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UN Human Rights Council
Twenty-Fifth Session
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Item 2
General Debate

Mr. President,

In Colombia, an eventual peace agreement can put an end to the cycle of human rights abuses and violations that has marked the 50-year-old armed conflict, and advance the right of victims to truth, justice and reparation.ⁱ

Amnesty International is dismayed about the failure of the Colombian government to stop human rights violations and abuses, especially against Afro-descendant, Indigenous and peasant farmer communities, women, human rights defenders, and land claimants.

Such crimes are committed mostly by paramilitaries, acting alone or in collusion with the security forces, and by guerrilla groups.

Measures that will exacerbate impunity, including efforts to shield the security forces from human rights scrutiny, could undermine the viability of any peace agreement.

The human rights consequences of the peace process remain uncertain. Ongoing international scrutiny by the Office in Colombia of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is therefore more important than ever.

Amnesty International urges this Council, its members and observer states to call on the parties to the conflict to fully implement all United Nations human rights recommendations. Correspondingly, they should:

- Urge the government and guerrilla groups to put an immediate end to all human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law.

- Call on the government to effectively dismantle paramilitary groups and break any links with the security forces.
- Call for effective protection for groups and communities at particular risk of human rights violations and abuses.
- Urge the government to desist from supporting legislative and other measures that serve to exacerbate already chronic levels of impunity.
- Call on the Colombian authorities to bring to justice in civilian courts all those suspected of criminal responsibility for human rights violations and abuses.
- Support the critical role of the Office in Colombia of the High Commissioner in providing ongoing international scrutiny in an uncertain context for human rights.

Thank you Mr. President.

ⁱ See: Amnesty International's written statement to the 25th session of the UN Human Rights Council "The human rights situation in Colombia," A/HRC/25/NGO/79 of 26 February 2014 at <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G14/113/08/PDF/G1411308.pdf?OpenElement> .