Recent News about the Naya River

• Afro-Colombian Communities of the Naya River Defend Their Lives and Lands
  ○ “Saturday morning dawned clear and hot on May 19th in Puerto Merizalde, the largest town on the Naya River, near the Pacific coast of Colombia. The morning also brought the presence of Colombian Marines with their automatic weapons, stationed on the streets and around the outside of the landmark church on a hill. The ostentatious military presence, on that day particularly, typified a key part of what is going wrong these days on the Río Naya.”
  Source: Witness for Peace

• Resisting in the Naya River
  ○ “Along the Naya River you can find abundant and clean water sources, forests full of all kinds of vegetation, fauna and healthy soil”, says Chimonja emphasizing the importance of this place. However, its strategic location, connecting the Valle del Cauca and Cauca departments with the Pacific Ocean and at the same time, crossing the Andes mountain range in the west of Colombia, has converted it into one of the most strategic routes for drug and arms trafficking, and this has caused serious problems for its inhabitants.”
  Source: Peace Brigades International Colombia

• For Afro-Colombians, a Slow March Toward Peace
  ○ “Residents have also created local peace-building initiatives. For example, Nidiria, a member of a collective of 300 women in the Naya River region, helps run political advocacy workshops and leadership schools, focusing on various themes from globalization and multiculturalism to gender and nature. “We are all family members of disappeared persons,” she said of the collective. “Although we might consider our family members dead, they still give us the possibility to exchange the tears for smiles for new generations.”
  Source: North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA)
U.S. Militarization in Colombia

• 50 years of US Intervention in Colombia
  
  ○ “Since 2000, the United States has provided about $9.4 billion in aid to Colombia, of which about 6.8 billion has been in the form of military and police assistance. The United States government throws around buzz words like security, democracy, and development and assumes that their definition is universal, correct, and infallible.”
  
  Source: Colombia Reports

• Change and Continuity in Colombian Politics
  
  ○ “Duque won all but one of the departments along Colombia’s extensive frontiers with Venezuela, where popular support for military action is high. As millions of dollars in U.S. aid continue to flow to Colombian security forces, the eventual emergence of a Colombian-trained, U.S.-financed and -equipped Venezuelan paramilitary “army of national liberation,” perhaps launched from the rightwing strongholds of the Santanders in the Northeast, is not implausible.”

  Source: North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA)

• Why US Won't Support Peace in Colombia
  
  ○ Plan Colombia was a creation of President Bill Clinton in 1998, which ostensibly was called the "War on Drugs," but had nothing to do with drugs. It was a plan to combat and terminate the left-wing resistance in the country: journalists, unionists, teachers, community leaders, campesino leaders, human right workers, and armed guerrilla groups.”

  Source: Telesur
• **Incertidumbre en El Naya: tras la pista de hermanos secuestrados por disidencias de FARC**
  
  ○ “This region, bordering the departments of Valle and Cauca, still does not find peace. Family member of the recently kidnapped social leader spoke from exile.”
  
  **Source: Caracol News**

• **The US Drug War on Colombia**
  
  ○ "Plan Colombia" was a US policy to supposedly combat drugs coming out of Colombia but ended up being more about combating leftist resistance with disastrous result for many.”
  
  **Source Free-Will Productions**

• **Hidden US War in Colombia: 50 Years of Atrocities & Impunity**
  
  ○ “To explain the 50+ year history of US intervention and human rights reality in Colombia, Abby Martin interviews human rights attorney Dan Kovalik, who has done extensive work in Latin America. He also serves as Associate General Counsel of the United Steelworkers Union, teaches International Human Rights at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, and is the author of the new book "The Plot to Scapegoat Russia."
  
  **Source: Empire Files**

• **Colombia’s Hidden Cocaine Route: El Naya**
  
  ○ “On a treacherous trip along El Naya, VICE Colombia examines the production process of the Colombian Cartels.”
  
  **Source: VICE Colombia**