**ILLEGAL MINING IN COLOMBIA**

**TASKS**

For the first stage of this practical exercise, your main goals are to understand the issues associated with drug production in Colombia and to propose potential interventions to address it. You have approximately one hour to complete this stage of the exercise. After one hour, your team will share the following with the rest of the class:

1. A timeline of key events leading up and influencing the drug production situation,

2. A visual representation of the primary players involved in the situation and their relationships,

3. Potential interventions that you think can help address the situation, and

4. The envisioned impact of your intervention and how you anticipate players might react.

Make sure you manage your time appropriately so you can be ready to present within one hour. Below, you can find a short paragraph providing some general background information about Colombia and a set of resources to help you accomplish your goals.

**GENERAL BACKGROUND: COLOMBIA**

The Colombian government has been involved in an armed conflict with left-wing guerrilla and right-wing paramilitary groups since the 1960s. As an ally, the United States government has been providing support to the Colombian government for decades. Over the years, both guerrillas and paramilitary groups have engaged in criminal activities, including kidnapping, extortion, illegal-drug trade, and illegal mining, in order to fund their operations. Due to the armed conflict, over 7 million Colombians have been displaced from their homes and have become refugees within their own country. In August of 2016, the Colombian government reached a peace deal with the largest and most powerful guerrilla group: the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

**RESOURCES**

***Articles***

Judicial activism, the de facto regulator of Colombian mining – May 2016 <http://globalriskinsights.com/2016/05/judicial-activism-colombian-mining/> (2 pages)

Illegal mining widespread in Colombia, association says – May 2016 [colombiareports.com/illegal-mining-widespread-colombia-association-says/](http://colombiareports.com/illegal-mining-widespread-colombia-association-says/) (1 page)

Illegal Mining in Colombia is a Modern Day Gold Heist – Jul 2016 [www.equities.com/news/illegal-mining-in-colombia-is-a-modern-day-gold-heist](http://www.equities.com/news/illegal-mining-in-colombia-is-a-modern-day-gold-heist) (2 pages)

Colombia Mulls Bill to Tackle Mercury Contamination from Illegal Gold Mining – Aug 2016 [www.voanews.com/a/colombia-mulls-bill-to-tackle-mercury-contamination-from-illegal-gold-mining-/3472576.html](http://www.voanews.com/a/colombia-mulls-bill-to-tackle-mercury-contamination-from-illegal-gold-mining-/3472576.html) (3 pages)

***Videos***

Colombia’s Gold Rush – Feb 2011 [www.nytimes.com/video/world/americas/100000000650903/colombia-gold-rush.html](http://www.nytimes.com/video/world/americas/100000000650903/colombia-gold-rush.html) (4:12)

Illegal gold rush sees Colombia's drug barons cash in – Nov 2011 [www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-15829730](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-15829730) (4:26)

Illegal mining hurts indigenous people in Colombia – Sep 2014 [www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFu2ubpPW6U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFu2ubpPW6U) (2:23)

Poisoned by the gold rush (Vice) – May 2016 [news.vice.com/video/poisoned-by-the-gold-rush](https://news.vice.com/video/poisoned-by-the-gold-rush) (watch only 9:52-13:52)