

Code of War

The ELN as a constituent force of Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board (Coordinadora Guerrillera Simon Bolivar - CGSB), representing part of the Colombian population, uses the right to rebellion against the foreign dependence and the oligarchic dominance.

With such causes and purposes forwards the present liberation war organized by its military force under the authority of a responsible command, ruled by discipline and adhering to International Humanitarian Law norms, which are included in this present code:

Respect for the civilian population

Civilians shall not be used as human shields during combat.

When the enemy takes civilians hostage in its movements, efforts shall be made to avoid harming them during attacks on enemy forces.

Military operations shall be carried out against enemy forces in such a way as to avoid indiscriminate attacks.

Efforts shall be made to avoid damage to civilian property and installations resulting from military operations and to make reparations where possible.

The civilian population shall be informed of the location of mined areas.

No acts shall be undertaken with the sole purpose of spreading terror among the population.

There shall be no forced displacement of the civilian population from combat zones.

Those under the age of 15 shall not be recruited into the permanent military force.

They may be involved in revolutionary activities other than participation in hostilities.

Individuals who join paramilitary groups and their possessions shall cease to be seen as civilians and civilian property.

The organization holds certain persons captive for political reasons, with the aim of making their demands known. Such persons shall be treated with due respect and their families shall be informed of their situation.

Limits on the methods and means of warfare

When carrying out acts of sabotage, our forces shall not target installations more useful to the community than the enemy.

Acts of sabotage shall, as far as possible, avoid causing environmental damage.

Religious sites, cultural objects, and installations containing dangerous forces such as dams or nuclear material shall not be attacked.

Poisonous gases shall not be used and water supplies shall not be poisoned.

In combat zones, vehicles and facilities bearing the Red Cross emblem shall be respected. It is forbidden for our forces to use this emblem to mislead the enemy.

Our commanders shall prevent looting and pillaging once the enemy surrenders its position. They shall arrange for the retrieval of objects needed by our forces.

Dignified treatment of prisoners

It is prohibited to kill or injure an adversary who has surrendered or is hors de combat.

Prisoners of war shall be treated humanely and receive medical assistance. Their belongings shall be confiscated.

Information about the rank and name of those captured shall be made public.

Efforts shall be made to hand prisoners over to the Red Cross after a brief period of captivity.

Neither mercenaries nor spies shall be granted the protection guaranteed to prisoners of war. They shall be treated humanely.

Executions

The death penalty shall be applied to those responsible for war crimes.

Those accused of war crimes shall be guaranteed due process.

Minors, pregnant women, and mothers with young children shall not be sentenced to death.

Executions shall be carried out in such a way as to avoid unnecessary suffering.

Efforts shall be made to inform family members of the location of the remains.

War taxes

To fund the war of liberation and help to establish popular power, the ELN imposes war taxes and social taxes, the latter used to promote development in the areas under its influence.

These taxes and other demands made shall be focused on transnational companies with local monopolies and individuals who have made themselves rich through corruption and violating the people's interests. They shall also be imposed on those who collaborate unconditionally with the armed forces of the government and paramilitary forces.

Capital invested in development in areas under guerrilla influence shall be respected and these areas shall be subject to a contribution stipulated by common agreement.

Through its governing bodies the ELN takes responsibility for the rational, collective use of the resources generated from the collection of these taxes, which shall be centralized under the authority of the National Directorate.

In order to pressurize them into paying these taxes and meeting other demands, the ELN shall temporarily hold captive individuals representing the aforementioned sectors. The latter shall be immediately released once the amount demanded by the ELN has been paid.

Captives shall be treated humanely and their families kept informed of their situation.

The ELN shall try to avoid holding pregnant women, minors, elderly people, and those in delicate health in captivity.

As part of its policy of categorically disassociating itself from the drug-trafficking mafia, the ELN shall not impose any kind of taxes or demands on this sector for their activities. The ELN shall not permit the growing of crops, creation of laboratories, or building of landing strips related to this sector in the areas under its control. The trade in drugs shall also be banned.