

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Public Statement

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Colombia: Amnesty International condemns bomb attack

Amnesty International today condemned the car bomb which left four civilians dead and dozens injured in the city of Cali, Valle del Cauca Department .

The explosion, late on 31 August, destroyed parts of the Palace of Justice, which is located in the centre of the city. Several shops, as well as the local Office of the Attorney General and a hotel, were also damaged.

Although no group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) are reported to have detonated a similar device in Cali in April 2007, in which one civilian was killed and more than 30 injured.

On 14 August 2008, the FARC also reportedly detonated an explosive device in Ituango, Antioquia Department, which killed eight people and injured more than 50. The explosion destroyed a number of shops in a busy pedestrian area of the town, where a traditional fiesta was being held at the time.

"In targeting civilians, these attacks constitute a clear violation of international humanitarian law. The Colombian authorities must immediately carry out an impartial and exhaustive investigation in order to bring those responsible to justice", Amnesty International said.

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