



SECURITY  
COLOMBIA

# Assessment of Urban Security

## ***CALI***

July 2024



# CONTENTS

## 1. Situational Analysis

## 2. Crime Analysis

- 2.1 Homicides
- 2.2 Theft from persons
- 2.3 Theft in different modalities
- 2.4 Extortion, threats and kidnapping
- 2.5 Terrorism



## 3. Risk Generating Factors

- 3.1 Microtrafficking and criminal groups
- 3.2 Extortion and kidnapping
- 3.3 Terrorism
- 3.4 Recruitment and instrumentalization of minors

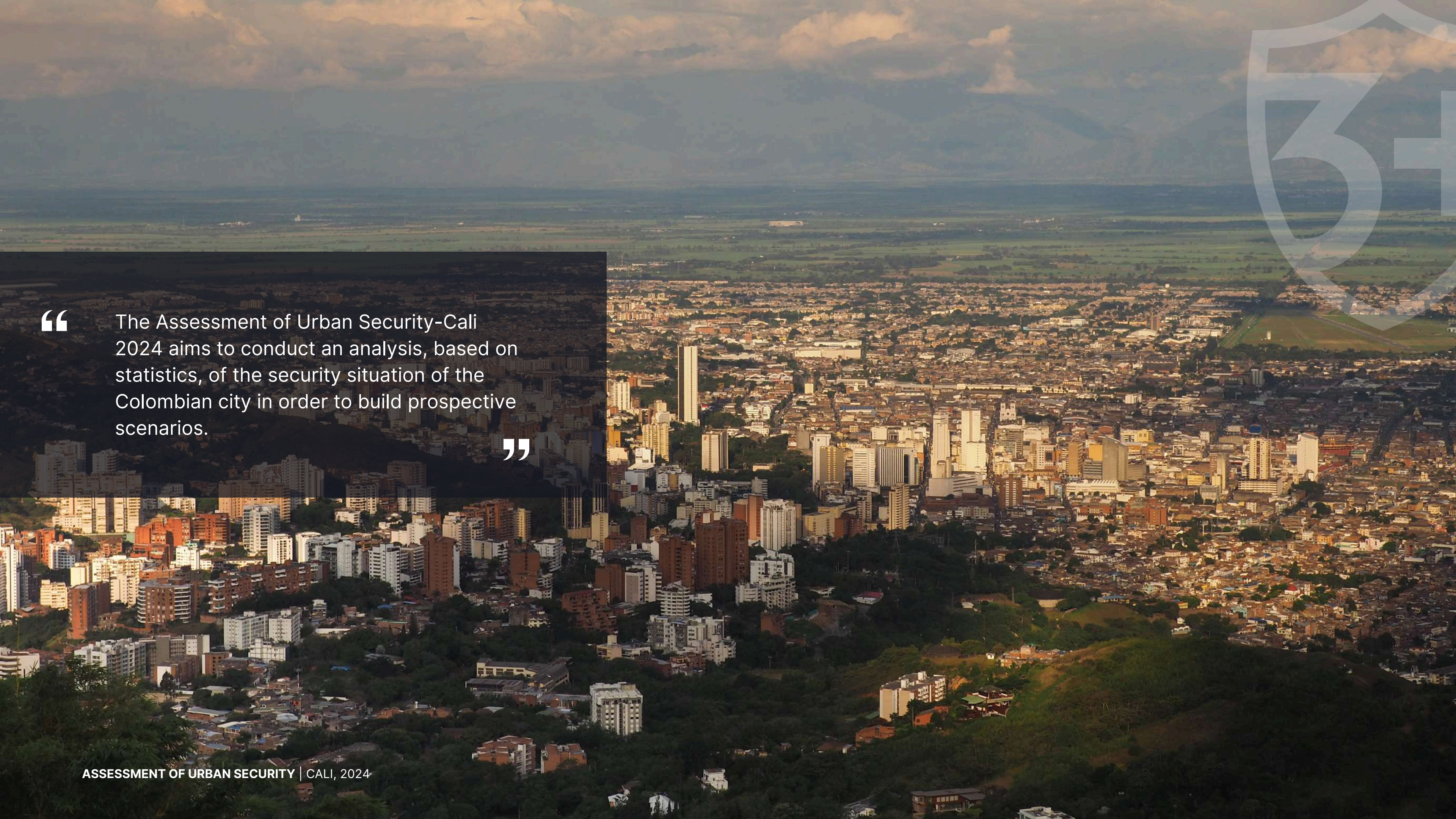
## 4. Risk Level

## 5. Foresight Design

## 6. Recommendations







“ The Assessment of Urban Security-Cali 2024 aims to conduct an analysis, based on statistics, of the security situation of the Colombian city in order to build prospective scenarios. ”



# 1. Situational Analysis

In this document, the Unidad de Análisis Político y Seguridad Corporativa (UAPSC) of 3+SC will conduct the Assessment of Urban Security for the city of Cali, analyzing the dynamics that impact security, the risk-generating factors, and criminal behavior based on statistics. The main objective is to provide insight into the city's security situation to establish prospective scenarios and recommendations that will be useful for the management, treatment, and control of risks.

During the first quarter of 2024 Cali experienced a recovery in the state of security of the territory. This panorama can be evidenced through the 21% decrease in homicide crime, compared to the same period last year. This meant a 45% contribution to the reduction of violent deaths at national level.



According to police figures, this situation positions Cali as the city with the greatest improvement in security issues in Colombia. The situation is framed within the plans of the recently elected mayor Alejandro Eder. The strategies include the '*Traffic Light Plan*', the '*Polygon Plan*' and the mixed control posts, which combined form the '*Cali Segura*' project.





**100%**  
increase in terrorism

**89 %**  
increase in threats

## 2. Crime Analysys: High Impact Crimes Cali 2024

Based on figures provided by the National Police, it is evident that between January and April 2024, only two high-impact crimes experienced an increase.

CRIME STATISTICS IN CALI	YEAR 2022	YEAR 2023	VARIATION % 2022 VS 2023	JAN-APR 2023	JAN-APR 2024	VARIATION % JAN-APR 2023 VS 2024
Homicides	986	1005	2%	344	276	-20%
Theft From Persons	24442	22886	-6%	8547	7334	-14%
Extortion	351	103	-71%	103	97	-5%
Kidnapping	13	21	61%	7	2	-71%
Threats	4645	2847	-39%	737	1393	89%
Terrorism	7	5	-28%	0	1	100%
Residential Theft	1408	1133	-19%	468	448	-4%
Carjacking	1624	1617	-1%	506	499	-1%
Motorcycle Theft	2920	3080	5%	1028	851	-17%
Retail Theft	2717	2046	-25%	938	553	-41%
<b>Total</b>	<b>39113</b>	<b>34743</b>	<b>-11%</b>	<b>12.678</b>	<b>11454</b>	<b>-10%</b>



# 7.334

thefts from persons  
between January-  
April 2024.



## 14%

crime reduction  
between January-  
April 2023 vs. 2024.

## 2.1 Theft form persons

In the first four months of 2024, Cali experienced a reduction in most high-impact crimes, among which is theft from persons. This shows an important and significant trend in terms of citizen security ([Alcaldía de Cali, 2024](#)). According to data from the National Police, of the total number of cases registered during this period, 3.605 were carried out without the use of weapons, 2.198 with firearms and 958 with a white/sharp weapon.

Despite the situation, authorities have warned about a possible change in the trend in the coming months, due to the increase in the number of cases registered in security cameras and the concern of citizens. The thefts occurred in emblematic places of the city, such as Jairo Varela square, located in front of the mayor's office. Among the most commonly used methods are armed robbery and "tickling" based on the surprise factor ([Diario de Occidente, 2024](#)).



## 6%

crime reduction  
between 2022 and  
2023.



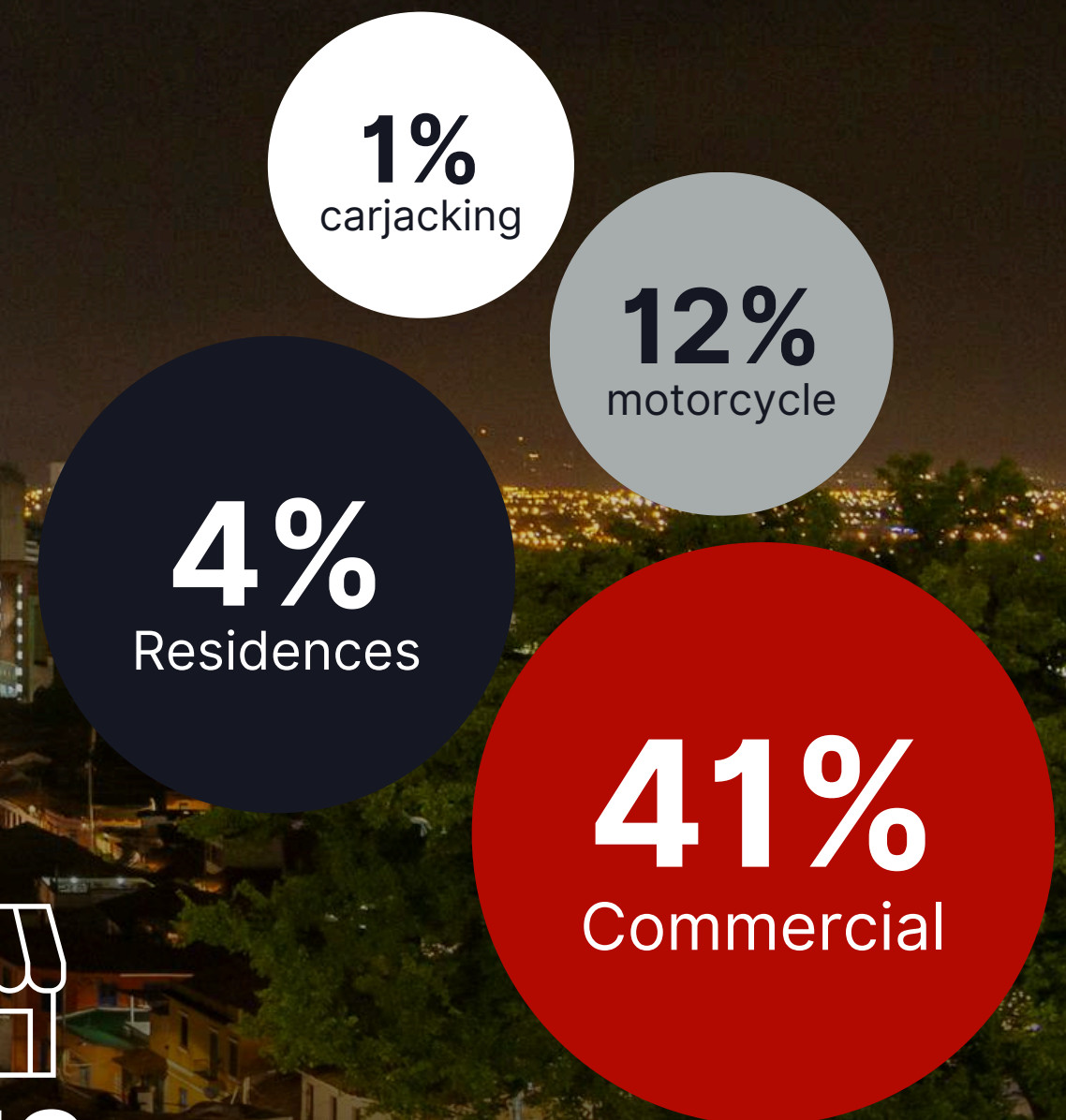
## 2.2 Theft in different modalities

In addition to theft from persons, there are different types of theft in Cali, such as retail theft, residential theft, carjacking and motorcycle theft. These high-impact crimes affect the security of citizens as they harm people's assets.

Despite the decrease in the number of complaints reported by the police, carjacking has been a significant problem in the first months of 2024. In June, on the Cali-Candelaria highway, a man was approached by armed individuals who threatened to steal the vehicle in which he was traveling ([El Tiempo](#), 2024).

At the same time, during this period, several supermarkets, drugstores and gasoline stations were victims of alias "Zarco", a criminal dedicated to robbing commercial establishments, who in a period of eleven days committed at least eight robberies ([Infobae](#), 2024).

### Decrease in crime between January-April 2023 vs. January- April 2024



**448**

residential thefts  
between January-  
April 2024



**499**

carjacking cases  
between January-April  
2024



**851**

motorcycle thefts  
between January-April  
2024



**553**

retail thefts  
between January-  
April 2024



## 2.3 Homicides

Although homicides have experienced a notorious decrease in the first months of 2024, the phenomenon continues to be a high impact problem in the city of Cali, especially for women and minors.

According to the mayor, with respect to violent deaths "we are making progress, but where we are stagnating and where we are doing badly is in the issue of femicides and today I must sadly announce that we have 6 cases so far this year" ([El País](#), 2024).

With respect to minors, according to Cali Police Commander Carlos Oviedo, between January 1 and June 23 there have been 20 murders of children and youths in the city. Although the figures show a reduction compared to the previous year, the problem continues to generate great concern. The most affected ages are between 15 and 17 years old and the areas where they are more recurrent are the communes 15, 21, 13 and 14, in the east of the city. According to the authorities, the causes of this situation are due to the lack of opportunities and the construction of a life project for minors ([El País](#), 2024).





## 2.4 Extortion, threats and kidnapping

Threats are the second crime with the highest percentage increase in the last year. Organized Armed Groups, Organized Criminal Groups and smaller structures resort to crime as a source of financing and consolidation.

The victims are varied; throughout the year, from social leaders and councilmen to soccer players and managers have been threatened. In early June, members of the U party and leaders of commune 16 received intimidating pamphlets from the ELN ([Diario Occidente](#), 2024). Likewise, in April, members of the sports union were threatened by fans ([Infobae](#), 2024).

A crime closely linked to the threat is extortion, which although at the beginning of the year had the same increasing trend that was occurring at the national level ([El País](#), 2024), in recent months has seen a decrease in the city of Cali. In May, the gang "Los CAT", dedicated to the extortive kidnapping of heavy machinery dealers, was dismantled. This modality consists of depriving the victim of his freedom in order to frighten him with the objective of obtaining money in exchange for his release ([Alcaldía de Cali](#), 2024).





## 2.5 Terrorism

According to National Police statistics, terrorism is the crime that has seen the greatest growth so far in 2024. On April 4, a truck bomb detonated outside the Pichincha Battalion, a canton of the Third Brigade of the army located in the Melendez neighborhood (commune 18). At the same time, a cylinder was also thrown inside the school for the children of officers and non-commissioned officers of the canton ([El Colombiano](#), 2024).

Investigations by the competent authorities discovered that the episodes were part of a broader plan by FARC dissidents, which also included an attack on the Gaula Militar in Tumaco (Nariño) and another on the police substation in the village of robles in Jamundí ([Infobae](#), 2024).

In June, alias "Tigre", a member of the Jaime Martínez substructure and responsible for terrorist activities in Cali and other areas of Valle del Cauca, was captured. The operation also saw the arrest of criminals linked to the installation of allusive banners in Siloé and Los Cristales ([Infobae](#), 2024). According to authorities, the escalation of terrorist events that have occurred near the capital of Valle del Cauca responds to a strategy on the part of the armed actors to exert pressure on Cali and to make the government reconsider the ceasefire ([El Tiempo](#), 2024).

**100%**

Increase in the crime of Terrorism between January and April 2023 vs January and April 2024.

**28%**

Reduction in Terrorism crime between 2022 and 2023



## 3. Risk Generating Factors

### 3.1 Microtrafficking and Criminal groups

SEIZED DRUG	YEAR 2022 (kg)	YEAR 2023 (kg)	JAN-APR 2024(kg)
Pressed Marijuana	6,673.97	5,413.31	7,161.17
Ecstasy-Type Stimulants	5,047.00	605	125
2CB	118.65	367.8	86.7
Cocaine Hydrochloride	970.11	212.67	36.9
Basuco	8.13	3.54	2.66
Heroin	1.65	1.4	0.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,819.51</b>	<b>6,603.72</b>	<b>7,412.44</b>



# Distribution of GDO and GDCO in the city of Cali

The high number of criminal groups present in the capital of Valle del Cauca means that crimes such as homicide and micro-trafficking are carried out on a large scale. Disputes over territory provide an ideal scenario for armed confrontations and massacres in areas inhabited by civilians. At the beginning of May, authorities raided a house used by the criminal gang "Los del Hueco" as a drug dispensary in the Bellavista neighborhood of commune 19. The structure was reinforced in such a way that it looked like a bunker, with the objective of preventing violent actions by other gangs in this area of the city, making evident the operation of criminal groups in the middle of residential areas ([El País](#), 2024).

According to the head of the Conflict and Organized Violence area of the Fundación Ideas para la Paz, the massacres that have occurred in urban areas of municipalities in Valle del Cauca, including the city of Cali, respond to a modus operandi of organized crime in coordination with Organized Armed Groups, to establish territorial control over spaces that have not been touched by the internal conflict ([El País](#), 2024).




The 9 communes with the highest number of criminal structures (March 2024)

- "Los del Parche"
- "Los del Corredor"
- "El Parche"
- "El Platanal"
- "La 40"
- "Los Ñatos"
- "Los del Hueco"
- "Los Panda"
- "África"
- "Los de la 8"
- "Los LT"
- "Los Patirusios"
- "La 15"
- "Los Menores"
- "La Primera A"
- "Los Palmas"
- "Los Illuminati"
- "Hollywood"
- "Los Blue"
- "Los Flacos"





## 3.2 Extortion and kidnapping

-  Extortion is one of the highest impact crimes in the city of Cali. Despite the arrests and dismantling of Organized Criminal Groups dedicated to this practice, there continues to be a worrying record of this type of crime in the capital of Valle del Cauca.
-  In January 2024, authorities dismantled a criminal gang that had kidnapped two Canadian engineers with the purpose of stealing their belongings. The criminals kidnapped the victims near the hotel where they were staying in western Cali and took them to different locations in the center and north of the city. There they were stripped of their belongings and even their bank accounts were looted, after which the criminals contacted the victims' companions to demand a ransom in exchange for their release ([Infobae](#), 2024).
-  Modalities: prison extortion, "false service", extortion kidnapping





### 3.3 Terrorism



Between April and May there has been an escalation of violence in the departments of Cauca and Valle del Cauca by the so-called Estado Mayor Central, a dissident group of the extinct FARC. Over the last few weeks there have been attacks in numerous municipalities and villages in these two departments, even affecting the city of Cali and municipalities that are part of the metropolitan area. Attacks against battalions, CAI and places frequented by members of the security forces have been the main targets of these actions.

On April 4, an attack was registered against an army battalion in commune 18 in the south of Cali, generating panic among the local inhabitants. This was part of a larger offensive by the EMC, in which the military GAULA in Tumaco (Nariño) and a police substation in rural Jamundí were also attacked. According to the authorities, the perpetrator was alias "El Tigre", who was captured in a neighborhood of Jamundí at the end of May ([Infobae](#), 2024).





## 3.4 Recruitment and instrumentalization of minors

The use of children and adolescents as tools to commit criminal acts or as instruments of war is a problem of wide impact in the city of Cali. Both criminal gangs and organized armed groups use minors in the city to commit crimes, given their low profile and ability to avoid attracting the attention of the authorities.

They also take advantage of the fact that in Colombia, a minor under 14 years old cannot be charged with a crime, making it easier for the criminal organization to continue its criminal activities. At the same time, they exploit the delicate situations of vulnerability and poverty of some populations to attract young people with promises of a better future and the ability to earn money by belonging to the organization ([El País](#), 2024).



**+800**

minors apprehended in training centers for offenders in Valle del Cauca. (ICBF)



**19,9%**

recidivism in crime by minors

### Main reasons for the detention of minors:



**25%**

Manufacturing, trafficking and carrying of weapons



**25%**

Sale of illicit substances



**20%**

Thefts

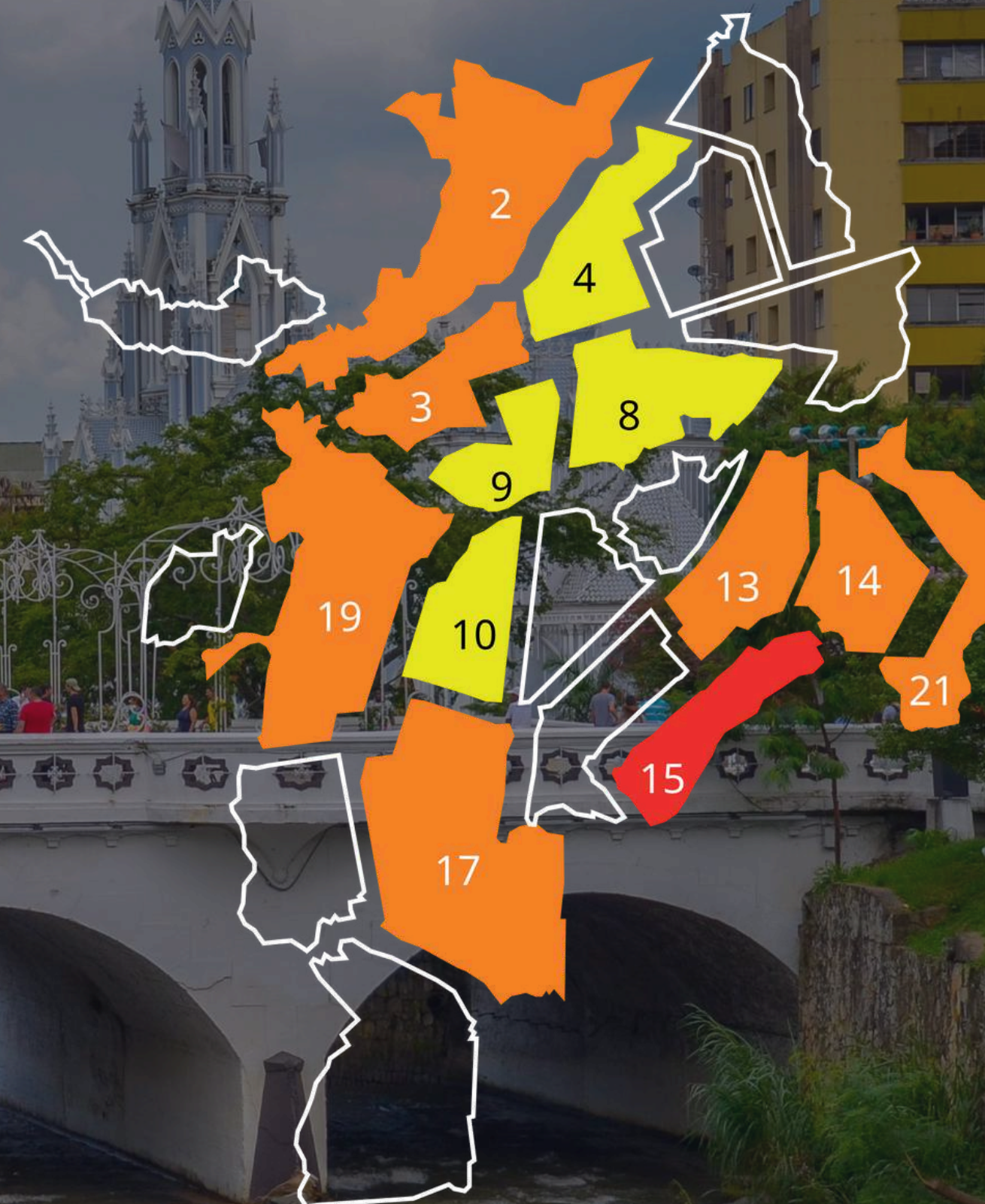


## 4. Risk level

### Risk level of the city


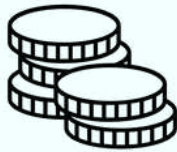


The objective of the risk level analysis is to identify the areas where, according to institutional statistics, there is a greater probability that scenarios of violence and high impact crimes will occur. In the case of this Assessment of Urban Security-Cali, the characterization will be based on the Security and Report of the Observatorio de Seguridad de Santiago de Cali for the first four months of 2024, identifying the areas with the highest number of homicides and the monitoring of high-impact crimes that have occurred in the city.

Cali Map





# Analysis of the dynamics of risks in the city of Cali so that companies can evaluate their operations (qualification based on ISO 31000 and quantitative risk analysis)

Risk	Main factors that generate risk	Consequences	Implications for private companies	Risk Level
 <b>Deterioration in the security situation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unemployment.</li><li>• Consolidated presence of groups such as common crime, gangs, organized groups.</li><li>• Influence of the micro-trafficking phenomenon in common and organized crime, developing networks of hired killings and their strengthening.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Citizen distrust</li><li>• Decrease in local and foreign investment in the city.</li><li>• Affectation of small and medium-sized businesses.</li><li>• Decrease in tourism potential.</li><li>• Increase in complaints of extortion, threats and homicides.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Potential impact on the supply or value chain due to the permeability of crime.</li><li>• Non-fulfillment of services or commitments.</li><li>• Leakage of personnel with intentions of harming companies.</li><li>• Fear of market expansion due to criminal networks.</li></ul>	<b>Medium-High</b>
 <b>Impact on the economic and financial system</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Corruption in the public and private sector.</li><li>• Increasing poverty and inequality.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Decrease in foreign investment in the city.</li><li>• Low wages.</li><li>• Labor informality.</li><li>• Inflation.</li><li>• Limitation and inadequate use of public space.</li><li>• Low business generation.</li><li>• Increased recruitment of criminal groups.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduced demand for services and products.</li><li>• Decrease in revenues.</li><li>• Increased costs due to phenomena such as inflation.</li><li>• Limitation of operating capacities.</li></ul>	<b>Medium-High</b>
 <b>Terrorist actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Political and social conflicts.</li><li>• Inequality.</li><li>• Radicalization.</li><li>• Terrorist networks.</li><li>• Governance issues.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Loss of lives.</li><li>• Psychological impact.</li><li>• Polarization.</li><li>• Displacement.</li><li>• Economic instability.</li><li>• Impact on international relations.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Financial losses.</li><li>• Trade reduction.</li><li>• Supply chain disruption.</li><li>• Increase in security costs.</li><li>• Loss of investors and customers.</li></ul>	<b>Medium-High</b>
 <b>Political instability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Corruption.</li><li>• Deepening inequalities.</li><li>• Mistrust in institutions.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Polarization.</li><li>• Social conflict.</li><li>• Strengthening and increase of organized groups.</li><li>• Low productivity.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Decrease in foreign clients due to political uncertainty.</li><li>• Reduced revenues due to periods of inflation and recession.</li><li>• Uncertainty in creating long-term plans and projects.</li></ul>	<b>Medium</b>



## 5. Foresight Design



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During the first half of 2024, security in Cali has improved significantly. As mentioned above, high impact crimes such as homicide and robbery have seen a large decrease. The favorable outlook is part of the "Cali Segura" strategy implemented by Mayor Alejandro Eder. According to the mayor, cooperation and coordination between the security forces and local authorities has been fundamental to achieve the results that can be seen today. Mixed checkpoints, constant night patrols and a greater presence in school environments are some of the mechanisms that have been used in recent months to improve the security situation in the city.

In addition, in October Cali will host the COP16, which has brought with it a larger budget and more attention for the city due to the international nature of the event. In this context, more police officers will arrive and the capital will be reinforced in the coming months.

“

***It is difficult to maintain the city's security and stability as long as the region and the department continue to be victims of the criminal dynamics present in the country.***

Despite this, at the national level, criminal groups continue to consolidate, and the areas near the capital of Valle del Cauca are no exception. Surrounding territories such as Norte del Cauca and municipalities such as Jamundí and Buenaventura are areas highly impacted by violence. In recent months, different problems have arisen, such as clashes or terrorist attacks, which have become increasingly frequent.

In this context, Cali's security could be affected by the insecure and violent conditions in its surroundings.

It is difficult to maintain the city's security and stability as long as the region and the department continue to be victims of the criminal dynamics present in the country.

It should also be noted that, while it is necessary to have effective strategies and plans on the part of the security forces and local governments, it is also essential to create social projects that offer citizens the possibility of creating life projects.

Crime is largely the result of a lack of opportunities; therefore, until this component is addressed, young people will continue to opt for the criminal world. In this sense, in order for there to be long-term stability, there must be a comprehensive project that does not focus exclusively on increasing the number of police officers.



# 6. Recommendations

- 1** Always maintain a high degree of situational awareness, which allows you to identify risks or threats derived from situations external to the place or areas where you travel.
- 2** Taking into account the description of the Risk Level provided in this document, identify the districts and neighborhoods with a high risk level in the city. This in order to avoid traveling through these areas or provide safety and self-care plans.
- 3** In case of traveling by means of a private vehicle, make a route analysis and have alternate routes that will allow you to resolve new developments on the route.
- 4** Do not travel or travel late at night in neighborhoods or districts that, according to this document, have registered some type of criminal phenomena or show high levels of interference by criminal actors, for example, communes 13, 14, 15 and 21.

- 5** For the movement of expatriates or foreigners within Cali, evaluate the likelihood of having systems to monitor their movements remotely from a Command Center.
- 6** Avoid having detailed or sensitive information about your family members, as well as the organization you work for, on your cell phone.
- 7** Be careful with the information you publish through your social networks, taking into account that the less privacy you have, the less your work and personal data and those of your family members will be exposed on the network, which may lend itself to extortion or kidnapping processes.
- 8** For carrying out extortion, criminals tend to identify themselves as members or leaders of well-known criminal or armed groups in the city, such as "Los Shottas," "La Empresa," or "La Factory."
- 9** If you are a victim of a phone extortion, do not hang up, try to take notes, do not give your name or ID number, and if possible, record the call.

- 10** Given the recurrence of terrorist events near the city, try to stay away from areas such as police stations or other public force infrastructure. Incidents usually occur in these types of spaces.
- 11** At no time during your stay in Cali should you make comments about the presence of armed actors in the area, as this could trigger an alert among them or the criminal groups operating under their name.
- 12** If possible, get trained in defensive and evasive driving to increase your ability to protect your life or that of your family in case of an assault in public.
- 13** If you find yourself in a situation of high vulnerability and prone to being a victim of robbery, express kidnapping, or "fleteo", do not resist.







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