



Magazine

**POST-CONFLICT
DEVELOPMENT**

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EDITORIAL

Post-Conflict Development's Crucial Role in State Reconstruction



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Only a few weeks ago, an eleven day conflict between Israel and Palestine united multiple world leaders and organizations to find a peaceful solution. Efforts to maintain international peace as well as to end war have contributed to creating multinational organizations, such as the United Nations and the European Union. However, in many cases the conflicts repeat and create instability that continues over decades. While some nations live in the most peaceful period of their history, the 82 million people fleeing

war and conflict are the highest in UNHCR history.

The need for post-conflict reconstruction and development are vital. The roots of the conflict are often related to impoverishment, poverty, inequality, social division or political oppression, to name some. Post-conflict development aims to reconcile, reconstruct the state and reduce poverty. In addition economic development and external economic assistance are important to facilitate the reconstruction of the nation.

EDITORIAL

Maria Malmsten graduated from Lund University with a Masters in Development Studies. Education, equality and sustainable development are topics she is enthusiastic about. Besides talking about these challenges, Maria enjoys nature walks and playing in parks with her two children

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In this newest FUF Lund Magazine issue, post-conflict development is analyzed through numerous crucial angles, from the Colombian peace process, Mayan healthcare access in Guatemala, migrants and refugees rights in Libya, to the struggles of going home, Iraq's Tishreen revolution, and ethnic tensions in Myanmar.

What are the burning challenges of post-conflict development? How can post-conflict development and reconstruction work hand in hand in war-torn vulnerable areas?

This post-conflict development magazine issue answers these crucial questions and the urgent need of a more inclusive cooperation between reconstruction and development with the local populations, to create a better future for all.

Happy reading!

Maria Malmsten & Claire Coviaux

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Why it's not as easy as going home

A chronicle by Emily Elderfield

According to UNHCR, 1 percent of the world's population is currently displaced due to conflict or persecution – that's one in every 100 people who've been forced to leave home. When you think of civilians affected by conflict, you probably think of refugees fleeing their country in search of a safer life.

However, many people who are forced to leave their homes never actually cross an international border. For example, UNHCR estimates that at the end of 2019, more than half of the 79.5 million forcibly displaced people around the world were still residing in their home country. They are what the international community calls “internally displaced”.

Now, it might be tempting to jump to the conclusion that supporting internally displaced people is simpler than supporting refugees. After all, internally displaced people are still living in the same country and are still connected in some way to the place they called “home”. However, this is far from the truth.

Rebuilding a life is never as simple as just coming home. For many people living in internal displacement, their residences have been damaged by armed violence. The familiar places that made up their communities have been eroded, if not totally destroyed.



Rebuilding a life is never as simple as just coming home. For many people living in internal displacement, their residences have been damaged by armed violence.



Some might return to find essential services like schools are missing, governance has been weakened by the conflict, and security risks often remain. Economic opportunities are also hugely destabilised by conflict, meaning that it's even harder to rebuild a secure livelihood once you're home. It is essential

that post-conflict interventions recognise that going back home is not as easy as it sounds. Emphasis must shift from "helping people go back" to "helping people forward". Only once organisations fully recognise this can they properly support internally displaced people to find the home they want to live in.



Emily Elderfield

Emily is studying a Master's Programme in International Development & Management (LUMID). Her development interests include reproductive justice and gender equity in vulnerable healthcare settings.

Post-conflict Libya needs to address migrants' and refugees' rights

A chronicle by Chiara D'Agni

A new hope for establishing protection of human rights in Libya is rising. But migrants and refugees still face critical conditions and the reconstruction of the country must address this.

Libya has been a site of conflict since 2011. However, new hopes for the country are rising. In March 2021 a Government of National Unity took office. Libya now has a unified government for the first time in years, and democratic elections are expected to be held in December.

The situation the government has to deal with is anything but easy, starting from the reason that has brought Libya to the centre of European media for a long time: migrants and refugees. The long conflict in Libya and the instability of neighbouring countries have resulted in thousands of people being forced to flee their homes. And the Libyan coasts have

become a gateway to Europe, where thousands embark on dangerous journeys across the Mediterranean. Many have died during the crossing. Many others have been intercepted by the Libyan Coast Guard and forced back to Libya, mostly ending up in detention centres where they face serious violations of their human rights.

Even though a new government is now in office, the flux of migrants and refugees from Libya has not stopped. In fact, only this year 13,000 have reached Italy, three times more than in the same months last year. While European public attention is still mostly focused on the ongoing

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pandemic, 2021 has marked the highest number of deaths in the Mediterranean in the past 4 years.

According to Amnesty International, migrants arbitrarily detained in Libya are likely to face inhumane conditions, torture, and sexual violence. Those sent back but not detained must go into hiding and are subject to aggression, trafficking and forced labour.

The creation of a new government “provides a vital opportunity to reset the political agenda and put human rights at the heart of it”, says Amnesty International. The organisation sent a letter to the Government of National Unity with a human rights agenda. Protecting the rights of migrants and refugees is one of the agenda’s nine points.

Libya's internal stability and the flux of migrants are very connected. The reconstruction of the country must take into account migrants and refugees. Libya needs to become a safer place so that people are not forced to flee. At the same time, the human rights violations of migrants sent back to Libya need to be addressed.



Libya's internal stability and the flux of migrants are very connected. The reconstruction of the country must take into account migrants and refugees.

Photo: FUF Lund/Flickr



Chiara D'Agni

Chiara is as well a Human Rights student at Lund University. She comes from Italy and she has a broad interest in social justice, gender equality and LGBTQI* rights.



Photo: Flickr, by Daniel Memmerich

Mayan Struggles for Healthcare Access in Guatemala

An interview by Alice Antoniou

Photo: Farm to Feed

Guatemala continues to face challenges remaining from the Guatemalan Civil War, including high levels of poverty and inequality. Anne Kraemer, Executive Director of Wuqu' Kawoq, shares how this manifests in the Mayan people's difficulties in accessing adequate healthcare services.

Even though 24 years have passed since signing of the peace accord, high levels of inequality and discrimination against the Mayan population persist. Wuqu' Kawoq (Mayan Health Alliance) is a Guatemalan NGO that provides culturally sensitive healthcare services to the rural Mayan population in their native language. FUF Lund Magazine interviewed co-founder and Executive Director, Anne Kraemer, about the organization's work and the ongoing effects of the Guatemalan Civil War.

Describing current conditions in Guatemala, Kraemer stated:

– Guatemala is still in a post-war period because nothing has really changed. You can look at what was written in the peace accords, but so many of those things are not fulfilled today.

The wording of the peace accords versus what is done in actuality is a constant abuse against the people.

The peace accords made promises such as access to healthcare for all and bilingual education for the Mayan population. Kraemer explained that while there may be a healthcare facility, the quality of the facility, that it has adequate supplies and



staff, can be a large issue. Whereas in schools, children often have one class in their native language, but it is far from a bilingual education.

Guatemala's 36 year civil war was the most deadly Cold War conflict in Latin America. The war lasted from 1960 to 1996, during which over 200,000 people died and more than a million people were displaced. The conflict occurred between the right-wing military governments and several leftist groups, including indigenous Mayans guerilla groups. During the war the government targeted and brutally attacked the Mayan people, including civilians. The 1999 UN Truth Commission declared the military's acts a genocide and stated that 83 percent of the wars casualties were Mayans.

In Wu Qu' Kawoq's efforts to provide culturally sensitive care to the Mayan population, a vital component of Wu Qu' Kawoq's mission is to train and hire local people to be healthcare providers to provide the best care possible. Kraemer



Discussing these present-day challenges for the Mayan population and lasting effects from the civil war Kraemer stated, "There is no real closure."

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explained that Mayans often feel a disconnect when visiting the local government healthcare facilities, in part because of a lack of trust in the government after the violent acts of the civil war and from ongoing discrimination and racism.

Additionally, some members of the Mayan population are not fluent Spanish speakers and when they seek healthcare services at government facilities they are often treated by staff that do not speak their native language.

Kraemer provided stories of instances where Mayan mothers of multiple children were advised to undergo sterilization procedures after giving birth as another manifestation of the discrimination and racism the Mayans face in healthcare access. One of Wu Qu' Kawoq's programs is a caregiver accompaniment program for pregnant women giving birth in the hospital.

The caregivers speak Mayan languages, act as an interpreter for their patients, and are able to advocate on behalf of the pregnant women they accompany.

Discussing these present-day challenges for the Mayan population and lasting effects from the civil war Kraemer stated, "There is no real closure." There are no statues or monuments commemorating the war and former leaders have not been held accountable. In 2013, former dictator Efraín Ríos Montt was convicted of genocide and crimes against humanity, however the charges were quickly dropped due to a technicality.

— There is nothing and that kind of says, it didn't happen, that violence against your people didn't happen, Kraemer reflects.

Alice Antoniou

Alice is pursuing a Master's in Development Studies at Lund University. She is particularly interested in migration, labor, and maternal health.



The background of the entire page is a photograph of a sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with warm, golden light and soft clouds. In the foreground, a Colombian flag (with horizontal stripes of yellow, blue, and red) is partially visible, appearing to be draped or flying. The overall mood is contemplative and hopeful.

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Colombian Peace The

A reportage by Aarne

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Hakomäki

In 2016 the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) reached a historic peace agreement. Over four years later the peace stands on uncertain ground, as new political leaders fail to embrace it.

Gabriel García Márquez, Latin America's most revered author, writes in his classic, spiralling interpretation of Latin American history *One Hundred Years of Solitude*: "It is easier to start a war than to end one". This statement resonates with his native country Colombia. In November 2016, the Colombian government and the rebel group Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) signed a peace agreement, bringing an end to a conflict that lasted for over 50 years.

The peace agreement includes conditions for both parties. FARC must demobilize its troops, while the government pledges to fund development in the rural areas most impacted by the conflict. International coverage celebrated the historic peace treaty and the former President of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos, received the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts during the process. Four and a half years after the official end of the conflict, peace is still being built on increasingly fragile grounds. In 2018 a new government, led by

current President Iván Duque, was voted into office with promises of changing the peace agreement.

Slow pace of implementation

The peace process was surrounded by uncertainty even before it truly got off the ground. An earlier version of the peace agreement was narrowly voted down by Colombians in a referendum. Many felt the conditions for peace were too lenient towards ex-guerrillas. After slight changes President Santos took the agreement straight to the parliament, where it was approved. After the 2018 election the implementation of the agreement's conditions have been moving at a slow pace. In a report released in February 2021, opposition members of the Colombian parliament describe the progress that has been made so far. Many of the actions in the agreement are still pending with the least progress made in the rural municipalities most affected by the conflict.

- We see a lack of commitment from the government to transform the territories once controlled by FARC. Those areas are now becoming very unstable, Juanita Goebertus, a Colombian congresswoman, told The Atlantic.

Over 60 percent of the ex-guerrillas are not linked to any productive project sponsored by the government. Victims of the conflict also face a slow road to compensation. Only 15 percent of the registered victims have been compensated. With the current pace it will take over 40 years to compensate all victims.

The war ended but the violence did not

While the decades-long conflict officially ended, violence has remained at a high level in many parts of the country. The Bogotá-based non-governmental organization Indepaz reports that a rising trend in assassinations and massacres has followed the signing of the peace agreement. Civil rights leaders and former FARC fighters have been at particular risk of violence. In 2020 alone close to 300 assassinations of civil rights leaders and advocates took place. During the same time 246 former FARC fighters were killed. Many of the killings have been linked to

right-wing paramilitary groups and criminal syndicates that have gained more power in the rural areas in the absence of FARC. Some former FARC members have cited the threat of violence and the neglect of the peace conditions as reasons for taking up arms again. Iván Márquez, an ex-FARC commander, gave up his senate seat and announced the return to arms with a group of dissidents. Colombian think tank Pares reports that close to 1,800 former guerrillas have returned to combat. Fears of erosion of the peace and return to the conflict have arisen. In 2019 The New York Times reported that the Colombian army, frustrated with the handling of the peace agreement, issued orders on ramping up operations and killings of criminals and militants.



Full implementation and national healing in Colombia require the firm support of the government.

Uncertain future of the peace agreement

Full implementation and national healing in Colombia require the firm support of the government. The current government has, however, shown little interest in achieving this goal, according to human rights defender Hector Mariano Carabali from the rural Cauca region.

- Signing a peace agreement doesn't mean peace for a country, it takes a lot more than that. The government is not implementing the deal, he told Al Jazeera.

Moving forward, the peace agreement is in an increasingly uncertain position, as the government is caught in a wave of political unrest and protest. Signing a peace agreement takes years and a great deal of effort, but achieving peace can prove to be an even more difficult task.

What does the peace agreement include?

End conflict: ceasefire and demobilization of the FARC forces.

Rural reform to revitalize the areas worst hit by the conflict and integrate former FARC fighters back into society.

Help for farmers to substitute away from illicit crops, like coca for criminal organizations.

Political participation: expand democracy and allow former FARC members to establish a political party.

Justice and compensation to the victims of the conflict.

Aarne Hakomäki

Aarne is a master's student in Economic Development at Lund University. His focus lies in the political and economic drivers of development and sustainability.







An inclusive democracy is needed to curb the spiraling conflict in Myanmar

A chronicle by Leni Lindemann

The recent military coup has re-ignited and exacerbated some of Myanmar's long-running civil wars, pushing the country deeper into crisis. Pro-democracy resistance groups in the urban areas and rural ethnic insurgencies stand united in their war against the military regime. An inclusive democracy is necessary for long-term sustainable peace.

Myanmar is at risk of spiraling into a full-blown conflict and civil war following its recent brutal military crackdown, which has led to over 800 civilian deaths and countless displaced people. Peaceful protesters have been swarming the streets of Myanmar's biggest cities, Yangon and Mandalay, in defiance of the February military coup that toppled the country's democratic government. The military, also known as the Tatmadaw, placed the country's elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi under house arrest, undermining Myanmar's transition to democracy. This not only rekindled unresolved ethnic conflicts between the military and numerous ethnic armed organisations

fighting for autonomy in the borderlands, it also triggered a Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM), a grassroots movement formed by professionals and civil servants who seek to disrupt central state functions and infrastructure. Opponents of the coup across the political spectrum seek to restore democracy and to prevent the military from gaining further control of the country's administration office.

According to local media reports, the military has reacted to the pro-democracy opposition with bloody crackdowns, arbitrary arrests and indiscriminate firing on protestors, civilians, and children. Meanwhile, many of Myanmar's border



regions, including the Shan, Karen, Kachin and Chin states, have transformed into fierce battlegrounds of resistance. Thousands of the country's most vulnerable communities have fled across the Thai border or are internally displaced.

The ongoing violence poses a particular threat to vulnerable groups and Myanmar's development process. Civilians cannot access food or other vital supplies, while aid access is severely limited. This is further exacerbated by the disruption of transportation and supply chains across the country. The near paralysis of the banking sector and widespread limits on

cash availability, in addition to rising food and fuel prices, are a further looming threat to the poorest communities. It is estimated that over 12 million children and young people in Myanmar have not had access to organised education for over a year. This severely impedes on their personal development, psychological wellbeing and future opportunities.

Myanmar's history is tainted with political instability and ethnic conflict. Minority ethnic groups have long been marginalised and face discrimination and structural racism. In the past, the military has used this to its advantage, framing these groups as a threat to national unity.

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For the first time, ethnic groups in the rural districts are united with the urban dissidents in their common goal to establish a real federal democracy. While a coordinated campaign and real unification of the ethnic groups with the majority ethnic Burman people will take time, an inclusive democracy, grounded in the rule of law and human rights, is essential for long-term, sustainable peace in Myanmar.



For the first time, ethnic groups in the rural districts are united with the urban dissidents in their common goal to establish a real federal democracy.



Leni Lindemann

Leni is a graduate student of Development Studies at Lund University. With a background in social anthropology and international relations, she has a broad interest in sustainable development and environmental justice.

Unpacking Iraq's Tishreen revolution: the fluid politics of post-conflict Iraq

A reportage by Ghadeer Hussein

Thousands of protestors took to the streets in Baghdad's Tahrir Square in October 2019. They were chanting: "we want our country back". What does that mean in post-conflict Iraq that 2018 had restored control over its territories and what are the driving factors for this uprising?

In 2018, the government of Iraq restored control over all of its territories that were previously controlled by ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria; militant group). A newly elected government led the country's transition in the post-conflict period. According to analysts, the new leaders were widely supported by the Iraqi population, and it was promising when they came to power in May 2018. However, around a year later, thousands of Iraqis took to the streets in Iraq's major cities demanding better economic conditions and the end of sectarian politics.

Tishreen revolution: young Iraqis demanding change

In Tishreen (the Arabic word for the month of October, later became the name of the movement) 2019, demonstrations spread across the capital Baghdad and other major cities in Iraq demanding the end of sectarianism, fighting corruption and providing better public services and employment opportunities to the population. It was one of the largest anti-government demonstrations in decades and eventually it forced the prime minister to resign. The Iraqi security



forces responded brutally by using tear gas and violently trying to stop the protesters. It was reported that 600 protesters have been killed and that between 9000 and 25000 have been injured by either Iraqi forces or paramilitary groups believed to be associated with Iran.

The demonstrations transformed into a grassroots movement that successfully mobilized young people regardless of their socioeconomic class and religious sect. The movement demanded overthrowing the government because they believed it was a continuation of the post-2003 political order installed by the West. The movement is described in media outlets and among Iraqi activists on social media

as leaderless, decentralised and non-partisan. The demands of the protesters are part of the larger scheme of challenges facing post-ISIS Iraq.

Causes of the uprising

The protesters outlined two main demands: ending sectarianism in the country and fighting corruption. Iraq is a diverse country with a majority of Sunni Muslim Arab population, but it has a big Shiite Muslim Arab population, in addition to a Kurdish population predominantly in the North and also other communities such as Christians. Sectarian politics became part of the Iraqi politics after the 2006's bombing of a prominent Shiite Mosque that sparked a sectarian civil war. 35,000 people were reported to be killed in

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2006 as a result of this conflict. The political system of Iraq after the fall of Saddam Hussien and the Baath regime in 2003 is based on ethno-sectarian power sharing that ensures the representation of communities based on sect and ethnic background. This sectarian political division has created an elite ruling class and a patronage system where the ruling elite serves their own networks and this system has been a fertile soil for corruption. This regime continued until today, and politicians are backed by regional or global powers. The country is witnessing continuous foreign intervention in its internal politics.

Three months after the start of the uprising, the US targeted and killed Qassem Soleiman, a prominent Iranian leader and military commander. The incident took place in Iraq, thus raising questions about the foreign influence on Iraqi politics. According to demonstrators, they would like to have a new government that represents their interests, rather than having the US and Iran fighting their battles in Iraq.

After Tishreen

One and half years later, the situation in Iraq is no different than that of pre-Tishreen revolution.

The heavily divided political elite continues to rule the country, while young people are aspiring to a better future. Sectarianism and corrupt politicians, in addition to foreign interventions in Iraq, does not provide a path for better living conditions and a supportive environment to rebuild the country after a series of conflicts.

However, the end of sectarian politics is still on the agenda of the grassroots movements formed after the Tishreen revolution. Zahra Ali, professor of sociology, argues that since 2015 Iraq has witnessed waves of uprisings and demonstrations led by youth who consider the political elite as corrupt and do not represent them. Those uprisings – especially the latest one in October 2019 – could potentially inspire the creation of a new civil society in Iraq according to Ali.



The young Iraqis who were in the frontlines of the demonstrations come from various backgrounds and they were united on common goals.



"For Iraqi youth, the demands for social justice and economic redistribution cannot be separated from the claim for sectarian equality and religious freedom: both demands are experienced as matters of life and death," said profesour Ali. The demonstrations transcended the ethno-sectarian division among the participants.

The young Iraqis who were in the frontlines of the demonstrations come from various backgrounds and they were united on common goals. This, according to Ali, could potentially translate into a stronger and more organized political movement in the near future.



Ghadeer Hussein

Ghadeer is a development practitioner and researcher. She is currently a master's student in Development studies at Lund university. She is interested in exploring the intersections between culture, peace and development.



Photo: Katie Rodriguez/Unsplash Commons

The Unintended Consequences of the Colombian Peace Agreement

A reportage by Eleonora Moen

Deforestation is harmful in tropical areas, and most of the tropical regions of the world are located in conflict-ridden countries. Thus there is an often unexplored relationship between deforestation and conflict zones. In the case of Colombia, the peace process has led to an increase in deforestation, as well as an increase in violence on those who aim to protect the environment.

The conflict

The Colombian conflict began in the mid 1960's with the creation of the left-wing guerillas FARC and the National Liberation Army. For over 50 years they claimed to fight alongside the rural poor to overthrow the government. In the 1990's the conflict escalated due to illegal involvement in drug trafficking, as well as the creation of right-wing groups which became a third force in the conflict. After 50 years of struggle, the conflict left 8.5 million victims. In 2012 peace negotiations

began which resulted in a permanent ceasefire in 2016, causing FARC to withdraw their troops.

Violence

The peace agreement was an important event for Colombia, but there were unintended consequences that were not equally as positive for the country's development. One such unintended consequence is an increase of violence in the areas previously occupied by FARC.

The peace agreement ended with a permanent ceasefire between the Colombian government and FARC, but other armed forces, like the National Liberation Army, were excluded from the peace agreement. Thus, when FARC retreated their troops it opened up for these other armed forces to occupy the areas previously dominated by FARC. These forces targeted local community leaders who were killed in efforts to assert dominance in these areas, and to hinder efforts for mobilization of local peasants trying to reclaim the land they lost during the conflict. Thousands of families were displaced, and hundreds of civilians were murdered for demanding access to land and resources, defending the rights of Indigenous peoples, and protecting the environment from pollution and illegal logging. This put Colombia at the forefront of the list of countries with highest assassination rates of human right defenders, and social and environmental leaders.

– *Thus, while it might seem from an outsider's perspective that the Colombian armed conflict has come to an end, the life of many people in rural areas is in reality marked by ruthless violence and intimidations that have come to haunt areas of the countryside once more, according to Krause.*

Deforestation

Another unintended consequence is a surge of deforestation, which may be linked to the surge in violence. When FARC retreated the troops it not only opened up for other armed forces to take over, there were also no measures in place to stop private investors from setting up businesses. There is also a strong overlap between areas high in violence, and areas which show high levels of illegal deforestation post-conflict.

As a result, environmental organisations are also becoming targets of violence. National park rangers, and others working to protect against deforestation and environmental damage are being attacked and forced to abandon their posts. The lack of governmental control over these areas further allow for land grabbing by landowners taking advantage of the situation, hoping to eventually gain legal access to the land by cutting down the forests and occupying the areas with their cattle. However, according to Peter Kareiva, the peace-process alone should not be blamed for the increase in deforestation. He claims that it is a failure of government systems that is the main cause.

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Unequal access to land has been a long standing problem in Colombia even before the conflict, but with the permanent ceasefire these issues only increased. In the three years after the ceasefire, deforestation rates went up in 31 protected areas by 177 percent. Deforestation is harmful in tropical areas, as they hold most of the world's biodiversity. According to the Nature Conservancy, one hectare of rainforest can contain 1,500 flowering plants, 25,000 species of trees, 400 species of birds and 150 species of butterflies. The amount of deforestation which has been documented in Colombia after the ceasefire is 30 times bigger. Research shows that areas with a higher level of local governance have less deforestation. Moreover, activities such as illegal mining, logging, and infrastructure building coupled with an expansion of agricultural businesses like oil palm growing, only fueled the issue. Thus, the nature and sustainability of the peace

process is threatened when territorial and institutional efforts to control protected areas are not put in place for the post-conflict period.

As a result, Vargas claims that the peace-making process in Colombia serves an important reminder that safety measures need to be put into place for dealing with post-conflict issues, including social and environmental struggles. When a conflict which has engulfed a country for five decades comes to an end, many areas of society will be impacted by this change. The peace agreement has been important for the country, but safety measures to protect the people and environment in the post-conflict period were forgotten in the process. The case of Colombia highlights the importance of complementing peacemaking processes with sustainable development and good governance efforts to avoid environmental damage and social injustices.



Eleonora Moen

Eleonora Moen has a Global Studies background and is currently a graduate student of Development Studies at Lund University. Her main areas of interest are sustainable development, environmental justice and social justice issues.



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