

# Colombia Progress Info Sheet

Sept 2004 Update

UNCLASSIFIED



(1) 13 Aug: COL Police seized 3.614 metric tons of cocaine in Cordoba Dept. First, 150 kg hidden in a truck in the town of Sahagun were seized. This led to the Antigua Bonanza farm near the town of Buenavista where two underground warehouses containing another 3,464 kg of "high quality" cocaine were found, 3 people arrested, 2 firearms and 2 vehicles seized. Drugs worth > \$90 million.<sup>1</sup>

(2) SIJIN [Judicial & Investigative Police] got a tip on drugs being transported inside a steamroller from the eastern plains region to Bogotá. Agents followed the steamroller on a trailer to a parking lot in Bogotá. 1,102 kg of cocaine, worth \$20 million, were found inside the steamroller's drum, and the 2 drivers arrested. The drugs were to be sent to Mexico via El Dorado Airport.<sup>2</sup>

Source: <sup>1</sup> COL Govt News Agency SNE, 13 Aug 04, [www.presidencia.gov.co/sne/2004/agosto/13/28132004.htm](http://www.presidencia.gov.co/sne/2004/agosto/13/28132004.htm); <sup>2</sup> Bogotá *El Tiempo*, 13 Aug 04.

## Overall Crime Reduction Results

	Jan-Jul 03 <sup>1</sup>	Jan-Jul 04 <sup>1</sup>	% CHG
Homicides	13859	12400	-11%
Massacre Events	55	31	-44%
Massacre Victims	312	172	-45%
Kidnappings	1488	896	-40%
Extortive Kidnappings	1019	476	-53%
Illegal Road Blocks	60	18	-70%
Road Block Kidnappings	242	60	-75%
Highway Robberies	865	577	-33%
Bank Robberies	113	61	-46%
Motorcycle Thefts	6128	5220	-15%
Vehicle Thefts	8501	6408	-25%

Source: <sup>1</sup> COL Min Nat Def, "Public Forces Results-Violence, Criminality & Terrorism", 6 Aug 2004, [http://alpha.mindefensa.gov.co/descargas/Resultados\\_Operacionales/resultados\\_enero\\_julio\\_2004.pdf](http://alpha.mindefensa.gov.co/descargas/Resultados_Operacionales/resultados_enero_julio_2004.pdf)

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## Counter Narcotics Results

Seizures	Jan-Jul 03 <sup>1</sup>	Jan-Jul 04 <sup>1</sup>	% CHG
Coca Base (Kg)	13498	18143	+34%
Cocaine (Kg)	62100	85700	+38%
Heroin (Kg)	252	523	+108%
Marijuana (Kg)	65261	104580	+60%
Traffickers	26529	37784	+42%
Drug Labs	665	1209	+82%
Weapons	213	742	+248%
Ammo (rnds)	3924	23538	+500%
Vehicles	360	756	+110%
Boats	113	193	+71%
Poppy Sprayed (ha)	1919	2858	+49%

• July 2004 was a "historic" month for the COL Police in the fight against drug trafficking. In the last 3 weeks of July, 18 tons of cocaine, 6.9 tons of marijuana, 25 kg of heroine, and 73.4 tons of chemical precursors were seized. The value of the cocaine alone is more \$350 million on the US market.<sup>2</sup>

Source: <sup>1</sup> COL Min Nat Def, "Public Forces Results-Violence, Criminality & Terrorism", 6 Aug 2004, [http://alpha.mindefensa.gov.co/descargas/Resultados\\_Operacionales/resultados\\_enero\\_julio\\_2004.pdf](http://alpha.mindefensa.gov.co/descargas/Resultados_Operacionales/resultados_enero_julio_2004.pdf); <sup>2</sup> Bogotá *Semana*, 2-8 Aug 04.

## Counter Terrorism Results

Terrorists	Jan-Jul 03 <sup>1</sup>	Jan-Jul 04 <sup>1</sup>	% CHG
Captured	5182	6744	+30%
KIA	1217	1545	+27%
Demob/Deserters	1078	1644	+53%
Firearms Seized	3417	5322	+56%
Ammo Seized	836614	994662	+19%
Grenades Seized	4527	6562	+45%
Boats Seized	33	53	+61%
Vehicles Seized	1049	1230	+17%
Terrorist Attacks on:			
Oil Pipelines	79	42	-47%
Electric Pylons	176	90	-49%
Commo Towers	15	4	-73%
Towns	5	1	-80%
Roads	84	74	-12%
Bridges	21	5	-76%
All Attacks	726	509	-30%

• Army troops and the DAS recovered 233 head of cattle that the FARC had stolen from the Caqueta Cattle Fund and other cattle ranchers in the region. The cattle were recovered from La Esperanza farm in Cartagena del Chairá, Caqueta Department. Two people were taken into custody.<sup>2</sup>

Source: <sup>1</sup> COL Min Nat Def, "Public Forces Results-Violence, Criminality & Terrorism", 6 Aug 2004, [http://alpha.mindefensa.gov.co/descargas/Resultados\\_Operacionales/resultados\\_enero\\_julio\\_2004.pdf](http://alpha.mindefensa.gov.co/descargas/Resultados_Operacionales/resultados_enero_julio_2004.pdf); <sup>2</sup> Medellín *El Colombiano*, 18 Aug 04.

## Economic & Other Results

• Poll: Good First-Half Results—a business poll conducted jointly by the National Association of Industrialists (ANDI) and principal production groups in Colombia revealed that during the first half of the year output rose by 6.8 percent, sales surged by 6.4 percent, and deliveries to the local market went up by 3.3 percent. A year ago the respective figures were 3.6, 2.6, and 1.8 percent. ANDI President Luis Carlos Villegas reported installed capacity at record levels, inventories mostly normal or low, orders good, energy demand growing at 3 percent, and a business-favorable climate in general.<sup>1</sup>

• Fuel theft is down 68% in Colombia, compared with figures from July 2003. Fuel theft has decreased steadily since a high of 10,200 barrels per day (bbl/d) in July 2002. Currently losses stand at 2,357 bbl/d. So far in 2004 losses have averaged 3,210 bbl/d, worth a total of \$33.5 million. The reduction is attributed to the crime fighting work of the Elite Hydrocarbons Corps.<sup>2</sup>

• Three properties expropriated from drug trafficker Leonidas Vargas will be handed over to 39 families in Caqueta. The 2,970 hectares of land will be used to grow maize, yucca, plantains, and for cattle ranching.<sup>3</sup>

• COL Govt (Ecopetrol) had foreign oil sales of \$964M Jan-Jun 2004, of which \$200M is due to higher prices worldwide. This was 24% increase over Jan-Jun 2003. 162.152B pesos in oil royalties were disbursed in June among 18 departments, the highest amounts going to Casanare (44.3907B), Meta (17.4961B), Arauca (16.5112B), Huila (14.2485B) and Santander (7.5425B). [1B pesos = US\$400,000]<sup>4</sup>

• In the first 2 weeks of August, 116 members of the illegal armed groups voluntarily demobilized, for a total of 1,760 to date in 2004. According to the Humanitarian Care for Demobilized Persons Program, this group included 24 minors and 19 women. Most, 68, came from the FARC; the AUC lost 40; and the ELN eight.<sup>5</sup>

• Drug-sniffing dogs in Cartagena discovered 914 kg of cocaine in 5 gallon cans of paint from a factory in Medellín to be exported to Guatemala. 2 weeks ago, the same police unit seized more than a ton of cocaine hidden among fertilizer. Each of the 41 cans contained 22.5 kg of cocaine. The cocaine was mixed right into the paint. To restore it to a powder, it would be separated out with solvents, as was done in the lab tests that confirmed its presence in the paint. The shipment was worth an estimated \$18 million [photo below].<sup>6</sup>



• Plan Colombia has meant billion-dollar financial losses for drug traffickers. Colombian Defense Minister Jorge Alberto Uribe said that Plan Colombia counternarcotics operations prevented the production of 80 tons of cocaine between 2002 and 2003, representing a loss of US\$8 billion in income for drug traffickers.<sup>7</sup>

Source: <sup>1</sup> Bogotá *La Republica*, 12 Aug 04; <sup>2</sup> COL Govt News Agency SNE, 18 Aug 04; <sup>3</sup> Bogotá *El Tiempo*, 9 Aug 04; <sup>4</sup> Bogotá *Portafolio*, 10 Aug 04; <sup>5</sup> Cali *El Pais*, 18 Aug 04; <sup>6</sup> Barranquilla *El Heraldo*, 24 Aug 04; <sup>7</sup> Bogotá *El Tiempo*, 5 Aug 04.