

# *Truth Commission in Colombia documents 450,000 deaths and strongly criticizes U.S. role in backing violence*

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Bogota, June 30 (RHC)-- Colombia's Truth Commission has estimated that over 450,000 people were killed in Colombia between 1985 and 2018 during a time when the United States was a key backer of the Colombian military and right-wing paramilitaries which targeted leftist groups, social justice leaders and union members.

The Truth Commission's report denounced the U.S.-funded war on drugs in Colombia, stating: "The consequences of this concerted and largely U.S.-driven approach [led to a] hardening of the conflict in which the civilian population has been the main victim."

Rev. Francisco de Roux, who led the Truth Commission, told reporters: "To the government, public forces, political parties, entrepreneurs, churches, educators and other decision makers in Colombia: We ask you to recognize the drug trafficking penetration in our culture, in the state, politics and economy, and face it as a nation. We must develop investigative tools to face the alliances system and involved interests, and we must change the war politics that attack those who are the weakest link -- the farmers."

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