

This thesis was devoted to the topic FARC-EP Fuerzas armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia - Ejército del Pueblo (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia - People's Army).

The first part surveys the history of the guerrilla organization from its beginnings to the present. As the beginning of the Colombian guerrilla groups is considered Colombia's La Violencia civil war between 1948-1958 which was caused by disagreements between liberal and conservative party. FARC-EP incurred as a rural guerrilla movement of the Communist Party fraction, and they followed the Marxist doctrine. However, the communist ideals were nowadays replaced by the desire for more power and finance. The historical part of this work was therefore also dedicated to find answers to what is the organizational structure of the FARC, what is the origin of their financing and what are their current targets.

In the second part of the thesis the media covering the period from 1st January 2002 to 31st August 2010 was analyzed. This period begins seven months before the onset of ex-president Alvaro Uribe Velez to the presidency after Andres Pastrana and ends one month after the onset of the new president Juan Manuel Santos. It includes more than two presidential periods of Alvaro Uribe and events that contributed to his election, and also the end of his two presidential terms and the emergence of Santos. Media corpus contained 396 articles from the representatives of "serious" and "tabloid" type, social and geographical toned magazines, and radio and television stations.

First, an illustrative analysis of the articles was made, which produced a wide range of topics. After grouping according to their main themes emerged that 44% of them are devoted to topics that are "positive" for the government forces. These were mainly the issues associated with the release of hostages, acts of government troops against the FARC, death or arrest of the leaders of the FARC or the desertion of their members. Many articles of this category were given to Ingrid Betancourt, presidential candidate captured in 2002 and freed in Operation Check in July 2008. On the contrary, 12 % of the articles were devoted to the "negatives" and contained mainly kidnappings, failures in peace negotiations, killing of hostages and bomb attacks. Another important category of articles was also a relationship between Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador, which was more intense in the so-called Latin American

crisis in the first half of 2008. This category included 13% of all articles published during the analyzed period.

The next step was a critical discourse analysis of three selected articles on the theme of liberation of Ingrid Betancourt. The choice of this theme was based on the quantity of articles devoted to her liberation. Analysis of the textual structures identified that the articles were written with fundamentally different approach of journals on the topic – *Právo* informed factually, while the *Lidové noviny* and especially *Mladá fronta DNES* tended to more "tabloid" concept.

The last step in the investigation of the FARC-EP in the broader context was a questionnaire survey out of which resulted that Czech population still sees Colombia in relatively stereotyped view - primarily through the "negatives" which mean drugs, guerrillas, weapons and kidnappings. Despite the relatively large percentage of information about the weakening of the guerilla groups because of the offensive by government troops. The final knowledge investigation revealed that 86% of Czech respondents were not aware of the FARC-EP and 90% could not answer the name of the Colombian president.

FARC-EP is the oldest and until recently the most powerful Colombian guerrilla organizations. From its beginnings the original Marxist ideals derived and their incomes are nowadays primarily from drug trafficking and kidnapping. Another practice which classifies the FARC as a terrorist group are the bombings which mainly seek to reverse the course of democratic political acts. After the failed peace negotiations between President Pastrana during the years 1998-2002, Alvaro Uribe was elected, who in his election campaign promised "to get tough policy." In addition to the military offensive against the FARC guerrillas Uribe offered immunity from prosecution and financial reward in the case of desertion and information that would lead to the liberation of hostages. Under his rule, the FARC has been weakened by some sources to be half, as well as the source of their finances – coca, which underwent major losses during air spraying coke fields. Desertion from the ranks of the FARC had risen and the number of assassinations and kidnappings dropped. Alvaro Uribe won in the fight against the FARC the role of president who "made Colombia a safer place."

Currently, it is very difficult to state the real number of members of the FARC, given that the Colombian official sources neither have these numbers, nor the

number of hostages is known. However, the military offensive continues and the question is how long the conflict in Colombia still persist.