â??We believe there are multiple armed conflictsâ?•: Kyle Johnson on security in Colombia

DescripciÃ³n

Colombia had a tumultuous start to 2022, as violence broke out in the northeastern department of Arauca, near the Venezuelan border, killing dozens. The armed groups involved are ELN guerrillas and a faction of ex-FARC guerrillasâ??but the actors are different elsewhere in the country. Colombiaâ??s persistent armed-group violence has become ever more confused, fragmented, and localized, more than five years after a historic peace accord.

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To make sense of the situation, Director for Defense Oversight Adam Isacson and Program Assistant Matthew Bocanumenth spoke with Kyle Johnson, an analyst and co-founder of the BogotÃ¡-based Conflict Responses Foundation, a research organization that performs extensive fieldwork in conflict-affected territories.

With a nuanced but clear presentation, Johnson answers our many questions and helps make sense of this complex, troubling moment for security and governance throughout rural Colombia.

The way forward, Johnson argues, goes through negotiations and a renewed effort to implement the 2016 peace accord, especially its governance and rural development provisions. It requires abandoning the longtime focus on meeting eradication targets and taking down the leaders of what are now very decentralized armed and criminal groups.

Publicada originalmente en la pÃ¡gina de WOLA: https://www.wola.org/analysis/we-believe-there-are-multiple-armed-conflicts-kyle-johnson-on-security-in-colombia/

CategorÃa

1. Podcast

Fecha de creaciÃ³n
01/02/2022
Autor
conflictresponses