

The forces of law and order tend to bear the brunt of guerilla attacks, having lost as many as 30 police officers in one ambush. The Government remains open to negotiating the political and economic reintegration of guerilla groups, in particular the ELN and the FARC, on the condition that the acts of violence cease. A ceasefire was negotiated on this basis with the Corriente de Renovacion Socialista group on December 19.

### CANADIAN POSITION

Canada has intervened a number of times with Colombian government ministries and institutions in relation to specific cases. Our representatives in Bogota have close contacts with NGOs dedicated to human rights advocacy, and with activists and victims in order to examine their complaints and verify their personal safety. The Embassy has frequently been in contact with the President's human rights advisor, and has participated in numerous NGO-sponsored symposiums on human rights both in and beyond Bogota. For its part, the Canadian International Development Agency has pledged financial support for projects directly related to the protection of human rights and improvement of the judicial system.

The Canadian Government has regularly expressed its support for its Colombian counterpart in its efforts to reduce violence and improve human rights protection and respect for democratic principles. Canada will continue to raise its concerns at the appropriate level as often as necessary.