

FLASH UPDATE

Attacks with Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS) Carrying Explosive Devices in Colombia: 146% Increase and Geographic Expansion

1 January - 31 May 2026

KEY FINDINGS

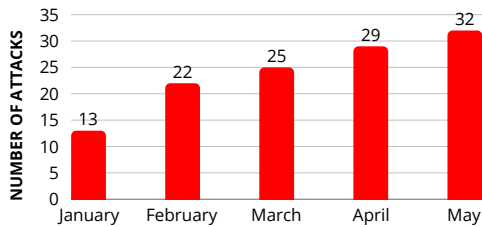
- UAS attacks employing Explosive Ordnance (EO) and Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) increased by 146% between January and May 2026, with a sustained month-on-month rise.**
- The highest concentration of attacks was recorded in Cauca (33 attacks), Norte de Santander (30), and Valle del Cauca (16).
- Other affected departments include Antioquia (11), Bolívar (8), Chocó (7), Nariño (5), Arauca (4), Meta (2), Bogotá (2), and Huila (1).
- For the first time, attacks were recorded in Tolima (1) and Risaralda (1), departments with no such incidents in 2025.
- Security forces remain the primary target: 59% of those affected belong to the military and 9% to the police; however, civilians also account for a significant share, representing 32% of those affected.
- A growing number of attacks have been recorded in rural populated centres (corregimientos), alongside incidents in urban settings such as Popayán and Bogotá, reflecting an increase in the use of EO in populated areas.
- Indicators of increasing technical sophistication have been identified, including the use of fibre-optic guided drones and swarm drone attacks.

RECORDED INCIDENTS
121

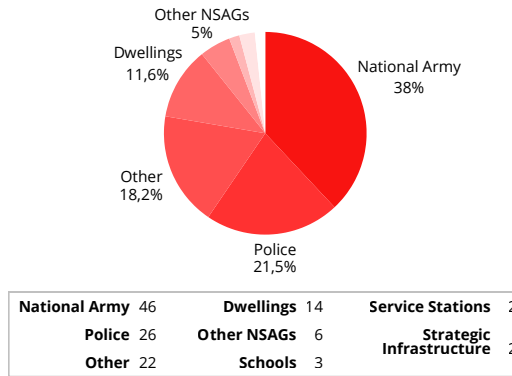
WOUNDED* **145**
including 3 minors

KILLED* **21**
including 1 minor

ATTACKS BY MONTH



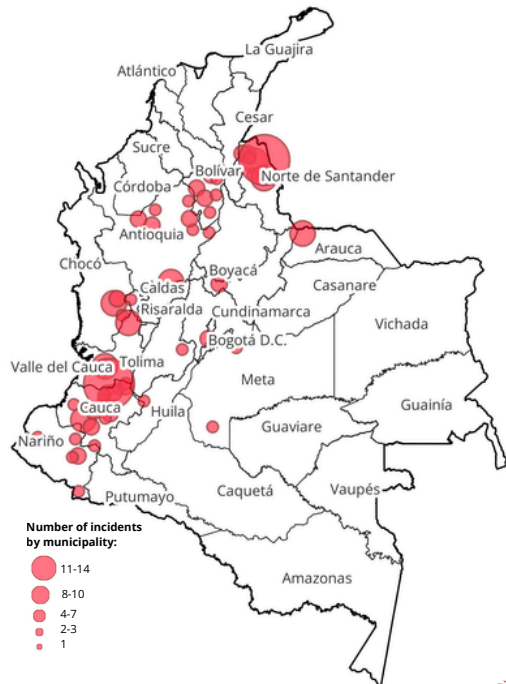
ATTACKS BY TARGET



ATTACKS BY AREA

- 59 Rural Populated Centres
- 54 Dispersed Rural Areas
- 7 Urban Centres

MOST AFFECTED DEPARTMENTS



KEY INCIDENTS

27 January | Argelia, Cauca

A drone attack on a police station resulted in one fatality and 14 injuries, including one minor.

25 February | Segovia, Antioquia

An explosive device deployed by drone struck a residential property in the village of La Jagua, causing three fatalities and one injury.

23 March | Timbío, Cauca

A UAS attack on the Pan-American Highway killed one police officer, wounded several others, and caused movement restrictions, including limited humanitarian access to municipalities such as Argelia.

12 April | Jamundí, Valle del Cauca

A swarm attack involving the simultaneous deployment of at least 15 UAS, resulting in two military personnel wounded.

7 May | Bogotá

Authorities located and neutralized a fibre-optic guided UAS loaded with C4 explosive near CATAM and El Dorado International Airport.

2

SWARM ATTACKS



CAUCA 1

VALLE DEL CAUCA 1

A network of interconnected drones equipped with sensors that operate simultaneously and are controlled by a single command centre.

3

FIBRE-OPTIC DRONES



META 1

ARAUCA 1

BOGOTÁ 1

Fibre-optic guided UAS eliminate reliance on radio frequency links, rendering them immune to the electronic interference on which current counter-drone systems depend.

*Data reflects information available at the time of publication. Due to limited demographic information in the open sources consulted, sex-disaggregated data is not available for all reported cases.

**For further information on UAS carrying explosive payloads and the threats they pose in the Colombian context, see: UNMAS, Uncrewed Aircraft Systems with Explosive Payloads: Emerging Threats and Challenges for Colombia (2026), available at: <https://unmas.org/en/document-library/uncrewed-aircraft-systems-with-explosive-payloads-emerging-threats-and-challenges-for-colombia>