

5-28-1991

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## Recommended Citation

Khol, Barbara. "Colombian Government Introduces Violence Reduction Plan." (1991). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/notisur/6608>

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## **Colombian Government Introduces Violence Reduction Plan**

*by Barbara Khol*

*Category/Department: General*

*Published: Tuesday, May 28, 1991*

On May 22, the Colombian government announced a new plan to reduce drug, guerrilla, and street violence. According to officials, 24,000 people were killed in such violence last year. Among other things, the plan creates regional security commissions to give department officials more flexibility in combating violence. A report outlining the plan said violence in Colombia stemmed from many illicit, often overlapping activities, including drug trafficking, terrorism, guerrilla warfare, street crime, kidnapping and extortion. The report said the most violent area of Colombia was northwestern Antioquia department. The number of homicides in Antioquia increased from 5,000 in 1986 to 10,000 in 1990. (Basic data from AFP, 05/22/91)

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