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March 20, 2014

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Colombia: Criminal Groups Terrorize Neighborhoods



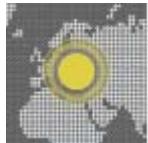
Paramilitary successor groups have abducted and disappeared scores, and possibly hundreds, of residents of the largely Afro-Colombian port of Buenaventura. Thousands of residents have been fleeing their homes in the city each year.

Many of the city's neighborhoods are dominated by powerful criminal groups that commit widespread abuses, including abducting and dismembering people, sometimes while still alive, then dumping them in the sea.

Simply walking on the wrong street can get you abducted and dismembered, so it's no surprise the residents are fleeing by the thousands.

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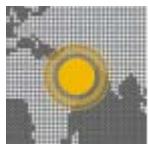


[Crimea: Disappeared Man Found Murdered](#)

The disappearance and murder of Reshat Ametov, a Tatar, illustrates the climate of lawlessness that has been pervasive in Crimea over the last week. In Russia, [authorities have detained hundreds of peaceful protesters](#), in some cases with unnecessary force. The detentions are part of a new crackdown on free expression and assembly as the crisis unfolds in neighboring Ukraine.

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[Saudis' Mass Expulsions Putting Somalis in Danger](#)

Saudi Arabia has one of the largest migrant labor populations in the world - at least 7.5 million migrant foreign workers, more than fifty percent of the work force. Since the end of 2013, more than 25,000 Somalis, including hundreds of women and children, have been rounded up by the Saudi authorities and expelled back to their war-torn home.

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[Venezuela Jails Opposition Leader](#)

The violence in the wake of student and opposition demonstrations that began on February 12 in Venezuela has left a toll of more than 20 people dead, dozens injured, hundreds arrested, and serious allegations of brutality, torture, and abuse committed by security forces. Leopoldo López, one of the most prominent leaders of the Venezuelan political opposition, remains detained in a military prison.

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[Dispatches: Thirsting for Justice on World Water Day](#)

By the time the sun sets on World Water Day this Saturday, hundreds of millions of people, mostly women and children, will have walked great distances, or waited in long lines, to collect one or two buckets of water. Lack of access to clean water threatens their education and health. But governments can make a difference by committing to and delivering on the rights to water and sanitation.

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TWEET OF THE WEEK



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From [Kenneth Roth](#):

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