As the primary organization involved in promoting peace and security in Latin America, the Organization of American States (OAS) has two political missions active in the region in support of peace processes.1

The OAS Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia (MAPP/OEA) verifies the disbanding of paramilitary groups and reintegration of ex-combatants; monitors public order where these groups operated; and facilitates government implementation of land restitution, transitional justice, and aid distribution. The mission has thirteen regional offices and nearly a hundred staff members deployed throughout the country.

MAPP/OEA supports and monitors the implementation of Colombia’s 2005 Justice and Peace Law by providing advice and assistance to victims. However, the law has resulted in only eleven convictions in seven years,2 and a controversial law adopted in June 2012 now limits the scope of prosecutions and softens sentences for some ex-combatants.

Colombia’s Victims’ Law took effect in January 2012, providing land restitution to displaced people. MAPP/OEA disseminates information about the law to victims’ rights groups and works with human rights organizations to protect those returning to their land. However, the OAS has reported a serious lack of security in some parts of the country where restitution is taking place.

The mission recently assisted 120 victims through a program of rights education, psychological assistance, vocational training, medical care, and food security. It also supported a historical memory project, worked with organizations representing the African-descendant population, and trained community leaders in alternative conflict resolution.

The OAS Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia (MAPP/OEA)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authorization and Start Date</th>
<th>6 February 2004 (CP/RES.859 [1397/04])</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head of Mission</td>
<td>Marcelo Alvarez (Argentina)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strength as of</td>
<td>International Civilian Staff: 32</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>National Civilian Staff: 64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The OAS Office in the Adjacency Zone (OAS/AZ) verifies, reports, and provides early warnings on incidents that occur in the adjacency zone established by Belize and Guatemala in their long-disputed border region. It also monitors the implementation of confidence-building measures, develops activities to improve relations among adjacency zone inhabitants, and promotes development. OAS/AZ conducts about a hundred verifications of incidents per year, but suffers from funding shortages as it struggles to attract new donors.

The office holds meetings with the police forces of Belize and Guatemala, provides global-positioning devices to the armies of both countries to help them avoid accidental territorial incidents, and maps information gathered in the field. Operational coordination meetings with representatives from both armies are held every three months.

The slow response to postearthquake housing has further weakened Haitian security. An estimated 230,000 individuals remained in camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) at the end of 2012,3 in increasingly dire circumstances as international donor funds dried...
In 2012 the government initiated the “16/6” relocation program, which intended to close six IDP camps in sixteen neighborhoods, but has since expanded. However, nearly 70 percent of IDP camps are on private land and the government has yet to develop a durable housing solution for these camps. As a result of the slow relocation of IDPs, unannounced forced evictions by unidentified assailants or HNP officers are becoming more common, leaving many earthquake victims homeless.

The continuing cholera epidemic also remains a challenge. The Haitian government signed a multiparty agreement with the World Health Organization, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and other key actors to develop a strategic plan to combat cholera over the next ten years, with a focus on short-term goals. MINUSTAH still faces public discontent over its role in introducing cholera to Haiti, putting further pressure on the mission to move toward consolidation.

Consolidation of MINUSTAH

After the reduction of the postearthquake MINUSTAH troop surge, focus once again returned to finding a sustainable drawdown strategy for the mission. Along with the decrease in deployed forces outlined in Resolution 2070, the Security Council also supports a refocusing on core mission activities, with continuing priority on rule of law and development of state institutions. Already, the responsibility for security has moved from the UN military to UN formed police units in four of the ten districts. By July 2013, MINUSTAH intends to concentrate its military presence into five security hubs, in Port-au-Prince, Léogâne, Gonaïves, Cap-Haïtien, and Ouanaminthe, with formed police units.