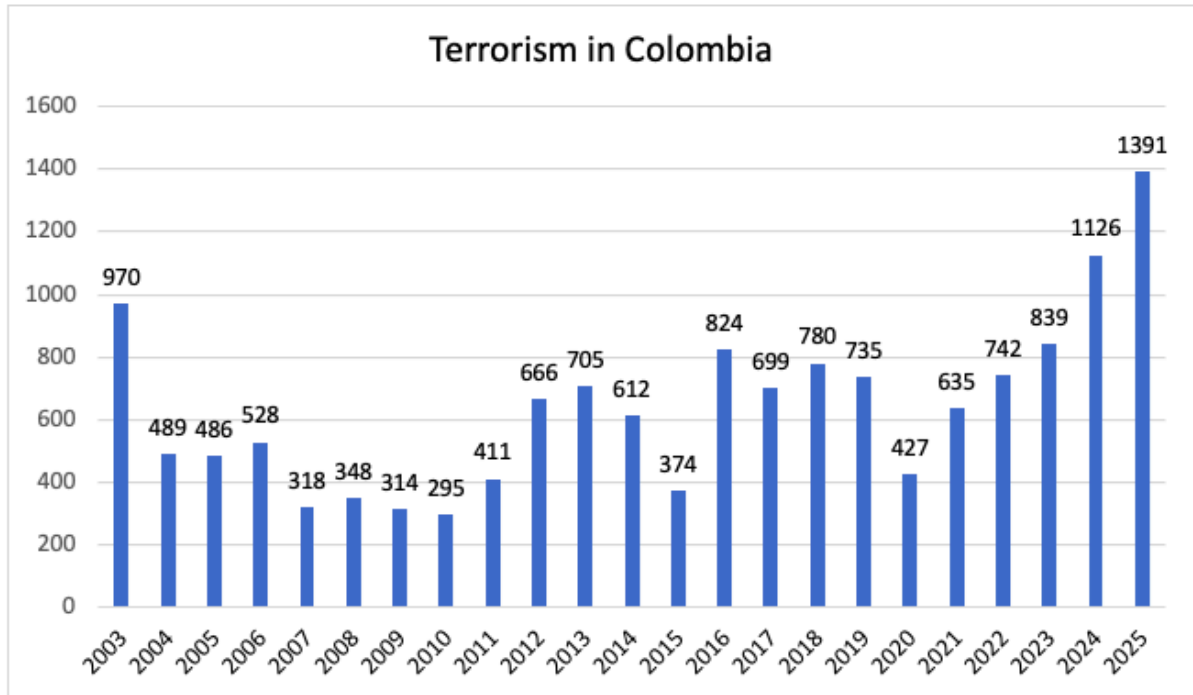


Extortion: Colombia reached record-high levels in 2024 and 2025, with 13,802 and 12,180 victims respectively. Over four years, this crime increased by 46% from the 8,342 victims reported in 2021².



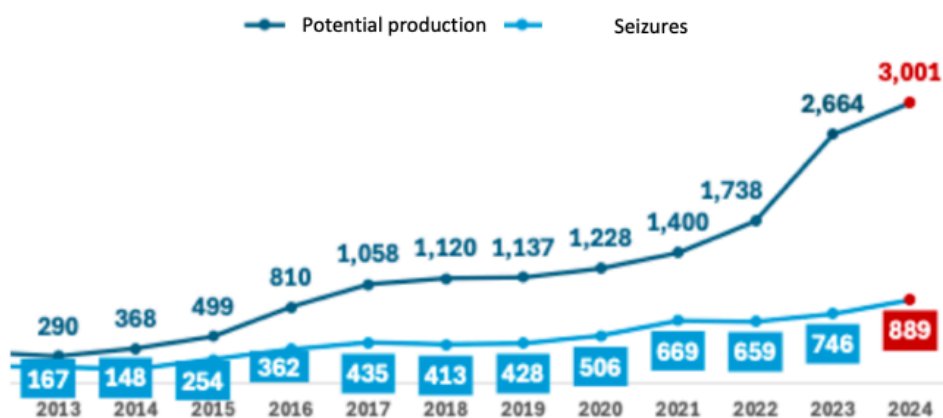
² Ibidem

Terrorism: In 2025, there were 1,391 terrorist events—the highest figure since 2003 and a 119% increase compared to 2021³.



Cocaine Production: In 2024, cultivation reached 261,000 hectares, representing 70% of global plantations. Potential production rose to 3,001 metric tons, while the ratio of seizures to production has fallen to its lowest level in history⁴.

Cocaine: Potential production and seizures (Metric tons)



³ Ibidem

⁴ Ministerio de Defensa and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Ratio: cocaine seizure over potential production



Furthermore, criminal organizations have leveraged the “Total Peace” policy to expand militarily and financially. By 2025, the number of individuals in illegal groups reached 27.000, an increase of 5.000 in just one year⁵. These groups now have a presence in 518⁶ of Colombia's 1.103 municipalities, exerting influence over 46% of the national territory

	2024			2025			
Grupo Armado Organizado (GAO)	Hombres en armas	Redes de apoyo	Total	Hombres en armas	Redes de apoyo	Total	Diferencia en total
Clan del Golfo	2.675	4.876	7.551	3.328	6.512	9.840	▲ 30%
ELN	3.357	2.888	6.245	3.647	3.163	6.810	▲ 9%
EMC – Disidencias al mando de Iván Mordisco	2.283	996	3.279	2.692	1.327	4.019	▲ 23%
EMBF – Disidencias al mando de Calarcá	1.404	1.011	2.415	1.728	1.230	2.958	▲ 22%
CNEB	1.294	381	1.675	1.591	498	2.089	▲ 25%
Segunda Marquetalia	243	223	466	291	243	534	▲ 15%
ACSN	N/A	N/A	466	352	268	620	No aplica
Comuneros del Sur	153	N/A	237	165	86	251	▲ 6%

⁵ Fundación Ideas para la Paz. <https://storage.ideaspaz.org/documents/cifras-fip-2025.pdf>

⁶ Fundación Pares y Reconciliación. <https://www.pares.com.co/balance-de-grupos-armados-2025/>

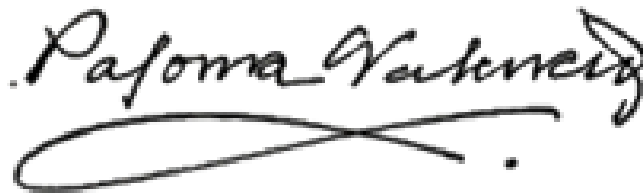
PALOMA

— 2026 —

As a Senator and Presidential Candidate, I am deeply concerned that the Attorney General has suspended the arrest warrants of 23 dangerous criminals just two months before the presidential election. Under these conditions, populations in territories controlled by these organizations are not truly free to vote and may be coerced into supporting the government's candidate, Iván Cepeda.

I call upon the international community to closely monitor the upcoming presidential election and provide all necessary assistance to guarantee a free, fair, and peaceful process. The strengthening of these organizations and the suspension of warrants for their leaders may have an immediate and undue effect on the electoral outcome.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paloma Valencia Laserna". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the bottom.

PALOMA VALENCIA LASERNA
Senator of Colombia and Presidential Candidate