

Location/Area of Operation: Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Funding and External Aid: TTP likely raises most of its funds through kidnapping-for-ransom payments, extortion, and other criminal activity.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

National Liberation Army (ELN)

Aka ELN; Ejército de Liberación Nacional.

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.

Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (FARC-EP)

Aka FARC-EP; Central General Staff; Estado Mayor Central (EMC).

Description: FARC-EP was designated as an FTO on November 30, 2021. Using the moniker of the former FARC, FARC-EP is responsible for the vast majority of armed attacks attributed to FARC dissident elements since 2019. The FARC-EP is led by Nestor Gregorio Vera Fernandez, alias Ivan Mordisco. In May 2022, former second-in-command Miguel Santanilla Botache, alias Gentil Duarte, was killed in Venezuela, allegedly during a confrontation with drug trafficking groups.

Activities: FARC-EP has been responsible for the killing of political candidates and former FARC members, and the kidnapping of a political operative. In 2021, FARC-EP claimed responsibility for a car bomb attack at the mayor's office in Corinto, Colombia, which injured 43 people, among them several public officials; and for a June attack against a Colombian Army base, which wounded 44 people, including two U.S. military advisers. Also in June 2021, FARC-EP shot at a helicopter carrying then Colombian President Ivan Duque. In 2022, FARC-EP conducted an ambush of a Colombian Army patrol in Cauca, killing six soldiers.

Strength: FARC-EP is estimated to have 2,700 to 3,000 members.

Location/Area of Operation: Colombia and Venezuela.

Funding and External Aid: FARC-EP is funded primarily by involvement in illicit activity, including extortion, international drug trade, and illegal mining.

Segunda Marquetalia (SM)

Aka New Marquetalia; Second Marquetalia; La Nueva Marquetalia; FARC dissidents Segunda Marquetalia; Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia Dissidents Segunda Marquetalia; FARC-D Segunda Marquetalia; FARC-SM.

Description: Segunda Marquetalia was designated as an FTO on November 30, 2021. In 2019, former FARC commanders, led by Luciano Marin Arango, alias Ivan Marquez, established Segunda Marquetalia after abandoning the 2016 Colombian Peace Accord.

Activities: Segunda Marquetalia has been responsible for the killings of former FARC members and community leaders. Segunda Marquetalia conducts armed assaults, assassination, extortion operations, and hostage-takings, including the kidnapping and holding for ransom of government employees and the attempted killings of political leaders. In 2020 the Colombian police foiled an attempt by Segunda Marquetalia to assassinate former FARC commander and current president of the Comunes — also called Common People's party — Rodrigo Londono Echeverri, alias Timochenko. Segunda Marquetalia did not claim responsibility for any attacks in 2022.

Strength: Segunda Marquetalia is estimated to have as many as 1,000 members.

Location/Area of Operation: Colombia and Venezuela.

Funding and External Aid: Segunda Marquetalia is funded primarily by involvement in illicit activity, including extortion, international drug trade, and illegal mining.

Shining Path (SL)

Aka Sendero Luminoso (SL); Militarized Communist Party of Peru (Militarizado Partido Comunista del Peru-MPCP); Communist Party of Peru-Shining Path (PCP-SL).

Description: Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso or SL) was designated as an FTO on October 8, 1997. The Peru-based terrorist organization was founded in 1969 by former university professor Abimael Guzmán, whose teachings created the foundation of SL's militant Maoist doctrine. During the 1980s to the early 1990s, SL was one of the most ruthless terrorist groups in the Western Hemisphere. In 1992 the Peruvian government captured Guzmán and key accomplices and sentenced them to life in prison; Guzmán died there in 2021. SL is led by Victor Quispe Palomino, alias Comrade Jose, and Tarcela Loya Vilchez, alias Olga. Historically, the group aimed to overthrow the Peruvian government.

Activities: SL typically targets Peruvian security services and has been known to conduct attacks against civilians. In mid-2021, members of an armed group affiliated with SL murdered 16 civilians, stating that the victims' activities were inconsistent with the group's beliefs. SL conducts a range of illicit activities, inducing extortion, murder, and drug trafficking. In 2022, SL conducted at least five attacks.

Strength: Estimates of SL's strength vary, but experts assess it to number between 250 and 300 members.

Location/Area of Operation: Peru

Funding and External Aid: SL is funded by drug trafficking and collecting taxes from drug trafficking organizations operating in remote eastern part of Peru known as the Apurimac, Ene, and Mantaro River Valley, a vast jungle area near the Andes mountains where most of Peru's coca cultivation and production occurs.