



Weekly Report

Colombia

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**MARCH 29 - APRIL
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- 1** Paramilitary Violence in Buenaventura
- 2** Abduction Levels in Buenaventura Highest in Colombia
- 3** Northern Ireland Minister Tapped to Advise Colombian Peace Talks

“Prosecutors have opened more than 2,000 investigations into cases of “disappearances” and forced displacement in Buenaventura committed by a range of groups or individuals over the past two decades, but none has led to a conviction.”

Paramilitary Violence in Buenaventura

- Buenaventura is a key Pacific port where paramilitary groups intimidate, extort and abduct residents.
- Police investigations into abductions have not resulted in any convictions in the last three years.
- Source: Human Rights Watch

<http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/03/20/colombia-disappearances-plague-major-port>

Abduction Levels in Buenaventura Highest in Colombia

- There have been numerous reports of dismemberment of disappeared residents of Buenaventura.
- Buenaventura has the highest rate of abductions and “disappearances” in Colombia, even compared to much larger urban centers like Medellin.
- Source: Human Rights Watch

http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/colombia0314webwcover_1.pdf

Northern Ireland Minister Tapped to Advise Colombian Peace Talks

- There are ongoing Colombian peace talks in Cuba.
- Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland asked to provide advice during talks.
- Source: BBC

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-26846712>