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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Public Notice ~~XXXX~~

**DETERMINATION AND CERTIFICATION RELATED TO COLOMBIAN
ARMED FORCES UNDER SECTION 556 OF THE FOREIGN
OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005 (DIVISION D, P.L. 108-447)**

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as Secretary of State, including under section 556 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2005 (Division D, P.L. 108-447 "the Act"), I hereby determine and certify that the Colombian Armed Forces are, in accordance with the conditions contained in section 556(a)(3) of the Act, continuing to meet the conditions contained in (A) through (E) below and are conducting vigorous operations to restore government authority and respect for human rights in areas under the effective control of paramilitary and guerilla organizations.

The above-mentioned conditions are that: (A) The Commander General of the Colombian Armed Forces is suspending from the Armed Forces those members, of whatever rank who, according to the Minister of Defense or the Procuraduria General de la Nacion, have been credibly alleged to have committed gross violations of human rights, including extra-judicial killings, or to have aided or abetted paramilitary organizations; (B) The Colombian Government is vigorously investigating and prosecuting those members of the Colombian Armed Forces, of whatever rank, who have been credibly alleged to have committed gross violations of human rights, including extra-judicial killings, or to have aided or abetted paramilitary organizations, and is promptly punishing those members of

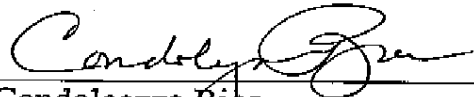
the Colombian Armed Forces found to have committed such violations of human rights or to have aided or abetted paramilitary organizations; (C) The Colombian Armed Forces have made substantial progress in cooperating with civilian prosecutors and judicial authorities in such cases (including providing requested information, such as the identity of persons suspended from the Armed Forces and the nature and cause of the suspension, and access to witnesses, relevant military documents, and other requested information); (D) The Colombian Armed Forces have made substantial progress in severing links (including denying access to military intelligence, vehicles, and other equipment or supplies, and ceasing other forms of active or tacit cooperation) at the command, battalion, and brigade level, with paramilitary organizations, especially in regions where these organizations have a significant presence; (E) The Colombian Government is dismantling paramilitary leadership and financial networks by arresting commanders and financial backers, especially in regions where these networks have a significant presence.

The Department of State has periodically consulted with internationally recognized human rights organizations regarding the Colombian Armed Forces' progress in meeting the abovementioned conditions, as provided in section 556(c) of the Act.

This Determination shall be published in the Federal Register and copies shall be transmitted to the appropriate committees of Congress.

May 26, 2006

Date



Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State

MEMORANDUM OF JUSTIFICATION CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS WITH RESPECT TO ASSISTANCE FOR COLOMBIAN ARMED FORCES

Section 556 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2005 (Div. D, P.L. 108-447) ("FY 2005 FOAA") establishes conditions under which assistance using funds appropriated under the FY 2005 FOAA may be made available for the Colombian Armed Forces. In particular, Section 556(a)(1) allows that up to 75 percent of funds may be obligated prior to a determination and certification by the Secretary of State pursuant to paragraph (2). Paragraphs (2) and (3) provide that up to 25 percent of such funds may be obligated only after the Secretary of State has made two certifications, each covering 12.5 percent, with respect to certain human rights and paramilitary related conditions.

The Secretary of State made the first such certification on August 1, 2005. This memorandum covers the period from August 1, 2005, to April 30, 2006, and provides the justification for the Secretary of State's determination that the criteria stated in Section 556 (a)(3) of the FY 2005 FOAA have been met, specifically that "the Colombian Armed Forces are continuing to meet the conditions contained in paragraph (2) [of Section 556(a)] and are conducting vigorous operations to restore government authority and respect for human rights in areas under the effective control of paramilitary and guerrilla organizations."

The Secretary of State's determination involves criteria regarding impunity, human rights violations by military forces, collusion with paramilitary groups and military cooperation with civilian judicial officials. The certification criteria, however, only partially address the Colombian human rights and security situations, which overall have improved appreciably during the past several years. As in several other countries, improvements in the security situation in Colombia are closely associated with a decrease in human rights violations. Before reviewing the certification criteria, some general observations about improvements in human rights and security in Colombia follow.

President Uribe and his Administration have stated repeatedly, both publicly and in discussions with U.S. Government officials, their commitment to further improving the human rights situation in Colombia. In a speech on August 27, 2005, President Uribe urged the Prosecutor General's office (*Fiscalía*) and judiciary to resolve key human rights cases as soon as possible. He said, "If there were mistakes committed by the Armed Forces, they must be acknowledged right away; if there was fraud, Justice must punish those responsible."

The Government of Colombia has continued, since the last certification, to improve military professionalism, eliminate corruption, and sever military-paramilitary ties. An improved appreciation for human rights is evident in the significant reduction in violations committed by members of the Colombian Armed Forces during the past several years. While there are some reports, such as the report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights that was released February 2006, that fault official statistics for failing to adequately reflect the human rights situation, the UN report acknowledges that gross violations do not arise as a result of state policy and that at a national level, indicators of violence continued to decline. Nevertheless, investigation and prosecution of past violations remains largely slow and hampered by an overburdened justice system. In order to better address these issues and resource constraints, the Government of Colombia has taken steps to reform the justice system, such as moving to an accusatorial system in January 2005 and strengthening mechanisms for investigating and prosecuting human rights cases.

There has been progress in some cases involving human rights abuses and crimes of violence against civilians committed by military officials and paramilitary groups. The cases of four military officials involved in the 2004 killings of three trade unionists in Arauca and the 1998 bombing in Santo Domingo continue to move forward in the civilian justice system (see Section 556(a)(2)(B) of this memorandum for further details). On February 17, 2006, the Judicial Police (DIJIN) captured United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC) member Hermen de Jesús Muñoz González, alias Diomedes, in Apartadó (Antioquia¹), for his alleged role in the October 2005 disappearance and killing of Afro-Colombian leader Orlando Valencia in Belén de Bajirá (Chocó). The Prosecutor General's Office issued a preventive detention order on February 27 against Muñoz for the crimes of aggravated homicide and conspiracy to collaborate with paramilitary groups to commit homicide. A second arrest warrant in this case was issued for Alvaro Padilla Medina. Both are currently in detention.

The Prosecutor General's Office is also working to move forward on earlier crimes that have occurred in or around the vicinity of San José de Apartadó (Antioquia). From October 29 to December 20, 2005, a commission made up of 18 prosecutors, 12 assistants, 36 members of the Prosecutor General's Corps of Investigators, and two communications technicians from the human rights unit in

¹ In this memorandum, most city names are followed by the name of the Department, which is equivalent to a state in the United States.

Bogotá and the office in Medellín (Antioquia) traveled to Urabá to investigate 123 cases, many of which are part of the anti-impunity project (“*comité de impulso*”). These investigations led to the issuance of 81 arrest warrants, resulting in seven captures, and the issuance of seven preventive detention orders. Fifty-three members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and 27 members of the AUC were identified and linked to the crimes. The commission completed eight exhumations and identified 60 locations of approximately 80 bodies. They also received 322 statements and completed 37 judicial inspections with regard to these 123 crimes.

In addition to improving the investigation and prosecution of human rights cases and performance of the Armed Forces, there have been a number of specific positive developments in Colombia’s human rights and security situations since the Department’s previous certification in August 2005:

- The homicide rate in Colombia is at its lowest level in 18 years. According to the Vice President’s Office on Human Rights, in 2005 there were 800 kidnappings, a reduction of 44 percent from 2004. Colombia also reported 27 percent fewer forced displacements. Nevertheless, the absolute numbers of homicides, massacres, kidnappings and forced displacements remain high.
- According to the Colombian Ministry of Defense, in 2005 the military captured 2,967 members of paramilitary groups.
- More than 30,000 members of paramilitary groups have demobilized collectively, which will further improve security (see Section 556(a)(2)(E) of this memorandum for further details).
- The implementing regulations of the Justice and Peace Law were announced on December 30, 2005. These regulations address several concerns, including the length of time allowed for investigations, and state that those who do not abide by the Law will lose the benefits of the Law.

President Uribe, Vice President Santos, and other key Government of Colombia officials have remained in contact with human rights groups. In November and December 2005, the Government of Colombia held 12 hours of meetings with civil society groups concerning the list of 27 recommendations issued by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Carlos Franco, director of the Vice Presidency’s Human Rights Program, chaired the meetings, which were attended by representatives of the Prosecutor General’s Office, Inspector General’s Office (*Procuraduría*), Ombudsman’s Office, National Police, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Defense.

Further to its commitment to protect high-risk communities, the Government of Colombia prepared reports on the human rights situation and standards of international humanitarian law for the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta region, Barranquilla (Atlántico), and Bolívar, Meta, and Casanare Departments. President Uribe and Vice President Santos credit the early warning system (a preventive system utilized by the Government of Colombia to mitigate the impact of violence), increased state presence, and support from civil society for decreases in new internal displacements and violence. From July to December 2005, there were 40 risk reports issued which resulted in eight early warnings. The Government of Colombia identified ten high-risk areas in the country and began augmenting state presence there in January 2005. In addition, 73 individuals were provided protective measures under the Ministry of Interior's Protection Program from July through December 2005, making a total of 617 in 2005.

The Government of Colombia has also accepted responsibility for violations of human rights by a past government in a key case. On September 29, 2005, the Government of Colombia formally accepted responsibility for having failed to adopt measures to protect the 12 judicial officers murdered by members of paramilitary groups in La Rochela (Santander) in 1989. The Government of Colombia's acceptance of responsibility fulfills one of the principal recommendations of the March 7, 2005, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights report on this matter. Vice President Santos unveiled a large plaque recognizing Colombia's responsibility. He characterized paramilitary groups as a "force for instability, not stability" in Colombia and said the Government of Colombia was committed to dismantling their structures.

While the human rights performance of many of the Army's units is improving, there are continued accusations of human rights violations and collusion with paramilitary groups against the Army's 17th Brigade, which operates in northern Colombia. However, the Government of Colombia, particularly the Ministry of Defense, has committed to addressing these concerns. On February 28, 2006, the Ministry of Defense issued to the High Command of the Armed Forces and to the Executive Director of the Military Justice System "Directive No. 3," mandating improvements of the human rights performance of the 17th Brigade. The two strategies of this Directive are: (1) a special program of human rights and international humanitarian law training; and (2) the strengthening of the mechanisms of investigation and attention to complaints and petitions brought forth by communities in the zone. Implementation of "Directive No. 3" began on March 25-26, 2006, when an attorney from the Ministry of Defense Human Rights Unit provided training to 252 members of the 17th Brigade. Training sessions focused on

democratic values and the obligation to respect the human rights of all. On March 27, 2006, the Ministry of Defense attorney held meetings with local representatives of the Colombian Red Cross, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and Oxfam, among others, to invite them to participate in the human rights training efforts. The Military Justice system has established a unit with the specific function of investigating allegations of violations by the 17th Brigade.

Additionally, the Ministry of Defense, with the support of the Vice-Presidency, has designed an Action Plan to improve significantly the dialogue between the Armed Forces and civil society, particularly in the communities of San José de Apartadó (Antioquia), Cacarica (Chocó), Jiguamiandó (Chocó), and Curvaradó (Chocó). On December 23, 2005, the Director of the Presidential Program for Human Rights and the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces visited the region to observe the steps taken by the 17th Brigade and the Police to strengthen the protection of the population. On January 13, 2006, the Minister of Defense met with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to begin to evaluate and plan a joint strategy to address the situation in San José de Apartadó. On February 12, 2006, the Vice Minister of Defense, the Director of the Presidential Program for Human Rights, the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces and other Colombian authorities traveled to San José de Apartadó (Antioquia), where social and commercial services were provided to the community, including medical attention for almost 1,000 people. Additional visits and assistance by officials from various Colombian government agencies were planned.

Progress was also made in the civilian investigation of the April 2005 killing of 12 youths in Buenaventura by alleged demobilized paramilitary groups. The Prosecutor General's Office has issued preventive detention orders for four additional individuals during this certification period. Nine individuals have been captured and are currently detained.

In response to allegations of linkages between the Department of Administrative Security (DAS) and paramilitary groups, the new DAS Director ordered polygraphs of key personnel every year. As of January 2006, 436 polygraph tests were administered. The polygraphs resulted in a number of dismissals, including six regional DAS directors, and numerous resignations. In addition, the Prosecutor General's Office has started investigation of the allegations.

The State Department continues to implement vigorously the Leahy Amendment and human rights certification review. The Department takes seriously all reports of human rights abuses and is committed to continue engaging the

Government of Colombia to achieve further progress in improving the human rights performance of its Armed Forces and in severing military-paramilitary ties.

The State Department carefully reviewed the information in the February 23, 2006, annual report of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as it related to the certification conditions. The U.S. Embassy in Bogotá has met regularly with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to discuss human rights developments, and will continue to do so. The State Department and the U.S. Embassy in Bogotá also consult regularly with non-governmental organizations and civil society groups regarding Colombia's human rights performance. Input from all of these sources was considered carefully before making a decision on certification.

The following is a more detailed discussion of the Colombian Government and Armed Forces' compliance with each of the conditions for certification contained in Section 556(a)(3) of the FY 2005 FOAA, including that they are continuing to meet the conditions contained in Section 556(a)(2).

SECTION 556(a)(2)(A)

Section 556(a)(2)(A) of the FY 2005 FOAA requires a determination that:

The Commander General of the Colombian Armed Forces is suspending from the Armed Forces those members, of whatever rank who, according to the Minister of Defense or the Procuraduría General de la Nación, have been credibly alleged to have committed gross violations of human rights, including extra-judicial killings, or to have aided or abetted paramilitary organizations.

From July to December 2005, General Ospina, commander of the Colombian Armed Forces, used his discretionary authority to remove 458 members of the Army. (Note: The July cases were not included in our August 1, 2005, memorandum of justification.) Some of those dismissed were accused of human rights abuses or ties to illegal armed groups. While the United States has criticized dismissals in place of prosecutions where prosecutions are possible, use of this discretionary authority for dismissal protects the Ministry of Defense from lawsuits in cases where there may not be enough evidence to allow prosecution.

The civilian Inspector General's Office conducts disciplinary investigations and can impose administrative sanctions, including suspension or dismissal, on military personnel. The Inspector General has the authority to order the provisional suspension of personnel during the investigation of offenses involving gross misconduct. Between July 2005 and December 2005, the Inspector General's Office ordered suspensions or dismissals in the following cases:

1. **Navy Captain Hernando Alonso Jama Arjona** was suspended on September 12, 2005, for omission of functions before a paramilitary incursion in Macayepo (Bolívar) in October 2000.
2. **Army Soldier Freddy López Sarmiento** was dismissed from the Army on August 22, 2005, for his responsibility in the homicide of Roddy Mauricio Serrezuela Zapata, which occurred October 18, 2002, in Medellín (Antioquia).
3. **Navy Lieutenant Carlos Andrés Téllez** was sentenced to a suspension on November 28, 2005, with responsibility in the illegal capture of Antonio Walter Pimienta and others on May 4, 2003, in Saltonces (Bolívar).
4. **Army Technician César Augusto Correa Vásquez** was sentenced to a

suspension on August 22, 2005, for irregularities associated with the death of Jhon Jairo Rodríguez, a technician for the Autonomous Regional Corporation of Valle del Cauca (Corporación del Valle del Cauca).

5. **Army Major Yomar Valencia Hincapie** was sentenced to a suspension on August 22, 2005, for irregularities associated with the death of Jhon Jairo Rodríguez, a technician for the Autonomous Regional Corporation of Valle del Cauca (Corporación del Valle del Cauca).
6. **Army Captain Andrés Maya Valejo** was sentenced to a suspension on July 7, 2005, for inflicting cruel treatment against the population of Castillo (Meta). (This case was not noted in the August 1, 2005, memorandum of justification).
7. **Army Captain Miguel Angel Cortés** was sentenced to a suspension on October 3, 2005, for the homicides of Carlos Armando Villareal Echavaria and Alberto de Jesus Arieta Osorio on July 28, 2002.
8. **Army Second Sergeant Wilmer Pacheco** was sentenced to a suspension on October 3, 2005, for the homicides of Carlos Armando Villareal Echavaria and Alberto de Jesus Arieta Osorio on July 28, 2002.
9. **Army First Vice Sergeant Humberto López Orozco** was sentenced to a suspension on October 3, 2005, for the homicides of Carlos Armando Villareal Echavaria and Alberto de Jesus Arieta Osorio on July 28, 2002.

The Prosecutor General's Office is responsible for the criminal investigation and prosecution of military personnel alleged to have committed violations of human rights or to have aided or abetted paramilitary groups.

The Prosecutor General's Office issues an order for preventive detention during its investigation of a case, prior to formally charging a suspect with a crime. The Prosecutor General's Office will make a request for suspension of the suspect once a preventive detention order has been issued. When the Prosecutor General's Office orders an individual in the Armed Forces to be "preventively detained," the Armed Forces either hold that individual in custody at a military facility or turn him over to civilian authorities.

The Human Rights Unit of the Prosecutor General's Office reports that between July and December 2005, it issued 39 orders for the preventive detention of

military personnel credibly alleged to have committed gross human rights violations or to have collaborated with paramilitary groups.

Of the 14 military personnel identified in the August 1, 2005, memorandum of justification as having been detained and suspended by the Armed Forces between August 2004 and July 2005, twelve remain in preventive detention and suspended as of December 2005, pending further investigation, and eight have had trial proceedings initiated against them.

According to the Prosecutor General's Office, the Armed Forces complied with the order for the preventive detention of each individual when notified, and suspended the military personnel involved when asked to do so. In addition, between July and December 2005, 12 military personnel were indicted and had trial proceedings initiated against them in civilian courts. These cases are listed under Section 563(a)(2)(B).

The following individuals were in preventive detention and suspended between August 2005 and December 2005:

1. **Army Second Sergeant Antonio José García Caicedo** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued September 9, 2005, on credible evidence of aggravated homicide.
2. **Army Major Wilson Orlando Lizaro Cárdenas** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued September 9, 2005, on credible evidence of aggravated homicide.
3. **Army Soldier Jair Hurtado Cuesta** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued September 9, 2005, on credible evidence of aggravated homicide and conspiracy to collaborate with paramilitary groups.
4. **Army Soldier Yeiler Arce Rios** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued September 9, 2005, on credible evidence of aggravated homicide and conspiracy to collaborate with paramilitary groups.
5. **Army Soldier Zamir Córdoba Rodríguez** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued September 9, 2005, on credible evidence of aggravated homicide and conspiracy to collaborate with paramilitary groups.

6. **Army Soldier Arturo Caicedo Mosquera** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued September 9, 2005, on credible evidence of aggravated homicide and conspiracy to collaborate with paramilitary groups.
7. **Army Soldier Jarison García Chaverra** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued September 9, 2005, on credible evidence of aggravated homicide and conspiracy to collaborate with paramilitary groups.
8. **Army Soldier Wilmar Antonio Córdoba Mena** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued September 9, 2005, on credible evidence of aggravated homicide and conspiracy to collaborate with paramilitary groups.
9. **Army Soldier Yerson Amado Córdoba Mosquera** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued September 9, 2005, on credible evidence of aggravated homicide and conspiracy to collaborate with paramilitary groups.
10. **Army Soldier David Díaz Gil Bayson** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued September 9, 2005, on credible evidence of aggravated homicide and conspiracy to collaborate with paramilitary groups.
11. **Army First Vice Sergeant Octavio de Jesus Palacios Tabora** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued September 15, 2005, on credible evidence of aggravated homicide and conspiracy to collaborate with paramilitary groups.
12. **Army Second Sergeant Alexander Ledezma Carona Lenin** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued September 23, 2005, on credible evidence of conspiracy to collaborate with paramilitary groups.
13. **Army Soldier Carlos Alberto Heredia Botello** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued November 8, 2005, on credible evidence of aggravated homicide.

14. **Army Lieutenant Colonel Jorge Eliécer Plazas Acevedo** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued November 22, 2005, on credible evidence of aggravated kidnapping, aggravated homicide and aggravated robbery.
15. **Army Sergeant Guillermo Lozano Guerrero** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued November 22, 2005, on credible evidence of aggravated kidnapping, aggravated homicide and aggravated robbery.
16. **Army Soldier Marco Antonio Gueche Pérez** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued December 12, 2005, on credible evidence of homicide, torture, aggravated kidnapping, and conspiracy to collaborate with paramilitary groups.
17. **Army Soldier Edilberto Marín Malatesta** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued December 12, 2005, on credible evidence of homicide, torture, aggravated kidnapping, and conspiracy to collaborate with paramilitary groups.
18. **Army Soldier Omar Beltrán Blanco** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued December 12, 2005, on credible evidence of homicide, torture, aggravated kidnapping and conspiracy to collaborate with paramilitary groups.
19. **Army Third Corporal Oscar Javier Angel González** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued December 12, 2005, on credible evidence of homicide, torture, aggravated kidnapping and conspiracy to collaborate with paramilitary groups.
20. **Army Second Sergeant Suescun Wilson Casallas** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued December 12, 2005, on credible evidence of homicide, torture, aggravated kidnapping and conspiracy to collaborate with paramilitary groups.
21. **Army Soldier Alenpifen Rodríguez Bermúdez** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued December 12, 2005, on credible evidence of homicide, torture, aggravated kidnapping and conspiracy to collaborate with paramilitary groups.

22. **Army Soldier Albeiro Pérez Luque** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued December 12, 2005, on credible evidence of homicide, torture, aggravated kidnapping and conspiracy to collaborate with paramilitary groups.
23. **Army Lieutenant Elkin Leonardo Burgos Suárez** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued September 1, 2005, on credible evidence of kidnapping and on December 13, 2005, for credible evidence of homicide related to the October 2005 killing of Kankuamo² leader Hugo Maestre Rodríguez.
24. **Army First Sergeant Luis Carlos Maestre Montero** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued September 1, 2005, on credible evidence of kidnapping and on December 13, 2005, for credible evidence of homicide related to the October 2005 killing of Kankuamo leader Hugo Maestre Rodríguez.
25. **Army Soldier Luis Carlos Pacheco Bolanos** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued September 1, 2005, on credible evidence of kidnapping and on December 13, 2005, on credible evidence of homicide related to the October 2005 killing of Kankuamo leader Hugo Maestre Rodríguez.
26. **Army Sub-official Pedro Andrés Cubillos Bolívar** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued September 1, 2005, on credible evidence of kidnapping and on December 13, 2005, for credible evidence of homicide related to the October 2005 killing of Kankuamo leader Hugo Maestre Rodríguez.
27. **Army Soldier Leuder Jarman Castillo Sánchez** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued September 9, 2005, on credible evidence of kidnapping and on December 13, 2005, for credible evidence of homicide related to the October 2005 killing of Kankuamo leader Hugo Maestre Rodríguez.
28. **Army Soldier Albert David Pertuz Plata** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued December 13, 2005, on credible evidence of homicide and kidnapping related to the October 2005 killing of

² Kankuamo is an indigenous group.

Kankuamo leader Hugo Maestre Rodríguez.

29. **Army Soldier Herbert de Jesús Peralta González** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued December 13, 2005, on credible evidence of homicide and kidnapping related to the October 2005 killing of Kankuamo leader Hugo Maestre Rodríguez.
30. **Army Soldier Fernando Jose Rodríguez González** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued December 13, 2005, on credible evidence of homicide and kidnapping related to the October 2005 killing of Kankuamo leader Hugo Maestre Rodríguez.
31. **Army Soldier Willington Vera** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued December 13, 2005, on credible evidence of homicide and kidnapping related to the October 2005 killing of Kankuamo leader Hugo Maestre Rodríguez.
32. **Army Soldier Juan Manuel Mejía Rodríguez** was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued December 13, 2005, on credible evidence of homicide and kidnapping related to the October 2005 killing of Kankuamo leader Hugo Maestre Rodríguez.

The following individuals remain suspended, as noted in the August 1, 2005, memorandum of justification:

1. **Army Lieutenant Everardo Bolaños Galindo**
2. **Army Corporal German Antonio Alzate Córdova**

SECTION 556(a)(2)(B)

Section 556(a)(2)(B) of the FY 2005 FOAA requires a determination that:

The Colombian Government is vigorously investigating and prosecuting those members of the Colombian Armed Forces, of whatever rank, who have been credibly alleged to have committed gross violations of human rights, including extra-judicial killings, or to have aided or abetted paramilitary organizations, and is promptly punishing those members of the Colombian Armed Forces found to have committed such violations of human rights or to have aided or abetted paramilitary organizations.

The Human Rights Unit of the Prosecutor General's Office is the lead Government of Colombia agency in the investigation and prosecution of military personnel who have committed violations of human rights or have colluded with paramilitary groups. The following examples illustrate that it is carrying out such investigations and prosecutions vigorously.

In the case of the August 2004 killings of three trade union members in Arauca, trial hearings began on March 19, 2006. The four detained soldiers of the Army's 18th Brigade had been indicted on charges of aggravated homicide on July 13, 2005.

There was further movement in the trial of three Air Force officials for their alleged role in the 1998 bombing of the town of Santo Domingo (Antioquia). On November 16, 2005, the questioning of Captain Cesar Romero Pradilla began, followed on February 22, 2006, with the questioning of Lieutenant Johan Jiménez Valencia. Technician Hector Mario Hernández Acosta was questioned on March 13, 2006. The Attorney General's Human Rights Unit reports that the trial has been suspended until the end of April 2006 to enable further evidence collection and procedural motions on the part of the Attorney General and to allow for adequate time to hear all of the scheduled testimony.

In addition to the military personnel placed under preventive detention as listed in the previous Section, between August 2005 and December 2005, 12 military personnel were indicted (resoluciones de acusación) and had trial proceedings initiated against them in civilian courts:

1. **Army Second Sergeant Alexander Ledezma Cardona Lenin** was indicted on September 23, 2005, on charges of conspiracy to collaborate with

paramilitary groups. He was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued January 21, 2005, as noted in the August 1, 2005, memorandum of justification.

2. **Marine Infantryman Raúl Obando Obando** was indicted as a result of an order issued September 29, 2005, to initiate proceedings on charges of aggravated homicide, terrorism and rebellion.
3. **Marine Infantryman Ignacio Garcés Grueso** was indicted as a result of an order issued September 29, 2005, to initiate proceedings on charges of aggravated homicide, terrorism and rebellion.
4. **Army Major Francisco Chilito Gualtero** was indicted on November 24, 2005, on charges of aggravated homicide. He was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued July 22, 2005 (this case was not noted in the August 1, 2005, memorandum of justification).
5. **Army Major Juan Carlos Mejía Gutiérrez** was indicted on November 24, 2005, on charges of aggravated homicide. He was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued July 22, 2005 (this case was not noted in the August 1, 2005, memorandum of justification).
6. **Army Captain Wilson Orlando Lizarazo Cárdenas** was indicted as a result of an order issued December 5, 2005, to initiate proceedings on charges of aggravated homicide. He was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued April 15, 2005, as noted in the August 1, 2005, memorandum of justification.
7. **Army First Corporal Nelson de Jesús Ibarra Moreno** was indicted as a result of an order issued December 5, 2005, to initiate proceedings on charges of aggravated homicide. He was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued April 15, 2005, as noted in the August 1, 2005, memorandum of justification.
8. **Army Soldier Jorge Armando Martínez Uribe** was indicted as a result of an order issued December 5, 2005, to initiate proceedings on charges of aggravated homicide. He was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued April 15, 2005, as noted in the August 1, 2005, memorandum of justification.

9. **Army Soldier Guillén Aldemar Cárdenas** was indicted as a result of an order issued December 5, 2005, to initiate proceedings on charges of aggravated homicide. He was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued April 15, 2005, as noted in the August 1, 2005, memorandum of justification.
10. **Army Corporal Ivén Luna Veloza** was indicted as a result of an order issued December 5, 2005, to initiate proceedings on charges of aggravated homicide. He was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued April 15, 2005, as noted in the August 1, 2005, memorandum of justification.
11. **Army Soldier Lisandro Malagón Cortés** was indicted as a result of an order issued December 5, 2005, to initiate proceedings on charges of aggravated homicide. He was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued April 15, 2005, as noted in the August 1, 2005, memorandum of justification.
12. **Army Second Sergeant Harold William Pejendino** was indicted on December 21, 2005, on charges of aggravated homicide, kidnapping, forced displacement and conspiracy to collaborate with paramilitary groups. He was detained and suspended upon an order of preventive detention issued May 13, 2005, as noted in the August 1, 2005, memorandum of justification.

Trial proceedings continue against the following individuals, whose cases were listed in the memorandum of justification accompanying the August 1, 2005, certification:

1. **Army Second Sergeant Victor Manuel Sánchez Sánchez**
2. **Army Major Jorge Enrique Jiménez Tronsoso**
3. **Army First Corporal Andrés David Castro Olaya**
4. **Army Second Corporal Luis Alejandro Barrera Fuentes**
5. **Army Lieutenant Juan Carlos Ordóñez Cañón**
6. **Army Soldier Oscar Saúl Cuta Hernández Suárez**
7. **Army Soldier Jhon Alexander Hernández Suárez**
8. **Army Soldier Walter Loaiza Cuma**
9. **Army General Jaime Humberto Uscátegui (retired)**
10. **Air Force Captain César Romero Pradilla**
11. **Air Force Lieutenant Johan Jiménez Valencia**
12. **Air Force Technician Mario Hernández Acosta**

13. **Army Soldier Luis Salomon Puerto Acero**
14. **Army Soldier Juan Carlos Vásquez**

There was also a conviction not mentioned in the August 1, 2005, memorandum of justification:

On January 18, 2005, Army Lieutenant Sandro Quintero Carreño was sentenced to a 38-year prison term for aggravated homicide and collaboration with paramilitary groups related to the November 1998 massacre in La Cabuya (Caquetá).

SECTION 556(a)(2)(C)

Section 556(a)(2)(C) of the FY 2005 FOAA requires a determination that:

The Colombian Armed Forces have made substantial progress in cooperating with civilian prosecutors and judicial authorities in such cases (including providing requested information, such as the identity of persons suspended from the Armed Forces and the nature and cause of the suspension, and access to witnesses, relevant military documents, and other requested information).

The Colombian Armed Forces have continued to make substantial progress in this regard. The Minister of Defense has designated the Coordinator of the Armed Forces' Group of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law as the liaison between civilian authorities and the Armed Forces, as stated in the August 1, 2005, memorandum of justification. In addition, to ensure cooperation on the regional and local levels, the directors of the Human Rights offices of the Armed Forces liaise with the representatives of the Inspector General's and Prosecutor General's Offices in their respective jurisdictions.

Marisol Palacio, director of the Human Rights Unit of the Prosecutor General's Office, in a January 11, 2006, letter to the U.S. Embassy in Bogotá, certified that the Armed Forces provided full, effective, and efficient cooperation in its investigations. She stated that the Armed Forces cooperated in apprehending and detaining suspects and aided the investigations by facilitating the gathering of evidence, aiding the investigation, and assisting in judicial procedures.

The Ministry of Defense and civilian judicial officials agree that military courts respect the decisions of the Supreme Council of the Judiciary concerning jurisdictional disputes between military and civilian prosecutors on whether alleged crimes are related to military service. The Supreme Council of the Judiciary ruled on a total of 32 jurisdictional disputes in 2005. Since the August certification, eleven new jurisdictional disputes specifically related to cases of human rights violations or aiding and abetting paramilitary groups by the Armed Forces were brought to trial and then transferred to the civilian judiciary.

Two high-profile cases illustrate cooperation between the Armed Forces and judicial authorities in regard to providing access to relevant information necessary to see movement. We will follow them closely as the investigations develop.

On February 20 or 21, 2005, eight civilians, including three members of the peace community of San José de Apartadó (Antioquia), were killed by unknown actors near La Resbalosa. Since the August 2005 certification, the Human Rights Unit of the Prosecutor General's Office has conducted further investigations at the offices of the 11th Brigade in Montería (Córdoba), the 17th Brigade located in Carepa (Antioquia), and the Army's First Division in Santa Marta (Magdalena). The Armed Forces cooperated by providing access to its facilities and personnel. These investigations were conducted in the offices of operations of both brigades and the intelligence office of the 17th Brigade. Investigators have taken statements from officials, sub-officials, and professional soldiers of the 17th Brigade to help identify the responsible individuals. In April 2006, the Inspector General's Office suspended for 90 days Army General Pablo Rodríguez and Colonel Javier Hernández for failing to provide security for the peace community of San José de Apartadó (Antioquia). Despite assurances from the Government of Colombia, the peace community has continuously expressed its lack of faith in the justice system and refused to cooperate. The investigation into this case, as well as the November 2005 killing of Arlen Salas David and the January 2006 killing of Edilberto Vásquez Cardona, continues.

The case against now retired Brigadier General Jaime Uscátegui for his role in the 1997 Mapiripán (Meta) killings continues with cooperation from the Colombian Armed Forces. Pursuant to an order of the Inspector General's Office, the Military High Command terminated Uscátegui from his position after charges were brought against him related to the Mapiripán killings. On February 14, 2006, the Director of the Presidential Program for Human Rights requested the Presidency of the Administrative wing of the Supreme Council of the Judiciary (CSJ) apply judicial vigilance ("*vigilancia judicial*") to this case. This is an administrative mechanism established to ensure the officials of the judicial branch are able to develop their work in an efficient manner. As a result of this request, the Supreme Council of the Judiciary ruled that the judge handling the Uscátegui case be relieved of all other cases in his workload to enable him to focus exclusively on this one.

Section 556(a)(2)(D)

Section 556(a)(2)(D) of the FY 2005 FOAA requires a determination that:

The Colombian Armed Forces have made substantial progress in severing links (including denying access to military intelligence, vehicles, and other equipment or supplies, and ceasing other forms of active or tacit cooperation) at the command, battalion, and brigade levels, with paramilitary organizations, especially in regions where these organizations have a significant presence.

The Colombian Armed Forces have continued to make substantial progress to sever links between military personnel and paramilitary units at the command, battalion and brigade levels. In addition, President Alvaro Uribe and Defense Minister Camilo Ospina have stated repeatedly, both publicly and in discussions with U.S. officials, that they will not tolerate collaboration between military personnel and paramilitary groups.

Since the August 1, 2005, memorandum of justification, the General Command of the Military Forces issued the following permanent orders: Order of Permanent Character No. 8259 of October 31, 2005, and Circular 7638 of September 1, 2005. Both documents reiterate the importance of preventing association with and severing any links with paramilitary organizations, as well as the need to strengthen operations against the paramilitary groups.

The Colombian military leadership has issued guidance to the Colombian military to address the problem of former service members who join paramilitary organizations while maintaining their connections with active duty soldiers. The Colombian military is seeking to identify former career soldiers with ties to illegal armed groups, including paramilitary organizations, and their active duty contacts and has expressly restricted the access of such individuals to military facilities. The Armed Forces have increased base security and force protection measures to deter unauthorized contacts between active duty personnel and criminal elements such as paramilitary groups.

Further evidence that the Colombian Armed Forces severed ties with paramilitary organizations is that they actively targeted paramilitary groups in numerous military operations. During these operations, the Armed Forces captured, arrested and killed paramilitary groups and confiscated weapons, ammunition, vehicles and money. The Ministry of Defense reports that the Armed Forces

captured 2,967 members of paramilitary groups and killed 322 in 2005. In that same period, the Army captured 41 satellite radios, 194 cell phones, 591 short arms (revolvers, pistols), 109 vehicles, 111 motorcycles, four boats, 298,349 munitions of various types, 65 "support" arms such as grenades and mortars, and 546 long arms.

For example:

- On September 16, 2005, the 13th Brigade set up a group to specifically target paramilitary groups in Bogotá, with a focus on the Ciudad Bolívar and Soacha neighborhoods. It captured twenty-nine paramilitary members soon after its inception.
- On December 1, 2005, the Army's 9th Brigade GAULA³ units arrested John Jairo Conde Quiroga, alias "El Mojarro" from the AUC's Tolima Bloc in Aipe Municipality. "El Mojarro" was a member of the Tolima Bloc finance network and operated in the northern region of Huila and the southern region of Tolima. He had been tasked with recruiting young men in Aipe Municipality.
- On November 9, 2005, during "Operation San Juan" in La Esperanza (Norte de Santander), troops from the 14th "Antonio Ricaurte" Infantry Battalion, Army's 5th Brigade, located a Central Bolívar Bloc cache containing 11 7.62-mm rifle grenades, 125 7.62-mm cartridges, night vision equipment, 23 National Police uniforms, 23 black T-shirts with the AUC logo, 25 combat boots, 27 AUC armbands, a pistol, and an antipersonnel mine. Elsewhere in San Juan de los Chorros, Rionegro (Santander), troops from the same tactical unit located and destroyed three training grounds next to an AUC camp used to hide hostages.
- On October 26, 2005, soldiers from the 2nd "Mariscal Antonio Jose de Sucre" Infantry Battalion of the Army's 5th Brigade conducting search operation "Islote 1" in rural El Alto Tesorito, La Belleza Municipality, found four 7.62-mm rifles, 2,470 rifle cartridges and 40 rifle clips in a cache owned by the AUC's Central Bolívar Bloc.
- On October 21, 2005, troops from the 41st Marine Infantry Fluvial Post apprehended paramilitary informer José Arcángel Ocampo Morales, a

³ GAULA, the Spanish acronym for "Unified Action Groups for Personal Liberty," are specialized military and police anti-kidnapping units.

member of the AUC's "Heroes del Melua" Front, in Alto Navajas, a rural sector of Puerto Lopez Municipality.

- On September 30, 2005, Army units discovered weapons and supplies caches belonging to the AUC in two different departments. Troops in Valledupar (César) uncovered a hidden deposit containing 107 cartridges, eight clips, two hand grenades, and materials to assemble bombs among other items. Meanwhile, they found a second stash in the hamlet of Suni, in Hato Corozal (Casanare).
- On September 29, 2005, 16th Brigade troops dismantled a supply center for uniforms and equipment run by the paramilitary Vencedores de Arauca bloc in a hamlet in Hato Corozal (Casanare). The facility contained uniforms, boots, weapons, field kits and other items needed to outfit 600 combatants.
- On September 19, 2005, Army troops uncovered a hospital in the rural area of Morelia (Caquetá) that belonged to the Sur Andaquies Bloc of the AUC. They arrested one person.
- On September 7, 2005, during control patrols in Bocas del Rosario (Arauca), on the Magdalena River, marines from the 30th Marine Infantry Fluvial Battalion discovered the presence of some 40 members of the paramilitary Walter Sanchez Front, Central Bolívar Bloc, as it was about to perpetrate some illegal action. Surprised, the paramilitary groups fled, leaving behind large quantities of quartermaster supplies, explosives for landmines, and two notebooks with intelligence information.
- On September 7, 2005, the Army dismantled a paramilitary complex with a capacity to house at least one hundred paramilitary fighters in a rural area of San José del Palmar municipality, Chocó Department. The operation led to an armed clash with alleged members of the AUC when troops of the Vencedores de Cartago Battalion discovered their camp.
- On July 30, 2005, a powerful arsenal was recovered by the Sixth Brigade from a hiding spot in San Luis (Tolima). It contained weapons (10 G-3 rifles, one Galil 7.62-mm, eight AK-47, one .22 caliber carbine, one PKM machinegun, grenade launchers, mortars, etc.), more than 150 bars of dynamite, and communications equipment (this case was not noted in the August 1, 2005, memorandum of justification).

Section 556(a)(2)(E)

Section 556(a)(2)(E) of the FY 2005 FOAA requires a determination that:

The Colombian Government is dismantling paramilitary leadership and financial networks by arresting commanders and financial backers, especially in regions where these networks have a significant presence.

The Government of Colombia has dismantled nearly all of the paramilitary organizations belonging to the United Self-Defense Forces (AUC). On April 17, 2006, High Peace Commissioner Luis Carlos Restrepo announced that all paramilitary groups who were part of the 2003 cease-fire agreement completed their demobilizations. Nearly all of the AUC high command has demobilized and is in government custody. As of April 30, 2006, 34,087 members of paramilitary groups have demobilized or deserted. Of these, 30,835 demobilized collectively and 3,252 deserted individually. Only three groups remain to demobilize. One of them is the remainder of the Elmer Cardenas Bloc, whose leadership did not sign the 2003 cease-fire agreement; most of this bloc has already demobilized but one group has not yet done so. Two other small paramilitary groups that did not sign the ceasefire agreement, the Cacique Pipintá Front and the Peasant Self-Defense Group of Casanare, with a total of approximately 500 members, are not currently negotiating with the government.

The Government of Colombia has taken numerous significant actions against paramilitary groups' assets, including drug labs, property, and laundered money. Some examples of Government of Colombia actions aimed at financial backers of the paramilitary forces include:

- On several occasions, Government of Colombia authorities suspended or arrested local and departmental officials for suspected ties to paramilitary groups and association with financial networks. For example, on October 30, 2005, Myriam Rojas Osorio, who allegedly handled the payroll of paramilitary members imprisoned in Barrancabermeja's jail, was detained by Department of Administrative Security officials and charged with receiving direct orders from alias "Setenta" and alias "Piraña" of the AUC's Central Bolívar Bloc (BCB). Rojas was a former judicial and fiscal investigator of the Barrancabermeja Office of the Prosecutor General.
- On November 4, 2005, Santander Battalion troops arrested Jorge Gregorio Quintero Velásquez, the finance chief of the AUC's Southern César Bloc in

an undisclosed location of César Department. Quintero Velásquez had been tasked with kidnappings and extortions and was armed with a 9-mm pistol with clip and 15 cartridges, an IM-26 fragmentation grenade and a wide-range communications radio.

- On September 20, 2005, 13th Brigade troops seized an AUC drug production facility in Boyacá Department. The lab, discovered in a rural area of Coper municipality, could produce 10 tons of pure cocaine per month, the largest such facility discovered in 2005.
- On September 11, 2005, police officials located facilities to process cocaine, camps for militants, and places to conceal kidnap victims in Caldas Department. The complex was apparently owned by the Middle Magdalena Peasant Self-Defense Groups and could produce close to two tons of alkaloid per week. Police Commander Col William Grisales reported the seizure of 500 kg of liquid cocaine and three tons of precursors. Authorities destroyed the laboratory and two camps that could lodge 40 militants.
- On August 16, 2005, units of the Department of Administrative Security occupied a property used by paramilitary groups to process cocaine, in El Paraíso, Tolima Department. The property, registered in the name of Magdalena Medio paramilitary leader Omar Isaza, was found to contain several kilos of cocaine and a laboratory to process the drug.

Examples of paramilitary leaders arrested with the help of Colombian security forces and handed over to the appropriate authorities include:

- On December 12, 2005, National Police detained Jose de Jesús Perez Jiménez “Martin Sancocho,” commander of the Calima Bloc in Turbo.
- On December 8, 2005, National Police units detained Jader Luis Morales Benítez, alias “JJ,” presumed chief of the AUC’s “Juan Andrés Alvarez” Front in Agustin Codazzi Municipality. He was accused of the murder of a judge and of the abduction and murder of a police officer.
- On November 19, 2005, Police and Corps of Investigators apprehended Carlos Augusto Chavéz Muñoz, 21, alias “Burro” or “Alex,” one of the leaders of the AUC’s “Fidel Castaño” Front, for conspiracy, fuel theft, and extortion.

- On November 17, 2005, police detained Wilson José Contreras López, alias "John," second in command of the AUC operating in Fundación Municipality, Magdalena Department. "John" had outstanding arrest warrants for conspiracy, extortion and homicide.
- On October 3, 2005, the Prosecutor General's Office issued three indictments against leaders of the AUC's Wayuu Counterinsurgency Front based in La Guajira Department for the crimes of conspiracy to collaborate with paramilitary groups and extortion. Of the three commanders, José Gregorio Alvarez Andrade, alias "Comandante 16", Elkin Berrio Cotes, alias Mauricio Pimienta," and Carlos Alberto Salgado Dávila, alias Comandante Carlos, two have been detained.
- On September 11, 2005, paramilitary leader Gustavo Ramírez, alias "El Tabano," surrendered to the authorities after surviving a second series of attempts on his life. He turned himself in to the police in Meta Department, where the department's police chief said that Ramírez possibly felt safer in police custody. The attackers were believed to be members of the Casanare Peasant Self-Defense Groups (Autodefensas Campesinas del Casanare), led by Héctor Germán Buitrago Parada, alias "Martín Llanos," which is one of two remaining groups currently not engaged in negotiations.
- On August 10, 2005, the Department of Administrative Security arrested Oscar Mauricio River Medina, alias "Duvan," Commander of the Escuadra of the Isidro Carreno, a front of the AUC operating in Barrancabermeja.
- On August 10, 2005, Stefanny Yulieth Torres Angarita, alias "La Negra" or "Dayana," was arrested by the Department of Administrative Security in front of the AUC operating in Barrancabermeja. She was in charge of managing finances and extortion for the Isidro Carreno.
- On July 19, 2005, Zulma Cielo Arévalo Velandia, the head of finances for the AUC in Meta and Vichada, appeared before a judge. She was pregnant and has been released on her own recognizance until trial (this case was not noted in the August 1, 2005, memorandum of justification).

Section 556(a)(3)

Section 556(a)(3) of the FY 2005 FOAA requires a determination that:

[T]he Colombian Armed Forces . . . are conducting vigorous operations to restore government authority and respect for human rights in areas under the effective control of paramilitary and guerrilla organizations.

Since taking office, President Uribe has made a solid commitment to restoring government authority over areas controlled by paramilitary and guerrilla forces. When President Uribe took office in August 2002, 158 of the 1098 municipalities (roughly equivalent to U.S. counties) in Colombia had no police presence and more than 200 mayors were not living in the towns they were elected to govern. Colombian National Police are now stationed in all of Colombia's municipalities and all but a handful of mayors are back in their towns.

Since the August 2005 determination, the Colombian government and Armed Forces have continued to implement the Democratic Security Policy, a broad and integrated strategy to restore security, democracy, and effective state control to all parts of Colombian territory. As part of the Government of Colombia's commitment to reestablishing authority in areas controlled by illegal groups, the 7th Army Division was established in July 2005 to fill the void created by the demobilization of paramilitary groups in the region surrounding Medellín, and the 30th Brigade was formed in December 2005 in Norte de Santander Department. The 7th Division consists of 41 units and 5 brigades, and its division headquarters are located in Medellín. The 30th Brigade, made up of 6,700 men under the command of Brigadier General Miguel Beranbe Lozano Perea, will work to fight narcotrafficking and terrorism, particularly in Catatumbo. In its first month of operation, they destroyed several minefields, found two abandoned FARC camps, and destroyed two large drug labs.

The Colombian Armed Forces continue to work to restore government authority and respect for human rights by combating paramilitary and guerilla organizations. The following examples demonstrate such vigorous operations:

- On January 16, 2006, Army soldiers killed at least 15 members of paramilitary groups in the northern province of La Guajira, the worst one-day loss for the paramilitary groups since they began negotiations with the government.

- On November 10, 2005, GAULA units from the Army's 13th Brigade fought with members of the AUC's Cundinamarca Bloc in Villeta Municipality (Cundinamarca), killing two. In Cali, GAULA troops, attached to the Army's 3rd Brigade, captured two paramilitary groups from the Darien Bloc armed with two 9-mm pistols. Two members of the AUC's Guaviare Bloc also surrendered voluntarily to Army soldiers at the military base in San Jose del Guaviare.
- On October 23, 2005, in the rural sector of Bolo Azul, Pailitas Municipality (César) three AUC members were killed in clash with troops from the 3rd Special Energy and Road Plan Battalion, Army's 1st Division.
- On September 26, 2005, soldiers from the 4th Brigade killed two members of a paramilitary group in fighting in Valle de Aburra, Antioquia, after soldiers were alerted to their presence by locals.
- On September 21, 2005, soldiers from the 14th Antonio Ricaurte Infantry Battalion clashed with members of the AUC Central Bolívar Bloc in rural La Cooperativa, in Río Viejo municipality (Bolívar).
- On August 3, 2005, Girardot Battalion troops of the Fourth Brigade clashed with the AUC in the rural area of Sabanalarga (Antioquia), killing eight members of paramilitary groups.
- On August 2, 2005, one paramilitary member was killed and six captured by the 12th Brigade in clashes that took place in the hamlet of Juan del Barro, in Florencia (Caquetá).

Reports indicate numerous cases of violence against civilians and other criminal activity committed by demobilized paramilitary groups. The Government of Colombia is taking action against some demobilized paramilitary groups who continue to engage in criminal activity. As of March 2006, the Government of Colombian arrested 325 demobilized paramilitary members who were engaged in criminal activity.