

APPENDIX: SOURCES OF EVIDENCE

The statistical data used in Chaps. 3, 4 and 5 are taken from a wide variety of sources and include (1) economic data (for instance, GDP per capita growth, inequality, inward FDI, international trade and palm oil cultivation) from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the World Bank, Colombia's Central Bank (Banco de la República), Proexport Colombia (a department of the Colombian government), Colombia's National Department of Statistics (Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística, DANE) and Colombia's National Federation of Palm Oil Cultivators (La Federación Nacional de Cultivadores de Palma de Aceite, Fedepalma); and (2) conflict-violence related data, namely, forced displacement, human rights and political violence, battle-deaths, guerrilla actions, homicide rates, infrastructure attacks and coca cultivation, from sources including the Centre for Research and Popular Education (Centro de Investigación y Educación Popular, CINEP), the Consultancy for Human Rights and Displacement (Consultoría para los Derechos Humanos y el Desplazamiento, CODHES), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the New Rainbow Corporation (Corporación Nuevo Arco Iris, a Colombian Non-Governmental Organisation or NGO), data from the Peace Research Institute Oslo and the Uppsala Conflict Data Program, Acción Social (the Colombian government's agency which was tasked

with recoding forced displacement during the 2000s), the US Government Accountability Office (GAO), Colombia's National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences (Instituto Nacional de Medicina Legal y Ciencias Forenses, INMLCF) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

The statistical data used in this book are largely descriptive in nature; nevertheless, in terms of triangulating data, these statistics are used in conjunction with documentary evidence from a variety of sources, including US and Colombian government reports; declassified US diplomatic cables; UN reports (for example, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights annual reports); Organisation of American States' (OAS) reports; political speeches and communiqués; NGO reports, including reports from international NGOs, such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Peace Brigades International, the International Human Rights Law Clinic, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre and United States Labor Education in the Americas Project, and Colombian NGOs, including the Colombian Commission of Jurists (Comisión Colombiana de Juristas, CCJ), CODHES, Verdad Abierta and Corporación Nuevo Arco Iris; and Colombian media accounts and news reports (for example *Semana*, *El Tiempo* and *Caracol*).

To demonstrate the regional dynamics of conflict, Chaps. 4 and 5 take advantage of the available data measuring central aspects of Colombia's violence. This book thus employs a number of disaggregated datasets to investigate violence and economic development on a regional level, namely, in the Colombian departments of Arauca and Meta. More specifically, this book uses (1) a uniquely coded dataset compiled by this author containing department and municipality level data on human rights and political violence by armed actors (data are taken from CINEP *n.d.*), (2) official GOC displacement figures on both the department and municipality level, collated and compiled by this author to show disaggregated displacement trends and (3) department and municipality level data on palm oil cultivation from Fedepalma, collated and compiled by this author to illustrate localised patterns of palm oil cultivation in Meta. These datasets provide novel insights into the local dynamics of violence and economic development in a major oil producing region of Colombia (Arauca) and Colombia's largest palm oil growing region (Meta).

It is important to discuss how CINEP's data have been coded to create a unique dataset. A range of human rights violations and episodes of political violence are recorded by CINEP. This includes extrajudicial killings,

disappearances, collective displacement, torture, arbitrary detention, individual and collective threats, kidnapping and sexual violence (*inter alia*). CINEP records this violence by event. This means that in the dataset, multiple instances of human rights violations and political violence can be recorded in a single event. This has drawn some criticism from commentators such as Mary Anastasia O’Grady (2004)¹ that the data show inflated numbers of human rights violations. O’Grady (2004), typically considered a supporter of the Colombian government, has also criticised CINEP data for what she claims is an exclusive concentration on violations that are perpetrated by either the state or state-sponsored actors such as the paramilitaries. This claim is manifestly untrue: CINEP’s data include violations and episodes of violence committed by the guerrillas (see CINEP 2008). It is also worth noting that Holmes et al. (2008: 68–71) compared statistics on terrorism published by the Colombian government with CINEP figures on guerrilla violence. A high correlation between the two sets of data was observed, which provides confidence in CINEP’s data.

While it is valid to record multiple instances of human rights violations in a single event, the data for the analysis in this book have been further coded to include only the *number of victims* per event instead of the *number of violent acts* per event. This eliminates any perception of over-reporting human rights violations and political violence in the dataset. However, it is worth pointing out that a more pertinent issue is not the over-reporting of human rights violations but, conversely, the problem of under-reporting human rights violations is typically more common in conflict zones. Indeed, in Colombia, this issue means that the situation is likely to be worse than CINEP’s data suggest (for example, see Holmes et al. 2008: 71; Colombia Defenders 2009; Hough 2011.)

It is also worth noting that other datasets based on CINEP’s data are available. A case in point is CERAC’s (n.d.) dataset; however, CERAC further codes these data to include only actions deemed to be ‘battle-related deaths’ and ‘battle-events’. As this book discusses, focusing only on battle-related deaths overlooks major episodes of violence in civil wars, including forced displacement and various episodes of violence perpetrated against civilian groups. Moreover, at the time of writing, CERAC’s dataset is only available at the department level.

The data used in this book instead consider victims of all categories of violence that are perpetrated by all warring parties as coded by CINEP. It is worth noting that the further coding of CINEP’s dataset that has been

undertaken for the analysis in this book attempts to better illustrate the perpetrators of violent acts. More specifically, in their raw format, CINEP does not use a consolidated code or category to identify the perpetrator of a violent episode. For example, violence perpetrated by Colombia's public forces can be coded by CINEP as any one (or a combination) of the following: Air Force, Army (which can be coded as either Armada or Ejército), DAS (Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad, Colombia's former intelligence agency), Fiscalía (Colombia's prosecutor general), CTI (Cuerpo Técnico de Investigación, or the Technical Investigation Team, a division of the Fiscalía), Military Forces, Police, Public Forces, SIJIN (Seccional de Investigación Criminal e Interpol, the Criminal and Interpol Investigation Section, a division of the police) and so on. Often, multiple groups can also be recorded for a single event (for instance, Military Forces, Police *and* Paramilitaries).

For the analysis in this book, in addition to coding CINEP's data by victim outlined above, the data have been further coded to provide consolidated codes for the perpetrators of violence, namely, (1) Public Forces, (2) Paramilitaries, (3) Combined Public Forces-Paramilitaries, (4) FARC, (5) ELN, (6) Guerrillas (unspecified), (7) No information (as coded by CINEP) and (8) Other (for example, combatants and foreign agents). The data are then compiled by year, author, number of victims, department and municipality. It is also worth noting that victims of the 'false positive' scandal – cases of extrajudicial killings of civilians by members of Colombia's public armed forces, whose dead bodies were later disguised to appear as insurgents killed in combat – are also recorded by CINEP; however, it is sometimes difficult to precisely identify when an extrajudicial killing recorded by CINEP would fall under a 'false positive' murder (see also Chap. 4).

Data on Forced Displacement

It is also worth pointing out that CINEP's data do not attempt to fully record forced displacement. CINEP's data only record collective/mass forced displacement. This type of displacement is typically understood to occur when at least 50 to 80 people are displaced in the same event. What is omitted in CINEP's data is the forced displacement of individuals/individual households, a much more common type of forced displacement in Colombia when compared to collective/mass displacement (for example, see Lari 2007; Ibáñez and Velásquez 2009). With this in mind, forced

displacement data recorded by Acción Social and CODHES are employed throughout this book..

The majority of forced displacement data used in this book were recorded and published by Acción Social, the Colombian government agency that was responsible for documenting forced displacement during the 2000s. These data are conservative and likely under-report the number of IDPs in Colombia (see also Chap. 3), which has been documented by numerous sources (Lari 2007; Hristov 2009; CODHES 2011; IDMC 2012, 2013). Nevertheless, the decision has been taken to primarily use Acción Social's more conservative figures in this book as the data nevertheless illustrate intensifying and falling levels of forced displacement and are highly disaggregated (to both the department and municipality level). The data are also similar to CODHES' data during the 2000s (and, in fact, are sometimes higher in a given year when compared to CODHES' figures; see Chap. 3).

NOTES

1. O'Grady, who writes for the *Wall Street Journal*, has faced some trenchant criticisms regarding her position on a number of Latin American issues, including her criticism of human rights data in Colombia (for example, see Cryan 2004; Goldberg 2010; Beattie 2012; Youngers 2013).

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