

**Colombia: Bomb blast kills 2, injures more than 30**  
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BOGOTÁ, Colombia – A bomb exploded near a town square in southwestern Colombia packed with dozens of children celebrating Halloween, killing two suspects and injuring more than 30, officials said on Nov. 1.

Among those wounded in Pradera in the attack blamed on the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) were 14 children, including 7- and 11-year-old boys who were taken to the hospital in critical condition with head injuries.

The attack comes as the Colombian government and the FARC are engaged in peace talks aimed at ending their nearly five-decade conflict, which has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives.

The government had insisted the talks move forward without an official ceasefire to prevent the guerrillas from regrouping, as they did during the failed previous round of peace talks a decade ago.

Vice President Angelino Garzón demanded “the FARC stop attacking civilians.”

“It can’t be allowed to put an end to the happiness and peace of people who are going out to celebrate with their family and that little boys and little girls continue to be victims of such atrocities,” he said in a statement.

The bomb appears to have exploded prematurely. The attackers, who were carrying the bomb while riding on a bicycle, had targeted a nearby police station or local officials who were protesting in the central square, Mayor Adolfo Escobar said.

Several residences also were damaged.

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