

## 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 ultimately did not 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 others.

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.

In March, nine Colombian soldiers were killed in an attack by ELN near the country's border with Venezuela. In May, members of the ELN attacked a police convoy with explosives, killing two police officers and one civilian in the Colombia town of Tibú.

**Strength:** ELN is estimated to have up to 5,000 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; Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo; FARC dissidents FARC-EP; Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia dissidents FARC-EP; FARC-D FARC-EP; Grupo Armado Organizado Residual FARC-EP; GAO-R FARC-EP; Residual Organized Armed Group FARC-EP.

**Description:** FARC-EP was designated as an FTO on November 30, 2021. Using the moniker of the former FARC, FARC-EP has been 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 an attack against a Colombian Army base, which wounded 44 people, including two U.S. military advisers. Also in 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. FARC-EP did not claim responsibility for any attacks in 2023.

**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; Grupo Armado Organizado Residual Segunda Marquetalia; GAO-R Segunda Marquetalia; Residual Organized Armed Group Segunda Marquetalia; Armed Organized Residual Group Segunda Marquetalia.

**Description:** Segunda Marquetalia (SM) 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:** SM has been responsible for the killings of former FARC members and community leaders. The organization conducts armed assaults, assassinations, 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 2023.

**Strength:** Segunda Marquetalia is estimated to have more than 1,600 members.

**Location/Area of Operation:** Colombia and Venezuela.

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