

## **General allegation**

**105th session (2 – 6 March 2015)**

### **Colombia**

28. On 30 March 2015, the Working Group transmitted information received from credible sources concerning obstacles encountered in the implementation of the Declaration.

29. According to the source, in Buenaventura, several largely Afro-Colombian neighbourhoods are dominated by powerful paramilitary successor groups. It is alleged that they are responsible for the enforced disappearance of hundreds of residents in recent years. Reportedly, the groups dismember the victims in casas de pique (“chop-up houses”) and dump the body parts in the bay or along its mangrove-covered shores, or bury them in hidden graves. Reportedly, in March 2014, criminal investigators found bloodstains in two suspected casas de pique. From 2010 to 2013, more than 150 people were abducted by officials in Buenaventura – twice as many as in any other municipality in Colombia. According to the source, the actual number could be significantly higher given that the fear of reprisals leads to underreporting.

30. According to the information received, since January 2012, more than 250 alleged members of a paramilitary successor group have been arrested, and prosecutors have opened more than 2,000 investigations into cases of enforced disappearance and forced displacement. None of them, however, has led to a conviction. The source alleged that the authorities had failed to protect the population from the paramilitary successor group and that some members of the police maintain contact with it. This has deeply undermined trust in the authorities and led to a pervasive sense of defencelessness in the face of the constant abuses by the groups.