

# **Memory, Life Stories in Social Transformation Young Victims of the Armed Conflict in Colombia: The Modalities of Violence**

**By**

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## **Abstract**

This research article deals from the qualitative approach, to show the importance of the processes of collective memory from life stories, towards a reflection from the psychosocial effects of the participants and contexts of the armed conflict, as well as the essential features of it. This writing will give an account of the different experiences of young Colombians, based on 14 life stories. In order to show the testimony and reconstruct the memory of these victims. It can be concluded that these stories show the different circumstances that the young university students of this nation have lived and assumed.

**Keywords:** Collective memory, life story, armed conflict and youth.

## **1. Introduction**

One of the most controversial issues throughout history broadcast by the media has been violence; Even so, the meaning of this word encompasses a number of human activities that involve the use of force, there is a diversity of typifications of violence, but for this investigation it will emphasize the violence of the wars of repression in the country.

However, UNESCO reflects on the causes of violence and identifies a certain relationship between the political constitution of Colombia and resolution 18 C/11.1, which states that: "peace cannot consist solely in the absence of armed conflicts, but mainly involves a process of progress, justice and mutual respect between peoples" he also stated that: "peace based on injustice and the violation of human rights cannot be lasting and inevitably leads to violence" (Unesco 2000)

Therefore, the implicit definition of violence and its causes according to UNESCO points to: "The inevitable cause of violence is the conclusion of a type of precarious peace that corresponds only to the absence of armed conflict, without the progress of justice or, worse still, a peace founded on injustice and the violation of human rights." (Unesco 2000).

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For UNESCO, the violation of human rights confers the causality of very open organizational norms, very idealistic, not very sensitive to the State and very hostile to violence itself. Therefore, the norm conforms more to a spirit of texts than to the practices of humanity in particular, to what is called the recognition of the illegitimacy of resorting to force. (Unesco, 2000).

The causes of violence are linked to a legal perspective that starts from a system of interpretation of concepts that have no place; however, the breadth that UNESCO offers guides research on peace as is the case with this research. The very fact of questioning oneself in relation to what violence implies and what arises from this question through non-normative disciplines.

UNESCO contributes to the concept of violence in such a way that it opts for the Socratic discourse, through which paragraphs such as: "Is violence not a professional quality of certain "trades"?" They use this speech to refer to the main tools used by the military, police, criminals and revolutionaries; In common sense, it is meant that it is typical of the trade of some groups for the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, which to date have lost a lot of strength, but which for the time were worthy of admiration.

Meanwhile, the concept of violence cannot be localized since it comes from a dimension of a social nature specific to the performance of physical condition and speed, and that today, a violence that is spoken of as "physical" is exercised. Differentiation and collective representations exercise certain traits, stereotypes and functions that unionize the secular medieval structure. (Unesco, 2000).

UNESCO in the document: violence and its causes, refers to the fact that "the military represent the guild of the nobility; the police that of the clergy, and the criminals and the revolutionaries that of the plain state in the location of the relations of force that structure the class struggles of the beginnings of capitalism" with this could lead to the unification of the concept as that operator of the system of domination and anti-system of rebellion. (Unesco, 2000)

Violence in relation to the individual, refers to the concern of the environment in which he lives, to the extent of demonstrations against higher levels of organization, while acts of violence take place as a biological and genetic concern that responds to the "staggering from the base to the top. Therefore, it is violence when the individual in his eagerness to act against prevention, surveillance and generally institutional punishment, in particular from being certain types of behavior emerge that respond to "political struggles, political control, legislation", from a diplomatic approach of transactional forces that suppose economic and military demands at a global level.

But, however, the concept of violence from a pedagogical perspective implies that the violent behavior of the human being is explained from the behaviors learned from childhood, which also emerge in exploited and oppressed social groups. (Unesco 2000).

Finally, it can be concluded that there are various systems or units such as individual, group, institution, among others that are related to causality or disciplines such as biology, genetics, sociology, psychology that arise from control practices such as medical, diplomatic, military located in intervention modalities related to: eugenics, therapeutics, euthanasia, preventive, surveillance, repression, political struggle, political control, legislation,

consultation, negotiation, agreements, alliances, recruitment, maneuver, operations, armament, consultation, control of flows and economic-military interventions.

The World Health Organization defines violence as: “The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either causes or has a high likelihood of causing injury, death, psychological damage, developmental disorders or deprivation” (WHO, 2002)

Likewise, the WHO (2002) classifies violence as follows:

- Self-inflicted violence (suicidal behavior and self-harm),
- Interpersonal violence (family violence, including minors, couples and the elderly; as well as violence between unrelated people),
- Collective violence (social, political and economic).

Therefore, violence has been associated with various mental health problems that can trigger psychiatric disorders, in up to 33% of cases, according to figures from the WHO (2002), related to difficulties sleeping, symptoms of depression, somatic disorders, substance use, behavioral problems and significant impairment in social and communication skills.

This is how violence has psychological consequences that affect thousands of victims from different classifications; such as: suicide, mental health problems such as stress, substance use, isolation, self-esteem problems, fear, guilt, worthlessness, hatred, shame, depression, disgust, distrust, isolation, marginalization, anxiety, indifference. (WHO, 2002).

On the other hand, it also has secondary effects in terms of social impact, leaving problems such as: delinquency, drug addiction, prostitution, family violence, low productivity, decreased education, little opportunity to find a job, low quality of life, insecurity.

Throughout history, Colombia has been one of the countries most affected by the violence of the armed conflict, leaving countless victims who have not been able to heal wounds, due to the hostility that arose between armed groups such as paramilitaries, guerrillas and members of State force, this war inherited dead, disabled, disappeared, kidnapped, displaced among others, with an imminent violation of human rights that have left psychological sequels that have a negative impact on the community and society.

It is necessary to recognize that these victims were mostly ignored by the state and society, reflecting fear and invisibility; however, in an effort to address this population, programs have been proposed and executed for victims of the armed conflict in Colombia, in order to restore rights, by recognizing dignity through various strategies that contribute to the restoration of correct social relations through the reconciliation of peoples.

## **2. Background**

Regarding the armed conflict in Colombia, all the studies found were written in the same country, these are listed below.

Rodríguez and Rodríguez (2014) in their writing give an account of the history of humanity from the characterization of the constant dynamics of change that allows scientific and technical advances derived from the great wars. Historical records emphasize the performance of men compared to women in secondary and invisible roles including outrages

by subjecting women in times of peace and war. Bioethics understood as a discipline that glimpses the current problems around the armed conflict and its ethical-moral dilemmas through dialogue and deliberation to identify new proposals that transform the social world. This article showed the situation that women live in the armed conflict.

Consequently, Sandoval (2014) in his article sought to reflect on the fundamental problems of production that have occurred at the sociological level in Colombia; the limitations of both classical and contemporary theories are evident to explain the degradation of the armed conflict in Colombia, as well as the incidence, and the fragmentation of sociological research in an exponential growth of bibliographic production of the armed conflict, violence and peace in the country.

Citing Cancimance (2013) in her article, she proposes the approach from the review of the general program on violence and conflict based on the approaches suggested by scholars. This will allow the author to understand what are the social and political frameworks on which the processes of memory reconstruction move in the country that he is currently advancing. The article concludes with a synthesis allusive to the studies and academic, organizational and state practices that recover memory in Colombia.

Similarly, García (2012) in his reflection article gives an account of the partial results of the project "Families and Construction of memories" in which he examines the category of the victim. This project financed by Colciencias at the Simón Bolívar University of Barranquilla whose main objective was to analyze the memories of the subjects in a condition of displacement due to the massacres that occurred in the year 2000 in the town of El Salado in the department of Bolívar and in Nueva Venecia in the department of Magdalena. This analysis was made from the perspective of Michael Foucault, giving an account in the first place of the plans of this author and later the configuration of the category of victim from Law 1448 of June 10, 2011, known as the Law of Victims and Restitution of Victims. land. In a third moment, the way in which this problem was incorporated into the academy and the implications it had in training was shown, and finally it shows the link between Foucault's work and the situation of the victims who abandoned their territories and those who returned.

It is important to rescue Andrade (2011) who, in his work, aimed to typify the mental health pathologies of 36 families in a condition of displacement in the Valley in the municipality of Cairo in 2008; The Zunga and Conde scale was used to measure depression, (MDQ) mood disorder, (DST) Trauma David's son and (PTSD) post-traumatic stress disorder. The results found reflected a presence of depression of 20%, severe depression (30%). 100% post-traumatic stress, with severity in 50% and bipolar disorder in 65% and 5% did not present the disorder. The data obtained indicates that the psychological consequences of the conflict persist in populations, especially in women, even when there is no insecurity in the environment.

Other Voices Critical Social Psychology Group. (2010), refers that rewriting the voices of others is one of the most difficult tasks that the human being can undertake. However, it is necessary to generate a bridge that allows communication in those sectors that have difficulty hearing each other. Thus, in the most neutral and respectful manner, it is necessary to collect conversations that have taken place in seminars where the victims of the armed conflict have participated in psychosocial processes of care, reparation and recovery.

However, González and Molinares (2010) in their work attempted to analyze the multiple forms of violence in the country, making a brief review of the various manifestations.

I start the study with a definition of violence, like those that Colombia has experienced in the last two decades, a tool that since the constitution has been validated or disqualified from the actors, victims and perpetrators, characterized by citizens strongly marked by explained violence. from different angles and varied results. The study aimed to verify the presence of predominant violence, finding the social one above the political provided by specific groups that from the reflection emphasizes that any type of violence finally ends up being just that, violence.

On the other hand, Salas (2010) gave an account of the recent studies of the armed conflict in Colombia, referring to the existence of strategically located corridors and territories; offering concrete evidence of its existence, managing to characterize territoriality. This investigative work aimed to analyze and interpret the dynamics of the territorial location of the actors of the armed conflict in Colombia, the period of 1990 and 2009 from the political geographic perspective. The empirical results of this study allowed knowing the dynamics of territoriality of the strategic spaces of the Colombian armed conflict, which was deployed at three levels: national, regional and local. Each one of them with a dynamic configured with a multiseccular condition of territories in Colombia.

It is important to note that Valencia and Daza (2010) in their research report a historical recount in relation to the armed conflict in Colombia and the consequences that it brought with it, to subsequently describe the reasons that led adults, minors age and women to join these armed groups. Finally, they refer to the motivations that led these people to belong to the armed forces, finding similarities between the reasons for linking armed groups outside the law with the state military forces.

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To the same extent, Márquez (2009) in his article analyzes the history of Colombia based on the review of different important events for the social, political and economic development of the country. In this analysis, a description is made of the situations that took place in Colombia as the second most violent country in armed conflict worldwide; From there, life in coexistence of the everyday world is considered as one of the experiences of great crossroads and dilemmas for a genesis of violent states exercising an improper process of politics generating corruption, absence of state, and lack of axiological foundation. which from education should train for consensus, tolerance, difference, reconciliation and forgiveness in a student training process. This writing shows the way in which the interpretation and understanding of the conflict has one of the greatest appendages and strengths in the classroom; meanwhile, allowing the student to understand the diversity and plurality of the conflict will help him in the acquisition of interpretation tools and understanding of the violent events in Colombia, leading him to provide solutions to the conflict, contributing to the reconstruction of a hurt and resentful nation represented in a country exhausted from so much war.

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That is why, Picón and Chávez (2007) in their writing refer that Colombia has been a country that has been the object of different studies from different perspectives that has as a confluence point the impact on life and the dignity of human beings. The presence of minors was evident in the civil wars of the 19th century, in the period of violence in the middle of the 20th century, the country currently hopes that the new generations will not live in war. In this article, the authors take a look at the problem, suggesting care routes for minors disassociated from the conflict so that university social service and research initiatives can arise.

Therefore, Duque, Patiño and Monsalve (2007) in their writing refer that this analysis contributes to the way in which conflict and violence have consolidated scenarios that allow professional action, it is expected to advance in the construction of coexistence and peace. for human development. To exercise professional performance in these contexts of conflict and violence, it is important to build conditions of coexistence for the actors immersed in this problem, it is evident that the training implemented by the academy is insufficient, while the approach with work strategies is scarce in the contribution from the theoretical and political conceptions that manage to understand and transform these violent contexts in Colombia.

Undoubtedly, Nasi and Rettberg (2006) state that armed conflicts attract the attention of the entire world and that this has occurred especially after the cold war, due to the fact that explanations that attribute the conflict not only to the confrontation between two world powers, but other dynamics of a political, social and economic nature, both internal and external, have emerged in the countries. In Colombia, for example, the existence of the armed conflict has occurred internally and has lasted more than half a century, accompanied by a diverse academic production. This article then aims to identify the main lines of research that have been given around this topic as well as peace studies in recent decades. Over the years, literature has become even more complex, diversified, sophisticated, showing a capacity for adaptation and transformation to new conceptual and empirical challenges.

That is why, Guáqueta (2002) refers to the fact that there are dialogues of the armed conflict from the formulation of policies that have been taken by legal routes for resolution, this writing evidences the new academic agenda of the individual and collective dynamics of the economic viability that resizes the conceptualization and then the resolution of the conflict. The emphasis on the economic functions of the actors in the conflict contributes to the debate since the introduction of new analysis tools for this problem.

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### **3. Method**

This work is the product of the doctoral research that was carried out in educational sciences with the support of Dr. Sigales, an expert in victimology as an international advisor, which was developed from a qualitative methodology, in order to reflect on the problem of conflict. armed in Colombia, especially with young people, recognizing the importance of personal life stories as a way to recover the voice silenced by war and oppression, so these voices will be released from the life experiences that these 14 young people sponsored Colombians. The writing collects 14 life stories of young university students' victims of the armed conflict, survivors of the violence in Colombia in the last decades of the department of Boyacá, the stories were obtained by collecting information around the question What happened, how and what happened? ¿Who were affected? According to (Demazière & Dubar, 1997; Kornblit, 2004; Santamarina & Marinas, 1993), life stories refer to information gathering techniques on life testimony in relation to a specific event.

In social sciences, life stories are used for various research purposes, but essentially what is expected is to reconstruct the historical memory of those involved through the voice given to each story. This technique, in addition to being used for various purposes, has by itself a biographical approach that places the event or event in a time and space, with a view from the recognition of the other and the affectation towards oneself and towards those around him. (Bertaux, 2005). This doctoral study, as new research emerged around the topic of interest, decides for itself the approach with university students who are victims of the armed conflict, due to the importance of this population group for society and the effects that these young people have had. it can affect their own lives and those of others who interact in the different scenarios in which these subjects take place. (Cornejo, 2006). The first thing that was done to collect the data was to ask the participants for their informed consent for the academic use of the data and subsequent analysis and publication. At this stage, it was explained to the university students that they would take part in a fundamentally investigative study, and that their stories would be taken into account for the construction of historical and collective memory, who agreed without any objection.

For the collection of the story, technological tools were used in which the university student was able to write in his own words the event that occurred in the armed conflict, which allowed him to be more open without fear of being judged or singled out, each one did so confidentially. protecting the data for the present study, for which the stories will be put to academic consideration, reserving the sociodemographic records. The participants recognize the importance of the study, for which they agreed to participate and deliver confidential information regarding painful aspects of their own lives, which is why in this writing we will provide the unpublished life stories that each university student provided. These young people currently live in the municipality of Tunja and are linked to a private university in the sector.

The life stories for this writing will be published in their entirety, just as the narrator provided it for the investigation without adaptations or modifications, in order to preserve the transcript provided by the participants, in order to faithfully preserve the moments and situations that the young man wanted to express; even so, some sociodemographic data was omitted to protect the narrator.

The category of analysis on which this research material is based through the collection of life stories is in itself to reconstruct the historical and collective memory of a group of young university students who were victims of the armed conflict in Colombia. The effects and proposed approaches will be the object of other categories of analysis that will not be taken into account for this study.

Finally, it is important to point out that the life story is a technique that implies particular methodologies on which adaptations can be made according to the interests of the researcher and that of the participants. This study does not stop at collecting personal information from the subjects, but in the future, he hopes to generate approach strategies to mitigate certain effects that will be evidenced in future publications and writings. This to avoid investigative practices that do not contribute or discredit the narrator, in this sense, it is expected to achieve from academic and scientific advances certain contributions with new perspectives of transformation of more human worlds. (Cornejo, Mendoza and Rojas, 2008)

## **4. Resultados**

Este trabajo de investigación doctoral en ciencias de la educación quiso desde el principio reconocer los sufrimientos de los seres humanos como una oportunidad de cambio para otros y así poder transformar vidas a través de los relatos de quienes vivieron el conflicto armado en carne propia. Reconocer que somos un país violento es algo que ya se ha hecho, pero dar un paso y empezar a transformar las prácticas como ciudadanos ha costado más trabajo, debido a sentimientos de ira, tristeza, miedo y sed de venganza que ha mantenido a Colombia en los primeros lugares a nivel mundial como una de las naciones más violentas de todos los tiempos.

Esta reflexión es una invitación no solo a reconocer las voces de los oprimidos y menos favorecidos sino también al reconocimiento de la hostilidad del conflicto armado en Colombia, que ha durado más de 5 décadas, cobrando miles de muertes civiles, degradando en sí mismo al ser humano, quien lucha por su tierra en medio de intereses políticos y económicos que finalmente y a la luz de todos se ha convertido en una guerra del narcotráfico GMH. ¡BASTA YA! (2016). El conflicto armado en el siglo XXI, y con algunas reformas gubernamentales pretende invitar una nueva era el país a lo que le denominaron posconflicto, el cual se ha caracterizado por una alianza con líderes guerrilleros para restituir los derechos del pueblo, logrando desmovilización de frentes armados al margen de la ley y el cese del fuego en la nación.

De manera descriptiva entonces, las víctimas del conflicto armado con la que se ha topado este estudio, quisieron hacer memoria y dejar estos relatos de vida y sufrimiento, a partir del enunciado: Por favor, describa los hechos a los que usted fue víctima del conflicto armado. ¿Qué paso, cómo y cuándo ocurrió?

“Mi familia se fue de Santiago Pérez (Tolima) en el 2001 por amenazas de muerte por parte de grupos al margen de la ley. En el pueblo siempre hubo presencia de estos grupos, era considerado zona roja. Mataban mucha gente, con listas de nombres, en cualquier parte... constantemente había hostigamientos, tomas guerrilleras”

En Colombia el conflicto armado según el GMH. ¡BASTA YA! (2016, p.p. 34) ha tenido una serie de actores sociales, que no han escatimado en ejercer la violencia como medio para lograr sus objetivos, patrocinado entonces por guerrillas, paramilitares y miembros de la

fuerza pública; la cual incluye: fuerzas militares y policía nacional. Esta guerra trajo consigo prácticas recurrentes de masacres, desapariciones forzadas, torturas, sevicia, amenaza, desplazamiento forzado y violencia sexual. El desplazamiento es un tipo de violencia que atenta contra la integridad física y psicológica de la víctima, que en esencia se da debido al interés de estos grupos armados por poseer el territorio o ejercer control territorial y acceso al mismo para producción de coca y amapola.

“En mi pueblo había un conflicto entre paramilitares, guerrilleros y narcotraficantes. Ellos abusaban de la comunidad. Impartían miedo. Las mujeres eran abusadas sexual y físicamente ya que ellos las utilizaban en los quehaceres diarios de los grupos. En mi pueblo mostró a los adolescentes debido al conflicto no podíamos salir a la calle después de las seis de la tarde. A muchos amigos los reclutaron. Personas muy cercanas que les asesinaron a sus familiares. Por el pueblo pasaban a las personas que iban asesinar y también los pasaban después de haberlos masacrados. Los enfrentamientos entre guerrilleros y paramilitares en las cercanías del casco urbano. Los narcotraficantes pagaban a los grupos subversivos para que mataran a las personas que les fallaba o les robaban. Los paramilitares reclutaban a los adolescentes. Mis's padres no me dejaban salir después de las seis de la tarde ya que los paras decían que si miraban a los jóvenes en la calle se los llevaban para incluirlos a la fuerza a la causa. En el colegio rural secuestraron a 10 jóvenes en la carretera después de salir de clase. Mataban a la gente por sospecha era horrible la verdad. La violencia es como el carnaval de Barranquilla. "Quien lo vive es quien lo goza"

Con relación al patrocinio que tuvieron los actores del conflicto en Colombia, GMH. ¡BASTA YA! publica unas cifras desgarradoras; refiere que los paramilitares han sido quienes llevan como rasgo distintivo la violencia en contra de la integridad física del ser humano y la guerrilla por su parte ha tenido un accionar más en contra de la libertad como el secuestro y los bienes o territorios e es decir el desplazamiento. De las masacres reportadas entre 1980 y 2012 los paramilitares perpetraron el 58.9% es decir 1.166 vidas cobradas. La guerrilla fue responsable de 343 muertes y la fuerza pública de 158 muertes.

#### ***4.1 Territorial dispute between armed actors leaves dozens of peasants and workers murdered***



Urabá, September 1995, GMH. ENOUGH NOW! (2016 p. 44), photograph of Jesús Abad Colorado.

“February 13, 1999 was the day that this tragedy occurred for our family, which changed our lives completely, where our Father died in the hands of the Colombian armed conflict”

The actors of the armed conflict attack members of the civilian population as a strategy to force and weaken the adversary. These Colombian citizens are converted according to the GMH. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! in a source of political, economic, logistical and moral support. From the speeches of the armed actors, violence against the civilian population is justified, they point out that they are collaborators, traitors, representatives or officials who are part of the cost of the war as collateral damage. For example, the paramilitaries according to the GMH report. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! They consider entire communities to be guerrillas who have dressed as civilians, which turns into lethal violence.

"My family was banished from the farm because of the FARC, they humiliated us too many times, they stole everything they wanted, they killed an aunt in front of everyone, she was 7 years old"

The paramilitaries affirm that entire communities are guerrillas dressed as civilians, but if that civilian is also seven years old, could she be considered a guerrilla girl? The GMH. ENOUGH NOW! It already states that all the actors in the armed conflict in Colombia have included in their militant strategies attacks on the civilian population as a strategy of various modalities, with the intention of dominating the territory, deploying and exercising control over the civilian population. The war has been changing and the logics are different today, what one day began as a fight for the people in the 21st century became a fight against the people. The armed attacks that have claimed civilian lives are seen as extermination and destabilization violence, characterized by cycles of reprisals as referred to by the GMH. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!, which means that the use of violent actions against civilians in an indiscriminate manner, is apparently linked to strategic calculations of a dispute for "territorial hegemony"

“It happened approximately 9 years ago, the paramilitaries murdered my uncle, brother of my mother, he had gone on leave from the 16th military brigade and an hour away they cut him off on the bus, they got him off and murdered him”

Paramilitarism was born as a protection alternative for those who were not satisfied with the actions of the guerrillas, these paramilitaries were pressuring civilians to take sides, it means that those who are not with them means that they are against them and They are classified as "guerrillas".

On the other hand, the guerrilla responds to these military offensives by the paramilitaries with actions that put the civilian population in the middle of the disputes. The guerrilla strategically acted selectively against the population of the territory, which according to the GMH. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! caused high political costs, these guerrilla strategies were recorded as triggering the same confrontation between the two illegal armed groups. This brought with it long-term reprisals, which caused political and military affectation, characterized by bloody and cruel revenge, as cited by the GMH. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! which involved the civilian population. These reprisals were not only the actions of the military groups, with massacres in retaliation for deaths and attacks, but also justified violent actions as a legitimate response by the government in power to restore peace in the country.

Many affirm that the paramilitaries were the only ones capable of putting an end to the guerrillas, but the alliances show another panorama, the war that was taking place over a fertile

territory for the production of hallucinogens brought with it economic and power interests, against which many They bowed, including civil attacks with war actions, terrorists in order to silence the victims and thus guarantee criminal impunity from which even the country's political leaders benefited. (Bastaya, 2016).

“It was a guerrilla takeover in Hato Corozal - Casanare. It was one night that they began to bombard and gun down policemen and civilians, there were many wounded and I was only about 7 years old, I did not know what to do, I just wanted to look for my mother who was not with me at that time, I went to the church where there was a large crowd of people trying to hide, in the church I managed to meet my mother and they put us in a car to get us out of that place. It was about 15 years ago.”

Although many homicides remained invisible, little by little they were discovered, many paramilitaries confessed to the Justice and Peace Unit around a total of 25,757 homicides, for people the largest massacres were those that brought with them a high number of homicides in the same day, but the actions of the guerrillas were selective attacks that, in the eyes of others, are not so high because they were perpetrated gradually over a longer period of time, but perhaps left more dead than those caused massively.

Selective assassinations are a strategy to make the victim invisible, because many of them were disappeared, so they are reported as such and not as homicides. those who were found

"I was a victim of armed conflict due to homicide, which occurred on April 10, 2005. That day I was hoping that my father would go to a soccer final since that day he could not attend because of his work; that day I had an excellent game, but it was also one of the most painful days of my life because at six in the afternoon this day my father was found dead in his taxi with six shots to the head by a paramilitary nicknamed lagartija and it was there that I began to decay emotionally, educationally, psychologically and physically. As a result of this diseases arose in my son, one of these was the appendix and asthma, fears grew such as not being alone to enter my house, all the lights had to be turned on, I could not expose myself for fear that those who listened to me would hurt me, I do not sleep alone at that moment I understood that I no longer had protection everything for me was and has been very painful to witness and see how the life of a human being changes in just one One day I will receive a hug and a kiss and then see my father's lifeless body. I was a child of only 9 years of age who had to live first-hand the scourge of violence by having to cruelly witness how my father was after his murder, with whom I had such an emotional bond, which marked my life forever leaving my heart full of hate, pain and resentment; by not understanding how an armed group outside the law took my side even being so wonderful and left in me an emptiness and a pain difficult to overcome; Today there is talk of peace talks. Could it be that with dialogue or making agreements they will somehow be able to repair all the psychological and moral damage of each one of the families who we witness and still continue to suffer from selfishness and the desire for power and cruelty towards the Humans?"

In the 1990s, paramilitarism had its expansive stage as an armed group in the territory and perpetrated violent practices. The killings were constant and widespread, accompanied by violent actions with potential harm and humiliation. (GMH. ENOUGH NOW! 2016). During the massacres, the actors attacked not only the population but also violated women, children, the elderly, community leaders, destroyed homes and tortured people to produce systematic forced displacement in order to dispossess the land. These massacres of the civilian population increased the number of fatalities, affecting the security of the area.

“My father was kidnapped by the paramilitaries of Magdalena Medio, and my mother was extorted until she transferred one of her assets in the name of a woman who they told her to free my father”

According to GMH reports. ENOUGH NOW! of the year 2016, according to the figures registered in Colombia between 1970 and 2010, 27,023 people were kidnapped, a phenomenon associated with the country's armed conflict, these statistical data put the nation in the first place worldwide above Afghanistan and other countries of the Middle East. The guerrilla has greater responsibility for this heinous act, these groups initiate these practices with the purpose of obtaining economic resources to support military strategies.

The kidnappings that were carried out resulted in some deaths after the exchange was collected, including men and women known throughout the country as political actors and people with great economic influence in society. The kidnapping was also used as an act of pressure on the Colombian state to force it to renounce the extradition of drug traffickers to the United States.

This phenomenon affected a large number of people in the Colombian population, leaving with it indirect victims who still mourn the kidnapping and death of their loved ones, others who were luckier had to shed their belongings to save the lives of their husbands, parents, grandparents, uncles and relatives. The kidnapping is classified as one of the most atrocious events that the armed conflict brought with it, registering alarming figures in the country and for the entire world.

#### ***4.2 On the way to the release of one of the hostages of the Avianca plane***



Rio Santo Domingo mountain range of San Lucas, July 2000, GMH. ENOUGH NOW! (2016 p. 69), photograph of Jesús Abad Colorado

“It happened in Puerto Boyacá, when my father was active in the National Police, where at that time (year 2000) there were clashes between the police and the paramilitaries. The anguish for us was that my father was in those confrontations with a great possibility of dying. My mother had to leave Puerto Boyacá because the paramilitaries wanted to take over the town and kill mainly the families of the policemen. I grew up with the idea that if someone asked me about my father, that he was a baker, I could never say that he was a policeman”

The kidnapping was also an action against military public servants, who were held against their will to later be exchanged for guerrillas or paramilitaries detained by the government, and forced not to extradite these characters. In the government of Andrés Pastrana, peace processes were initiated that never ended happily; according to the GMH. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! The political cost was too high for the guerrillas, since not only could the humanitarian exchange be carried out, but the country also mobilized against the phenomena that the armed conflict sponsored, with cynical acts of barbarism to the society.

They created concentration camps to isolate the military and the civilian population, who were tied up with chains and wires, leaving 80.2% of the national territory affected with a total of 919 municipalities affected by the kidnapping.

#### ***4.3 Cylinder bomb causes death of 79 people in a Church***



Colombia, May 2002, GMH. Enough Now! (2016 p. 44), photograph of Jesús Abad Colorado

“For work reasons, my parents made the decision to move to the city of Ipiales in the department of Nariño, settling for almost 20 years in which my father won recognition as a merchant in the sector since he owned several businesses between them. a recreational center, a bakery and a restaurant finding family, work, and economic stability. Ipiales, being a border city, became very important for armed groups. In this way, tranquility was lost in the city because kidnappings, extortion, deaths, among other forms of violence, were already very common. My parents began to receive extortion calls, which day From day to day they became a headache since the calls were accompanied by death threats or fatal consequences. The extortions were for profit, hoping to be calm if they paid, otherwise they did not respond, directly attacking any member of the family. or against commercial business. Complaints of the calls were filed with the prosecutor's office and support was received during the first few days in order to trace the calls or find the whereabouts of the extortionists. My parents made the decision to leave everything for safety, renting and selling the businesses to leave the city since the last call was the threat that they would give 48 hours or they intended to attack my younger sister who was in grade 11 at the time. death threats so we had to leave the city where we lived since my younger sister was the one at risk, my parents had to leave the house and their jobs behind”

Forced displacement brought with it nostalgia, uprooting from the land and culture as well as humiliation, in Colombia this phenomenon is considered an act of lese humanity that

affected the civilian population massively. This displacement had as its main cause the interest in land and territory, from drug trafficking as a source of sustainability, promoting the eviction and appropriation of the land. The figures indicate that 2,014,893 people were victims of this violent act, between 1996 and 2003.

In the displacement, according to the stories of the victims, they imply that the greatest suffering arises when they have to forcefully abandon their roots, culture and social environment.

“Before an uncle was born, the armed forces took him when he was very young and until now nothing is known about him, this happened more than 20 years ago, this was very hard for my family, it is very difficult for them talk about this issue, over time we have been able to overcome the situation”

The enforced disappearance brought with it confusion, disillusionment, uncertainty and loneliness. The social impact of this barbaric act made it impossible to denounce specific facts, the circumstances did not clarify whether the disappearance ended in death, torture, kidnapping or illegal recruitment. The specificity of the crime is understood from the deprivation of liberty with a notable concealment of the whereabouts of the disappeared subject, which implies the impossibility of acting.

This phenomenon, in addition to causing uncertainty, leaves a trace of life expectancy that can never disappear, when a person is kidnapped, the guilty are the only ones who know the subject's fate, but the family will always be unaware of the truth of the facts. Between the years 1970 and 1990 at least 2,000 people were disappeared as a result of the Colombian armed conflict, these disappearances were perpetuated in order to extract confessions from the opposing side, which may mean that the victim could have been tortured to death.

“I lived through them but I was very young, my parents and relatives tell me that more than once they tried to take over the town and displaced many people. They were about to blow up the town and killed many people in front of their relatives and countrymen.”

Threats are violent practices that were part of the armed conflict, causing social and emotional instability. These criminal acts aim to maintain terror and fear in the population to break with the daily life of community expressions. Hooded figures appeared who protected their identity but acted from a military group, the threats circulated with pamphlets, press releases and intimidating blacklists.

Terrorist groups made threats with explosions, mass deaths, kidnappings, torture, and others, under the logic of leaving the victim defenseless in terms of reaction, this methodology of war was implemented by both paramilitaries and guerrillas. Threats were also used as reprisals between these armed groups, affecting the civilian population in a high percentage.

“In the northern sativa town of Boyacá, during the shots that occurred between 1999 and 2001, I managed to escape from one of those shots, hiding from the rifle shots that crossed over us, hiding in a neighboring house, we heard the roar of the bombs during all night, the next day we saw how the town was destroyed and we saw the corpses of people we knew and friends, after that my mother and I had to flee the town, since they threatened to take over and assassinate the officials of the mayor's office my mother was one of them

The terrorist attacks were intended to generate panic among citizens in order to spread terror and destabilize the population. The GMH documented 95 terrorist attacks with 223 fatalities, of which 77 were sponsored by the guerrillas, 16 unidentified groups and 2 by paramilitaries. These attacks were influenced by the time of Pablo Escobar, but with the death of this character the attacks declined significantly and other types of violence against the civilian population began to emerge.

"It was almost four in the morning when a group of armed men broke into our house where we were cousin aunts and my family asking for the husband of one of my aunts, he was not there at that time but they kept us on the floor and They threatened us while they pointed their guns at our heads After an hour my aunt's husband was found dead in a place near the house After the funeral where only my mother stayed they were told that if we continued living there that some of us we would have to go to the ranks of one of the armed groups, what could be stored in a truck that the owner was asked almost on his knees to get us out of this place and we returned to Villavicencio with nothing and starting from scratch but the shadow of violence followed us so we had to leave there pressure from groups outside the law after the death of the husband of an aunt and my paternal grandfather at the hands of different groups and the last one still unpunished death we had to move from a town to the capital of the meta also fearing the recruitment of these groups and leaving everything behind. The cruelty of the war in this country is not as light as the media shows, the physical and psychological abuse that they show on television is nothing that some of us have had to see and live with. Arriving at a new place where war actions are minimal and remain silent because people who have never lived through it simply do not believe what happens beyond it is something that hurts and that no one is aware of until it is their turn to experience such events Thanks a lot "

Although the displacement was perpetrated in rural areas, the urban area also felt the impact, the nation in general is a victim of the armed conflict from different perspectives, we were all affected directly and indirectly. Although the city dweller perceives the armed conflict as a foreign phenomenon in their reality, it really had such an impressive action that it managed to affect each one of the Colombian citizens. Close and distant relatives, friends and acquaintances have a story to tell, and these consequences also affect all human beings who inhabit this country, we have been victims of what caused the conflict in social, political and economic terms.

## **5. Conclusions**

For 50 years the country has had to experience violence characterized by the transformation of the military strategies of illegal armed groups, which appear in history in a heterogeneous way, perpetuating violence for confusing reasons and with the oldest armed conflict of the world. Full of inequality, ambiguity in democratic reforms, total indifference in contexts of proliferation of guerrillas with social mobility and national marginalization.

Long periods, with the emergence of new armed groups such as the paramilitaries, as well as a state crisis, total loss of control in the 1990s, whose highest authority was not the president of the republic, a country manipulated by the cruelty and greed of the power and economic capital. With facts impossible to believe, terrorist phenomena that killed Colombians and kept them in oppression, civilian communities lethally attacked, with the radicalization of public opinion.

The country had to put up with political parties that resorted to violence to regain power, state dominance, and political impunity. Colombia, a country rich in fauna, flora, vegetation and animal production, has had to suffer the consequences of a fertile land for the cultivation of not only the most exotic legumes, vegetables and fruits in the world, but also the production of the best coca and poppy in the world. continents.

This phenomenon-imposed drug trafficking and thus the strengthening of armed groups allied with high-powered public officials, planting is still a problem that has not been resolved. Many families continue with the production of this narcotic input as their only life option.

In the national context, what was born as a revolutionary armed force of Colombia, ended up in a narco-terrorist group that fought in the territory attacking the civilian population, transforming communist thinking into a criminal trend, political pressure was never enough to attack these groups until the paramilitaries had state support and attacked the guerrillas, leaving with them thousands of fatalities, which later with a change of government in turn regained strength, to finally agree to a peace process, in which the guerrilla leader for the year 2018, he mobilized towards the regions of the country making presidential politics, for the same year, armed groups called ELN were maintained, which was joined by the groups that did not join the peace process, and that still leave victims today. Deadly and continue to attack, in what has been called the post-conflict, which will undoubtedly become an endless struggle, until e Issues of great importance such as the legality of drugs, unemployment, corruption and other aspects that maintain this phenomenon in the country are not resolved.

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