Peace Initiatives in Colombia’s Armed Conflict

Biographies

Cynthia Arnson, Woodrow Wilson Center

Dr. Cynthia J. Arnson is director of the Latin American Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. She is editor of Comparative Peace Processes in Latin America (Stanford University Press, 1999), co-editor (with I. William Zartman) of Rethinking the Economics of War: The Intersection of Need, Creed, and Greed (The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005), and author of Crossroads: Congress, the President, and Central America, 1976-1993 (2d ed., Penn State Press, 1993). Arnson is a member of the editorial advisory board of Foreign Affairs en Español and a member of the Latin America advisory board of the Open Society Institute. Arnson is also a member of the advisory board of Human Rights Watch/Americas, and served as associate director of the Americas division from 1990-1994. She served as an assistant professor of international relations at American University's School of International Service 1989-1991, and as a foreign policy aide in the House of Representatives during the Carter and Reagan administrations. Arnson has an M.A. and Ph.D. in international relations from The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

Javier Ciurlizza, International Center for Transitional Justice

Javier Ciurlizza is the Director of the Colombia Program at the International Center for Transitional Justice. He has served as the Executive Secretary of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for Peru and later the Director of the Institute of Democracy and Human Rights at the Universidad Católica. He was appointed the Chief of Cabinet to the Ministry of Justice and served as legal adviser for the Peruvian Chancellor on the extradition of former President Alberto Fujimori. Ciurlizza guided truth commissions and judiciary processes in Paraguay, Kenya, Indonesia and Liberia. He has a Masters from Warwick University in England and a Law degree from the Pontificia Universidad del Peru.

Aldo Civico, Columbia University

Aldo Civico is the director of the Center for International Conflict Resolution at Columbia University in the City of New York. Trained as an anthropologist, he has been doing fieldwork in Colombia since 2003 on internally displaced peoples and the demobilization of the paramilitary in Medellin and in the region of Antioquia. Since 2005, he has been working on the peace efforts between the Colombian government and the ELN guerrillas. He has designed and implemented conflict resolution workshops in Colombia and in Haiti and as an advisor to UNDP he did conflict assessment in the Balkans. In the 1990s he served as senior political adviser to Leoluca Orlando, the Mayor of Palermo and the leader of the largest anti-mafia movement in Sicily, Italy. He is the author of “Portrait of a Paramilitary,” a chapter in
the book Engaged Observers edited by Victoria Sanford and Asale Angel-Anjani and of the forthcoming book Making Sense of Paramilitary Violence in Colombia. His research currently focuses on the history of the negotiations with the ELN guerrilla.

**Pádre Darío Antonio Echeverri González, National Reconciliation Commission**

Father Darío Echeverri is the Secretary General of the National Reconciliation Commission. He has served as the Rector at the Claret de Cali and Clarentiano de Bogotá schools. He was Director of the Life, Justice and Peace Section of the National Secretariat of Social Teaching; a member of the Church Commission Facilitating the Search for a Humanitarian Agreement between the National Government and the FARC; a member of the Civil Society Commission Facilitating Dialogues between the National Government and the ELN, and a Member of the Church Commission for Peace. His extensive schooling includes studies in philosophy at the Pontificia Universidad Bolivariana in Medellín, in theology at the Universidad San Buenaventura in Bogotá, and civil law and political science at the Universidad la Gran Colombia. He holds a Doctorate in Canonical Law from the Pontificia Universidad Lateranense de Roma.

**Juan Carlos Garzón Vergara, Organization of American States**

Juan Carlos Garzón is the Director of the Analysis Unit for the OAS Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia. Prior to coming to the OAS, he worked as a researcher at the Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Observatory in the Office of the Vice President and the Latin American Council of Social Sciences and as a consultant for the Ministry of Defense in the preparation of the Annual Report on Kidnappings. He has also taught a course on peace initiatives at the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana. He has published articles in newspapers and academic journals, including “Individual Demobilizations: The Uncertainties of the War and the Limitations of the Peace” (Security and Democracy Foundation, 2005) and “Institutionalism and Violence: Risk Perspectives of the Judicial Branch within the Colombian Armed Conflict” (Universidad de los Andes, 2002). He received his B.A. in Political Science with an emphasis on International Relations form the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana.

**Eduardo González, Office of the High Commissioner for Peace, Bogotá**

Eduardo González is currently an Advisor to the High Commissioner for Peace. He is in charge of executing specific missions related to rapprochement with illegal armed groups, according to the implementation of the Peace Policy of the Colombian government. Mr. González is responsible for institutional relations with foreign missions, multilateral organizations, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, in order to consolidate Peace Policy with Colombian Foreign Policy. He is the manager of the cooperation and investment programs that have been developed with the participation of the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace. He participates in monitoring committees as an advisor, and represents the High Commissioner for Peace in public events. From 2001 to 2003he served as a consultant for the Transparencia en Línea Program of the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, Andean Development Corporation (CAF) in Bogotá. He developed projects aimed at developing the transparency and communication public budget strategy. From 1999 to 2001 he was a consultant for the Anti-Corruption Institute of the Universidad Colegio Mayor de Nuestra Señora del Rosario. He analyzed different improvement possibilities in order to have more transparent public contractual law, as well as the most important international
instruments created to fight corruption. He holds a Masters degree in Political Science from the Universidad de Los Andes and a BA in Finance and International Affairs from Universidad Externado de Colombia.

ALEXANDRA GUÁQUETA, Fundación Ideas para la Paz


MARÍA VICTORIA LLORENTE, Fundación Ideas Para la Paz

María Victoria Llorente is Executive Director of Fundación Ideas Para la Paz. From 1998 to 2006 she was an associate investigator for the Center for Economic Development Studies at the Universidad de Los Andes, where she focused on a wide-range of investigative projects about crime and violence. She also coordinated the group for interdisciplinary studies for Public Peace, focusing on the aforementioned areas. In 2005, Ms. Llorente became an associate investigator with Fundación Ideas para la Paz where her projects included work on public security reform. She has been a consultant with the mayor of Bogotá’s office, the United Nations Office against drug and crime, and works with the Inter-American Development bank on diverse project for policies of citizen security, the prevention of juvenile violence and police reform. Ms. Llorente also serves as an advisor to the Presidential Council on National Defense and Security and the Ministry of National Defense to design and implement policies of national security, citizen security and national police reform. She is co-editor and co-author of various publications including Recognizing War to Build Peace (Reconocer la guerra para construir la paz), Characteristics of Homicide Violence in Bogotá (Caracterización de la violencia homicida en Bogotá) and Violence in Colombian Families: Socioeconomic Costs, Causes and Effects (Violencia en las familias colombianas: costos socioeconómicos, causas y efectos). She holds a B.A. in Political Science with specialized studies in National Security at Escuela Superior de Guerra de Colombia and at the Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies of the Defense University in the United States.

JEREMY MCDERMOTT, BBC

Jeremy McDermott is the Colombia correspondent for the BBC. He is also currently the Latin America correspondent for The Daily Telegraph and the Janes Intelligence Review. McDermott has also worked as a Colombia correspondent for The Economist, the Deputy Editor of the Emirates News in the UAE, a senior reporter for The Daily Star of Lebanon, a reporter for The Evening Standard in London, and a freelance war correspondent in Bosnia-Herzegovina. His work has been published in a wide range of publications around the world.
He received his M.A. in General Arts from the University of Edinburgh and is currently working on his Ph.D. at the University of Oxford.

Román D. Ortiz, Fundación Ideas para la Paz


Rodrigo Pardo, Revista Cambio

Rodrigo Pardo is the Director of the magazine Cambio. He was also the Editorial Director of Semana and the Sub-director of El Tiempo. Pardo has held numerous positions in the public sector, including as the Colombian Ambassador to France, the Colombian Ambassador to Venezuela, the Minister of Foreign Relations, and a Presidential Advisor. He was the Director of the Center for International Studies and Political Science and a professor of Political Science at the Universidad de Los Andes. He holds a Masters in International Relations from the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins.

María Teresa Ronderos, Semana.com

María Teresa Ronderos is the Director of Semana.com, the online daily edition of the news magazine Semana and the President of the Colombian Foundation for the Freedom of the Press (FLIP). Prior to moving to Semana.com, she was the General Editor of Semana, the Editor in Chief of La Nota Económica, and the Political Editor of El Tiempo. Her extensive work as an investigative reporter includes participation in global reporting projects through the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists. She has directed several television shows and documentaries, and in her early career worked as a correspondent for Colombian media in Buenos Aires, where she also frequently published opinion pieces in the Buenos Aires Herald. Since 1998, she has been teaching journalism workshops throughout Latin America through the Fundación para un Nuevo Periodismo. Her books include Retratos del Poder (Plantea, 2002), 5 en Humor (Aguilar, 2007), and two journalism textbooks. Ronderos was a Knight Fellow at Stanford University from 1996-1997. She received the King of Spain Iberoamerican Award in 1997, was a finalist for the IPYS-Transparency International Award for investigative reporting on a corruption case in 2003 and 2004, was selected for a EU Lorenzo Natali Award for one of the 20 best stories in the world in 2007, and was given the Maria Moors Cabot Award at Columbia University in recognition of her outstanding career. She holds a Masters in Political Science and a Masters in Newspaper Journalism from Syracuse University.