

UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVATORY

TRUTH COMMISSION AND PEACE PROCESS IN COLOMBIA.



The Arrupe Initiative has launched *The Human Rights Observatory* to follow and analyze the discourse surrounding Colombia's Commission for the Clarification of Truth, Coexistence, and Non-Repetition. The Observatory came together on November 1st, comprised of a diverse group of undergraduate and graduate students, and lead by Associate Director for Immersion, by Luis Enrique Bazan. The project seeks to reaffirm the university's mission to social responsibility and high quality scholarship, sustained by a faith that does justice.

The University of San Francisco has maintained a close relationship with the Jesuit Network in Colombia, through years of academic and social collaborations, sending over a hundred students in the last couple of years. For purposes of the observatory, we have maintained close contact with Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogota and Cali.

THE COLOMBIAN PEACE PROCESS.

The Commission of Peace was enacted in 1994 as a way to facilitate the inclusion of civil actors in peace efforts, recruit international cooperation, and direct dialogues with armed groups.

The importance of this peace process is that it in itself is rooted in social justice by attempting to incorporate former Guerilla members into society once again and discontinue the cycle of violence that has affected Colombia for over 50 years. This process is also unique as being one of the most participatory peace processes in history where both parties acknowledged peace would not be attained militarily. While this framework could be used to end armed conflict in other parts of the world, it is vital for us to track its successes and failures.

OVERALL IMPRESSIONS FROM USF'S HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVATORY

- Media outlets haven't say much about the Truth Commission and the peace process. We have also noticed that the few news that come up are distorted by the traditional media outlets. These news usually are shaped to fit their own interests, so we are working with the Javeriana Universities to get direct access to the narratives of communities from the different regions. Our contacts: Manuel Ramiro (Javeriana Cali) & Aida Quiñones (Javeriana Bogota)
- Land displacement and land rights are key issues for the conflict.
- The "Ejercito de Liberación Nacional" (ELN) is having a parallel peace process with the government, but they are a guerrilla that are not well known outside Colombia. It is important to learn more about them because their process with the government is also very important for the country.
- Coercion has become an important tool for the peace negotiations. President Duque threatened with ending the peace talks, but he continued the conversations after the ELN kidnapped members of the police and military.
- There is also growing suspicion that the Colombian government is looking to aid the US against Venezuela, and the internal stability is key to proceed with a military action outside Colombia.

CONTEXT AND DEPTH.

We put together the following list of resources that provide a context to the conflict at hand:

Colombia's Truth Commission, an official video (captions in english available)

Explainer: The FARC and Colombia's 50-Year Civil Conflict.

Colombia's fragile peace, explained