

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



OVERVIEW

AS OF MAY 2026

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia–People’s Army (FARC-EP) is a foreign terrorist organization (FTO) and one of Colombia’s most powerful violent dissident groups. Many members of the new FARC-EP rejected the peace agreement signed in 2016 between the Colombian Government and the former FARC, which had waged decades of attacks in Colombia since its founding in 1964. The FARC-EP seeks to control critical areas of Colombia, particularly those associated with drug trafficking. Since at least 2019, the group has been responsible for most of the FARC dissident (FARC-D) attacks in Colombia. The FARC-EP has engaged in numerous armed confrontations with Colombian authorities as well as the Segunda Marquetalia—a rival FARC-D faction.

Operating Area

Operates mainly in southern and northeastern Colombia; some members reside in Venezuela

Members

Approximately 2,000 fighters

Tactics And Targets

The FARC-EP conducts armed assaults, assassinations, extortion operations, and hostage takings. The group focuses most of its attacks on Colombian Government and military targets but it also attacks critical infrastructure, Colombia’s civilian population, and—occasionally—US military personnel in the country. The FARC-EP equips its members with small arms, machineguns, mines, and IEDs.

Terrorist Group Designation

The US State Department designated the FARC-EP as an FTO in November 2021. That same month, the US State Department also named Nestor Gregorio Vera Fernandez, a.k.a. Ivan Mordisco; now-deceased Miguel Santanilla Botache, a.k.a. Gentil Duarte; and Euclides Espana Caicedo, a.k.a. Jhon Fredey Henao Munoz, as Specially Designated Global Terrorists.

KEY LEADERS



Nestor Gregorio Vera Fernandez

a.k.a. Ivan Mordisco

Overall leader



Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia–People’s Army (FARC-EP) *(continued)*

KEY LEADERS *(continued)*



Alexander Diaz Mendoza

a.k.a. Calarca

Leads the 40th Front; allegedly helps guide the FARC-EP’s strategy to consolidate territory and form an “urban command” for terrorist operations



Javier Alonso Veloza

a.k.a. Jhon Mechas

Leads the 33rd Front; responsible for two high-profile attacks in Colombia in 2021, one targeting US military forces and another targeting a helicopter carrying the Colombian President

NOTABLE ATTACKS

25 April 2026

Cauca, Colombia

FARC-EP insurgents conduct an IED attack against a bus along the Pan-America Highway, killing 21 people and wounding more than 40. The attack was in response to a Colombian military strike targeting FARC-EP leader Ivan Mordisco.

25 June 2021

Cucuta, Colombia

FARC-EP insurgents shoot at a helicopter carrying the Colombian President and two cabinet ministers, hitting the aircraft multiple times but inflicting no casualties.

15 June 2021

Cucuta, Colombia

FARC-EP insurgents conduct a VBIED attack against a Colombian Army base, wounding 44 Colombians and two US military advisers.

