

Medina, C. (2018). *Armed conflict, the Church and the violence. A case study: Monsignor Jesús Emilio Jaramillo Monsalve, Xaverian missionary from Yarumal and Bishop of Arauca Bogotá: National University of Colombia.*

Reconstruct the situation of the Catholic Church and other Churches in the Colombian conflict to illustrate the magnitude of the case in a context of increasing victimization of religious institutions and communities in the country.

It develops themes about the Church, facing violence; Monsignor Jesús Emilio Jaramillo Monsalve; socioeconomic and political context of Arauca and El Sarare; and duels of the mourners of the death of Monsignor Jesús Emilio Jaramillo Monsalve.

The murder of Church members in the then Department of Arauca, at the hands of the National Liberation Army, is part of the long process of victimization of this clerical institution in the Colombian conflict, which has exceeded all limits and where the evangelizing work of priests are seeking to oppose the fury of arms with the forceful weight of the hopeful word. In this regard, looking at the socio-economic and political scenario of Arauca, and its interrelation with the nature and logics of the armed conflict in the area, is necessary to reconstruct the context in which the violence that is exerted against the Church by the armed groups in Colombia, specifically in the department of Arauca.

The actions of violence against the Church in Arauca is because the ELN is facing an institutional challenge of the diocese that has eroded its political work and separating important sectors of the population from their areas of organization and influence towards scenarios linked to the programs of education, health and social service of the Church. Thus, what is at the center of the conflict is the dispute between the peasant, indigenous and youth population of Arauca between the Church and the Domingo Laín Sanz Front and the possibilities of intervening in greater depth in the control of the social work of the oil companies.

Given the particularity of his death, together with his witness to life, the Church began early to claim for Monsignor Jaramillo Monsalve the condition and recognition of a martyr of peace by society and the same institution of the Church in the way of his sanctification by martyrdom.

The oil exploitation of Caño Limón generated a new colonizing demographic dynamic that increased the demand for services and sharpened the violence; In this context, the Church plays an essential role in the implementation of the companies' social commitments and in solving the investment demands made by the community and pressured by the guerrillas.

A claim for neutrality was lost in the vastness of the Arauca plain, in the midst of a population, armed groups, and an institutional state autistic by the State that has not yet matured for peace and democratic coexistence despite many years of tragedy and death.