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## **Colombia: International Organizations Concerned About Human Rights Situation**

*by Erika Harding*

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On July 14, during a seminar in Bogota, the Andean Commission of Jurists and Americas Watch expressed concern about human rights conditions in Colombia. Both organizations, however, acknowledged government efforts to improve the situation. Americas Watch executive director Juan Mendez criticized the government for continuing to cite deficiencies in the judicial system as justification for continued military impunity. According to Alejandro Valencia, a researcher in international studies at the University of the Andes, civilian casualties in the conflict between rebels and soldiers over the January 1988-May 1992 period totaled 480 dead, and 788 wounded. Next, 3,047 rebels and 1,547 soldiers and police officers died. Wounded rebels and soldiers totaled 137 and 1,997, respectively. (Source: Agence France-Presse, 07/14/92)

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