

The War In Colombia

Who Is A “DISPLACED” Person?

At last count, Colombia has over **Two Million Displaced Persons**. Most are Women and Children. Most of the people affected by the gorilla warfare in Colombia are the poor, the peasants, and the uneducated. The 50-year-old war has taken its toll especially on the women who suddenly become the “head of household” because their husbands have been kidnapped by gorilla terrorists... forced to fight, or be killed in the fighting.



The women, in turn, are forced to leave their homes as they know them, with only the clothes on their backs. Their little piece of land that provided them with all they needed for their simple daily existence has been taken away. They then head towards major cities where they beg for food, and find scrap materials to build shelters just to feed and provide shelter for themselves and their children.

To even begin to apply to the United Nations for help, a country such as Colombia has to fill out “mountains” of paperwork, most of which is in English and totally incomprehensible to them...or difficult to answer because the U.N. wants “studies” and “testimonials”. Getting aid from the United Nations for causes such as these displaced persons, usually slips through the cracks.

So How Did They Become Displaced?

Here is just an example.

On an early morning day, she got up with her husband and started to awake the older children to get them ready for school. He left to milk their cow for their breakfast. When he did not return as usual, she looked out the door and in the distance saw her husband, the cow, and several hooded men. She could hear them arguing, so she ran out, and behind her some of their children.

She was six months pregnant with their 7th child.

Apparently the gorillas wanted not only his cow, but also all of his other animals and his land to become part of their holdings for operations of their terrorists. After all, the FARC has to feed their army somehow! His valiant stance to protect his little piece of Colombia ended with a shot to the head in front of his wife and children.

She was then ordered to take her children and leave her home with just the clothes on their backs. This is how she and her seven children became **DISPLACED**. Their little piece of Colombia provided them with all they needed. Fruits, vegetables, milk, meat, and a home. The children went to school and on Sundays went to church and the open markets to meet with neighbors to socialize.

Now they lack identity as human beings. They are not citizens of the city. They are from the countryside, country folks, without land, outcasts. Now they are the unknown, and referred to as “The Displaced”, equivalent to those who do not have a place, no site, no room, no space of their own.

Walking for miles, eventually they found their way to a place or “Barrio” called Santa Cruz. Here is where thousands go to find two priests: Rev. Father Eugenio London and Rev. Father Julio Jaramillo.