

INITIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, THE POPULAR MILITIAS OF
THE PEOPLE AND FOR THE PEOPLE, AND THE INDEPENDENT POPULAR MILITIAS OF THE
VALLE DE ABURRÁ

15 February 1994

The government and the Popular Militias of the People and for the People (*Milicias Populares del Pueblo y para el Pueblo*, MP/PP) and the Independent Popular Militias of the Valle de Aburrá (*Milicias Populares Independientes del Valle del Aburrá*, MP/IVA) of Medellín, present in the city of Medellín on 15 February 1994, have reached an agreement, subject to the following considerations:

The government recognises the phenomenon of popular militias as an expression of the conflicts being experienced by the city of Medellín and a factor of violence that merits treatment under article 14 of Law 104, 1993.

MP/PP and MP/IVA acknowledge that the situation in terms of public order, social, economic, political and cultural aspects, and violence being experienced by the city, particularly in the communities in the northeast and northwest zones, requires not the armed conflict of members of the community but the strengthening of the institutional presence of a social state backed by the rule of law, in addition to legal and constitutional instruments, and the democratic participation of an organised community to achieve peace and promote the common good.

Based on this understanding, MP/PP and MP/IVA have expressed their desire to initiate a process to reach a negotiated solution to the conflict in which they are immersed and bring about their disarmament, demobilisation and subsequent reinsertion into civil life under the leadership of the government, affirming their decision to initiate a unilateral general suspension of all activities carried out on the fringes of the law from the signing of this agreement.

There is a positive consensus regarding points above in order to explore new mechanisms to address the urban problem in different cities throughout the country and the case of

Medellín being important for strengthening the policy for peace and efforts to achieve the peace and harmony desired by all upstanding Colombians.

The parties agree the following:

1. Formally initiate a negotiation process between the government and MP/PP and MP/IVA, leading to the demobilisation, disarmament and reincorporation into institutional life of these militias on the understanding that ensuring order and public coexistence is the sole competence of the state and may not be delegated.
2. Establish an agenda and working method to facilitate the negotiation process and verification of the commitments made.
3. Invite the governments of the department of Antioquia and the municipality of Medellín and its metropolitan area to form part of this negotiation process.
4. Invite the Catholic Church to act as moral tutor of the process and witness to the negotiations and any agreements that are reached.
5. Invite the media and the community in general to follow and support the negotiations to ensure they represent a special contribution to the peace process for Medellín, Antioquia and the country as a whole.

Por el Gobierno:

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Por las Milicias Populares del Pueblo y para el Pueblo:

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Testigo-Tutor

TESTIGOS:

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