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	TRSE-00	PM-10	OPIC-07	PA-01	CEA-01	OMB-01	STR-18
	INM-08	INRE-00	FRB-03	OES-09	ACDA-12	USIE-00	JUSE-00
	SP-02	DOEE-00	SNP-01	CEQ-01	PRS-01	DS-01	SCT-02
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R 061806Z JUL 89  
 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6809  
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC  
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM  
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
 AMEMBASSY LIMA  
 AMEMBASSY QUITO  
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
 USINT HAVANA  
 DIA WASHDC  
 CIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BOGOTA 10053

SOUTHCOS ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
 TAGS: PTER, PINS, PGOV, PHUM, CO  
 SUBJECT: VIOLENCE UPDATE FOR JUNE 16 - 30

REFS: (A) BOGOTA 9699 (B) BOGOTA 9690 (C) BOGOTA  
 9476 (D) BOGOTA 9350 (E) BOGOTA 9173 (F) BOGOTA 8671

## SUMMARY

1. (C) THE SELF-STYLED ARMY OF NATIONAL LIBERATION  
 (ELN) CONTINUES TO BE THE MOST ACTIVE GUERRILLA GROUP

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DESPITE WIDE BASED PUBLIC CRITICISM OF ITS VIOLENT  
 ACTIVITIES. THE MEDIA HAS CREDITED TERRORIST INCIDENTS  
 TO THE ELN IN REGIONS AS DIVERSE AS VALLE DE CAUCA,  
 ARAUCA, AND CESAR DEPARTMENTS. THIS SUGGESTS THE ELN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON  
 DATE/CASE ID: 05 JUL 2007 200603798

MAY HAVE ORDERED CELLS IN SEVERAL REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY TO TAKE WHATEVER ACTION WITHIN THEIR POWER, ESPECIALLY OVER THE JUNE 24-25 WEEKEND, IN AN EFFORT TO KEEP THE ARMY FROM CONCENTRATING ITS RESOURCES IN THE CANO LIMON TO CONVENAS OIL PIPELINE REGION. THE ELN ALSO TOOK CREDIT FOR ATTACKS IN REGIONS WHERE IT DOES NOT NORMALLY OPERATE, SUCH AS VALLE DE CAUCA DEPARTMENT AND THE SOUTHERN INTENDENCIA OF PUTUMAYO, LEADING SOME TO SUSPECT THAT THE FARC OR ANOTHER GROUP IS ACTING UNDER THE ELN BANNER.

2. (U) MEANWHILE, THE PUBLIC DEBATE BEGUN BY ELN PIPELINE ATTACKS AND THE MILITARY COUNTER OFFENSIVE CONTINUES. MINISTER OF MINES MEJIA DISCLOSED THAT ECOPETROL (PARA-STATAL OIL COMPANY) HAD GIVEN 16 MILLION PESOS (42,000 USDOLS) TO THE ARMED FORCES SINCE 1988 TO PAY FOR PROTECTING THE PIPELINE. THE GOC HAS REITERATED ITS REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE ELN ON OIL POLICY. IN THE MIDST OF ALL THIS ELN VIOLENCE, A JUDGE RELEASED AN ELN LEADER ON A TECHNICALITY. VIOLENCE AGAINST LEFTIST PATRIOTIC UNION MEMBERS CONTINUED AS WELL. TWO UP MEMBERS WERE ATTACKED AND ONE KILLED. THIS CABLE IS BASED ON INCIDENTS OCCURRING FROM JUNE 22-JULY 4. END SUMMARY

PUBLIC DEBATE CONTINUES  
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3. (C) DEBATE BEGUN BY ELN PIPELINE ATTACKS AND THE MILITARY OFFENSIVE CONTINUED APACE. MINISTER OF MINES  
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OSCAR MEJIA SAID THAT ECOPETROL (PARA-STATAL OIL COMPANY) HAD GIVEN 16 MILLION PESOS (42,000 USDOLS) TO THE ARMED FORCES SINCE 1988 TO PAY FOR PROTECTING THE PIPELINE. HE REJECTED ACCUSATIONS BY FORMER MINGOV CESAR GAVIRIA THAT OIL COMPANIES WERE STILL PAYING "WAR TAXES" TO THE ELN TO AVOID BEING BOMBED.

B1, B4

4. (U) ON JUNE 27, THE ELN RELEASED A STATEMENT DEMANDING THAT MEJIA AND ECOPETROL MANAGER ANDRES RESTREPO LONDONO BE DISMISSED. IT ONCE AGAIN CALLED FOR A "NATIONAL PETROLEUM FORUM" TO SEEK A "NATIONALIST AND SOVEREIGN POLICY" ON PETROLEUM. MEJIA FLATLY REJECTED DIALOGUE WITH THE ELN. HE WAS JOINED BY GOVERNMENT

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MINISTER RAUL OREJUELA, WHO REITERATED GOC POLICY OF NOT TALKING WITH GUERRILLAS UNTIL THEY SHOW A WILLINGNESS TO END THEIR VIOLENCE.

5. (U) THE ELN HAS CAUSED MORE THAN 700 MILLION USDOLS IN LOSSES TO THE STATE THROUGH ITS ATTACKS ON THE OIL INFRASTRUCTURE OVER THE PAST 18 MONTHS, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. FINANCE MINISTER LUIS FERNANDO ALARCON SAID THAT GUERRILLA ATTACKS ON THE OIL INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRIBUTED TO THE GOVERNMENT REDUCING THE PROJECTED ECONOMIC GROWTH FOR 1989 FROM 4.5 TO 4 PERCENT.

INTENSE ROUND OF ELN ATTACKS  
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6. (U) ELN UNITS WERE CREDITED WITH MANY ATTACKS IN VARIOUS REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY.

-- FOUR MARINES WERE KILLED AND ANOTHER FOUR WOUNDED WHEN THEIR TRUCK WAS HIT BY EXPLOSIVES PLACED BY ELN UNITS ON BOTH SIDES OF A ROAD NEAR MARIALABAJA, BOLIVAR

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DEPARTMENT, ON JUNE 29. THE MARINES WERE ON THEIR WAY TO REINFORCE THE COVENAS OIL TERMINAL WHICH THE ELN ATTACKED ON JUNE 16 (REF E).

-- TWO SOLDIERS DIED AND THREE WERE WOUNDED IN AN ELN AMBUSH NEAR AGUA AZUL, CASANARE ON JULY 3.

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-- TEN ELN GUERRILLAS INTERCEPTED AND BURNED THREE TRUCKS CARRYING CRUDE OIL NEAR PAJARITO, ON THE BORDER BETWEEN ARAUCA AND BOYACA ON JULY 1. DAMAGES WERE ESTIMATED AT 140 MILLION PESOS (370,000 USDOLS).

-- ELN UNITS BLEW UP THREE SEPARATE TOLL BOOTHS ALONG THE ROAD FROM AGUACHICA TO EL COPEY, CESAR DEPARTMENT ON THE NIGHT OF JUNE 25, CAUSING DAMAGES AND LOSSES OF OVER 8 MILLION PESOS (21,000 USDOLS) BUT NO INJURIES.

-- ABOUT ONE HUNDRED GUERRILLAS ATTACKED THE TOWN OF CACHIRA, NORTE DE SANTANDER, IN THE MOUNTAINOUS MONILONES REGION, AT 11:30 PM ON JUNE 25. NO GROUP TOOK RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ATTACK, BUT THE AREA IS AN ELN STRONGHOLD. ONE POLICE AGENT DIED AND TWO PEOPLE WERE WOUNDED AS POLICE HELD OFF THE GUERRILLAS FOR SIX HOURS. THE POLICE STATION WAS COMPLETELY DESTROYED.

-- TWO MEMBERS OF THE UC-ELN DETONATED 5 KILOGRAMS OF DYNAMITE RUPTURING THE PACIFIC OIL PIPELINE BETWEEN BUENAVENTURA AND YUMBO, VALLE DE CAUCA DEPARTMENT ON JUNE 25. LOSSES FROM THIS ATTACK WERE ESTIMATED AT 20 MILLION PESOS (52,600 USDOLS). THIS WAS THE FIFTH SUCH ATTACK ON THE PACIFIC PIPELINE IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS.

ELN RELEASES KIDNAPPED MAYOR, SOLDIERS

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7. (U) IN THE CENTRAL PLAZA OF CALI, VALLE ON JUNE 26, THE ELN RELEASED THE MAYOR OF BOLIVAR, VALLE AND ANOTHER OFFICIAL OF THE SAME TOWN, WHO HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED FOUR

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DAYS EARLIER. THE MAYOR, JORGE IVAN JARAMILLO OCAMPO, STATED THAT HIS CAPTORS HAD LECTURED HIM ON PETROLEUM POLICY AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

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8. (U) AN ELN FRONT THAT OPERATES IN THE MAGDALENA MEDIO REGION FREED TWO CAPTURED SOLDIERS IN BUCARAMANGA, SANTANDER ON JULY 4. THE FRONT STILL HOLDS THREE SOLDIERS; IT SAYS IT WILL RELEASE THEM SOON.

ELN COMMANDER RELEASED  
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9. (U) ON JUNE 28, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE ANNOUNCED THAT THE COMMANDER OF AN ELN FRONT, SEGISMUNDO HERRERA LIZCANO (AKA "LORENZO"), HAD BEEN RELEASED FROM CUSTODY. HERRERA HAD BEEN CAPTURED BY MILITARY UNITS ON JUNE 11 WITH 15 MILLION PESOS (40,000 USDOLS) AND HAD BEEN CHARGED WITH BLOWING UP THE CANO LIMON-COVENAS OIL PIPELINE, AMONG OTHER TERRORIST ACTS (SEE BOGOTA 8834, PARA 4). THE JUDGE RULED THAT HERRERA'S RIGHTS HAD BEEN DENIED BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN HELD BY THE MILITARY FOR ELEVEN DAYS BEFORE BEING HANDED OVER TO A JUDGE. THE LAW REQUIRES THAT DETAINEES BE TURNED OVER TO A JUDGE WITHIN 24 HOURS OF DETENTION. (COMMENT: SEVERAL NEWSPAPER ARTICLES HAVE CREDITED INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM HERRERA'S CAPTURE WITH THE MILITARY'S ABILITY TO LAUNCH ITS OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE ELN.)

TWO MORE UP LEADERS ATTACKED, ONE KILLED  
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10. (U) THE VICE-PRESIDENT FOR META DEPARTMENT OF THE LEFTIST PATRIOTIC UNION (UP) PARTY, RICARDO RODRIGUEZ HENAO, WAS INJURED WHEN HIS APARTMENT WAS BOMBED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT OF JUNE 23. RODRIGUEZ IMMEDIATELY WENT ON RADIO TO ACCUSE WELL-KNOWN NARCO AND EMERALD TRAFFICKER VICTOR CARRANZA, OF PERPETRATING THE ACT. RODRIGUEZ WAS THE LAWYER DEFENDING THE FAMILIES OF VICTIMS FOUND IN A MASS GRAVE ON A FINCA OWNED BY CARRANZA NEAR PUERTO LOPEZ, META AND THE FAMILIES OF 17 PEOPLE MASSACRED NEAR EL CASTILLO, META LAST FEBRUARY

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23. HE HAS REPORTEDLY LEFT THE COUNTRY.

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11. (U) THE ONLY UP MEMBER OF THE CABINET OF MEDELLIN  
 MAYOR JUAN GOMEZ MARTINEZ WAS GUNNED DOWN AT 1:30 PM ON  
 JUNE 29 AS HE LEFT EARLY FROM A LUNCH WITH OTHER CITY  
 LEADERS. ALEJANDRO CARDENAS VILLA HAD BEEN THE MANAGER  
 OF THE HOUSING AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF  
 MEDELLIN SINCE JUNE 1988. CARDENAS WAS THE FORMER MAYOR  
 OF MUTATA, ANTIOQUIA, A POSITION THAT HE HAD TO QUIT  
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BECAUSE OF THREATS AGAINST HIS LIFE.

ASSASSIN GROUP DISMANTLED

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 12. (U) MILITARY UNITS DISMANTLED AN ORGANIZATION OF  
 ASSASSINS THAT OPERATED NEAR MUZO, IN THE EMERALD ZONE

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OF WESTERN BOYACA DEPARTMENT ON JUNE 24. ONE MEMBER OF  
THE GROUP WAS KILLED AND ANOTHER NINE WERE CAPTURED,  
ALONG WITH AN UZI MACHINE GUN, TWO R-15 RIFLES AND  
VARIOUS OTHER ARMS AND AMMUNITION.  
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