E.O. 12958: DECL: 2/17/08
TAGS: PHUM, SNAR, MASS, PREL, CO
SUBJECT: COLOMBIA EUM UPDATE: FINAL DATA RECEIVED

REF: BOGOTA 1136 (AND PREVIOUS)

CLASSIFIED BY POLOFF CHARGE O.P GARZA. REASONS 1.5(B&D).

1. (C) EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED THE LAST OF THE INFORMATION EXPECTED FROM THE COLOMBIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE REGARDING UNITS OF THE
ARMY PROPOSED TO RECEIVE U.S. COUNTER-NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE
(REFTELS). THIS FINAL DATA, DETAILING TWO PROSECUTIONS OF GROSS
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BEING CONDUCTED WITHIN THE FISCALIA BY
LOCAL PROSECUTORS IN THE FIELD, RAISES TO FIFTY THE TOTAL NUMBER
OF CASES FOR "GROSS VIOLATIONS" OF HUMAN RIGHTS ONGOING AGAINST
CURRENT OR PAST MEMBERS OF THE SIX PROPOSED AID UNITS. THE FIFTY
CASES ARE BEING PURSUED VARIOUSLY BY THE PROSECUTOR GENERAL, THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL OR THE SUPERIOR MILITARY TRIBUNAL.

2. (C) THE INITIAL BREAKDOWN OF THE CASES, BASED ON THE UNIT
ORIGINALLY ALLEGED TO BE INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT, IS AS follows:
3RD BRIGADE: ELEVEN
7TH BRIGADE: FIVE
12TH BRIGADE: SEVEN
24TH BRIGADE: ZERO
2ND MOBILE BRIGADE: FIVE
COE: ZERO
NONE OF THE ABOVE: TWENTY-TWO

3. (C) AS CAN BE SEEN FROM THIS, NOT ONE OF THE INCIDENTS

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APPEARS TO INVOLVE EITHER THE 24TH BRIGADE (PUTUMAYO) OR THE COE
(THE EASTERN SPECIFIED COMMAND). THE TWENTY-TWO CASES, NOT
INVOLVING ANY OF THESE UNITS INSTEAD INVOLVE INDIVIDUALS UNDER
INVESTIGATION FOR PREVIOUS GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS WHO
HAVE SINCE TRANSFERRED INTO ONE OF THE PROPOSED AID UNITS. AT
FIRST BLUSH, SEVERAL OF THE FIFTY CASES ALSO APPEAR NOT TO
INVOLVE PROPOSED AID UNITS AT ALL -- NEITHER AT THE TIME OF THE
INCIDENT NOR DO THE ACCUSED CURRENTLY SERVE IN ANY OF THE
PROPOSED UNITS -- AND MAY DROP FROM OUR LIST ENTIRELY.

4. (U) MISSION WILL BE ANALYZING THE DATA MORE THOROUGHLY AND
EXPECTS TO SUBMIT A FULLER REPORT TO WASHINGTON BY FEBRUARY 23.
GARZA

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