

Figure 12.1 ► (Continued)

Date	Event
January 2008	The FARC agrees to release two high-profile hostages as part of Chávez mediation.
March 2008	Colombian cross-border strike into Ecuador results in death of senior FARC rebel leader Raul Reyes and sparks diplomatic crisis with both Ecuador and Venezuela.
May 2008	The FARC announces the death of its leader and founder, Manuel Marulanda.
July 2008	Colombian Army rescues highest-profile hostage, Ingrid Betancourt, held in captivity for six years.
February 2009	The FARC releases six high-profile hostages, including former provincial governor.
February 2009	Syrian arms dealer Monzer al-Kassar is sentenced to thirty years in prison for trying to sell surface-to-air missiles, grenades, assault rifles, and C-4 explosives to the FARC for a profit of more than \$1 million.
March 2009	The FARC releases a Swedish man, Erik Larsson, thought to be the last foreign hostage.
March 2009	President Uribe offers peace talks if the FARC halts criminal activities.
August 2009	Relations with Venezuela deteriorate; Venezuela withdraws its ambassador after Colombia accuses it of supplying arms to the FARC.
October 2009	Colombia signs deal with US military giving United States access to seven Colombian military bases.
November 2009	Venezuelan President Chávez orders fifteen thousand troops to the Colombian border and urges his armed forces to prepare for war.
December 2009	The FARC and the ELN announce they will stop fighting each other and concentrate on attacking the Colombian military.
December 2009	The FARC kills the governor of the southern state of Caquetá after abducting him.
March 2010	Spain's High Court says Venezuela facilitated contacts between the FARC and Spain's ETA terrorists and that the FARC had asked the ETA for logistical help with an attempted assassination attempt on Colombian officials visiting Spain.