

June 20-26 2017

WEEKLY UPDATE: Implementing the Peace Accords

The final peace accord contains a three-pronged approach to ensuring fulfillment of commitments included in the text: the *Commission for Monitoring, Promotion, and Verification of the Implementation of the Peace Accord* (CSIVI), the *National Reincorporation Council* (CNR) and the GOC-FARC-UN tripartite *Monitoring and Verification Mechanism* (MM&V). This callout box includes a weekly update on releases and work related to these supports for implementing the peace accords in Colombia.

On Tuesday, June 20th, the final phase of laying down the remaining 40% of the individually registered FARC-EP arms began in La Guajira.¹ On Friday, June 23rd, the guerrilla had handed over 100% of their registered arms; in the two months that follow, 949 weapons caches will be evacuated and/or destroyed before September 1st.² To date, 77 of these caches have had the weapons extracted and the unstable munitions destroyed. On Monday, June 26th, the U.N. reported control of 7,132 arms, save those that would be used for security in the transitional zones.³ The next step will be for the FARC-EP to enter the political sphere, and it plans to have a conference at the beginning of August to legalize its political party and prepare for the 2018 election cycle.

President Juan Manuel Santos has written a formal request to the U.N. to launch a verification mission for the political, economic, and social reincorporation process for the FARC, and to assist with providing security for the communities and organizations in the territories, among other things. President Santos announced this request during his visit to France, and French President Macron voiced his ongoing support for the Colombian peace process.⁴

Former FARC-EP guerrilla killed after receiving amnesty

Rigoberto Quezada, a former FARC-EP member, was killed on Tuesday, June 20th, while visiting his family in a rural area of San Vicente del Caguán, Caquetá. He had received his amnesty eight days prior through the peace process. Quezada is the second ex-guerrilla to be killed after receiving amnesty, and a third also had an unsuccessful attempt made on his life.⁵

Dutch journalists released by ELN; possibility for bilateral ceasefire strained

Various faith leaders in Colombia have called on the GoC and the ELN to agree on a bilateral ceasefire ahead of the Pope's planned visit later this year. GoC chief negotiator in Quito, Juan Camilo Restrepo, noted his disposition to reach such an agreement with the guerrilla group. However, the requirements for such a ceasefire would be an ELN commitment to end kidnapping practices, extortion, hostage taking, recruiting minors, and attacks against infrastructures and public forces.⁶ A small light in the otherwise tense process: after eight days as hostages, Dutch journalists were released by the ELN in Catatumbo on Saturday, June 24th.⁷