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# Senior Executive Intelligence Brief

The SEIB must be returned to CIA within 5 working days



**Wednesday, 8 May 2002**

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Colombia:

**FARC-AUC Conflict Intensifying** [REDACTED]

*Fighting between Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) insurgents and the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC) paramilitaries has increased in the past year and is overshadowing the government's war against the illegal armed groups.* The insurgent-paramilitary conflict caused approximately 3,500 deaths last year, while fighting between the government and the armed actors resulted in about 1,700 dead, according to official Colombian statistics and CIA estimates.

- A clash in the isolated village of Bojaya last week resulted in at least 110 civilian deaths, most killed by deliberate FARC shelling of a crowded church. [REDACTED]

*The bulk of FARC and AUC clashes is for control of lucrative coca-growing areas and strategic logistic corridors.* Bojaya, for example, lies on a strategic drug transportation corridor to the Pacific Ocean. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The insurgents have repeatedly massed large forces of up to 1,200 combatants to fight the paramilitaries, while avoiding similar operations against the military.

- The AUC's shift toward large-scale conventional combat with insurgents may be part of the leadership's stated plan to curb attacks on the insurgents' civilian supporters. [REDACTED]

*Stepped-up combat between the armed actors is exposing Bogota's inability to control large swaths of the countryside.* Government forces reached Bojaya yesterday, according to press reports—a full week after the initial fighting.

- Frontrunning presidential candidate Alvaro Uribe has campaigned on a pledge to bolster security in remote areas by increasing the size of the military and creating local civilian intelligence networks. [REDACTED]

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