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USDOS – US Department of State (Author)

Country Report on Terrorism 2022 - Chapter 5 - National Liberation Army (ELN)

Description: The National Liberation Army (ELN) was designated as an FTO on October 8, 1997. ELN is a Colombian Marxist-Leninist group formed in 1964. It remains focused on attacking the security services and economic infrastructure — in particular oil and gas pipelines and electricity pylons — and on extorting foreign and local companies. ELN commits crimes and acts of terror throughout Colombia, including violence against civilian populations there and in Venezuela.

Activities: ELN continued to target Colombia's infrastructure. It has also launched mortar attacks on police stations and the military; placed explosive devices near roads; engaged in sniper attacks, roadblocks, and ambushes; and kidnapped civilians and members of Colombia's security services.

In 2017 the Government of Colombia and ELN conducted peace talks but did not ultimately reach an agreement. Peace talks were intermittent throughout 2018 after being suspended early in the year following a series of ELN bombings that killed several police officers and injured dozens more. The government ended talks following a 2019 VBIED attack by ELN on the General Santander National Police Academy. The attack was the deadliest Bogotá had experienced in years, killing 22 police cadets and injuring 87 more.

In 2022, ELN militants blew up a bridge in Caesar Department, Colombia, set fire to vehicles along the road connecting the Colombian cities of Popayán and Cali, and set off bombs between the Colombian municipalities of Socorro and San Gil, which injured eight persons.

Strength: ELN consists of about 2,500 members.

Location/Area of Operation: Colombia and Venezuela.

Funding and External Aid: ELN draws its funding from its involvement in drug trafficking activities, extortion of oil and gas companies and landowners, and illegal mining in Colombia and Venezuela. Additional funds are derived from kidnapping-for-ransom payments.

Associated documents

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30 November 2023 | [USDOS – US Department of State](#) (Author)

Colombia

Annual report on terrorism (covering 2022)

[Country Report on Terrorism 2022 - Chapter 1 - Colombia](#) (Periodical Report, English)

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Venezuela

Annual report on terrorism (covering 2022)

[Country Report on Terrorism 2022 - Chapter 1 - Venezuela](#) (Periodical Report, English)

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ecoi.net description:

Brief description of the National Liberation Army (Excerpt of chapter 5 of the country report on terrorism 2022)

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