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RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

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9 February 2004

COL42416.E

Colombia: Existence and political stance of a group known as the "Naciancenistas"; the group's activities in Caicedonia, Valle del Cauca
Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

"Naciancenista" is a term used to describe the Naciancenista Conservative Committee (Directorio Conservador Naciancenista, DCN), a movement based in Caicedonia, Valle del Cauca, which is affiliated with the Colombian Conservative Party (Partido Conservador Colombiano, PCC) (DCN 6 Feb. 2004). According to the Executive Director of the DCN, the group, which shares the PCC's political ideology, has been in existence for more than 40 years and is named after its former president, Nacianceno Gallego (*ibid.*). Upon Gallego's death, his son, Nacianceno Orozco, became president (*ibid.*). Orozco was a long-serving deputy in the Valle del Cauca assembly (*El País* 11 Apr. 2003; Colombia 12 Apr. 2003) prior to his kidnapping by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia, FARC) in April 2002 (*ibid.*; *El Tiempo* 2 Jan. 2004). Remaining in captivity as recently as January 2004 (*El Espectador* 25 Jan. 2004), Orozco was replaced as president of the DCN by his brother, Carlos Alberto Orozco (DCN 6 Feb. 2004).

The DCN Executive Director indicated that the group's activities in Caicedonia include the organization of health brigades (*brigades de salud*) that visit the city's poor neighbourhoods; the implementation of vocational courses for local residents in areas like hairstyling; and the provision of assistance to individuals who are experiencing difficulty in obtaining personal identity documents (*ibid.*). The Executive Director added that the group keeps its office open at all times, not merely during election campaigns (*ibid.*).

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum.

References

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