

May 9-15 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 Friday, May 12th, **the first group of 12 members of the FARC-EP received certifications for completion of the process of laying down their arms**, which allows them to formally begin their reintegration process into civilian life. Currently, the Mission confirmed that 51 arms containers and 52 metallic boxes are now in place in the transitional zones, with the combined capacity to accommodate tens of thousands of arms.¹

Carlos Córdoba, Manager of the Transitional Zones, announced that these **transitional zones are going to be sites for reintegrating the guerrilla to civilian life**, and that infrastructure projects in these locations would continue to completion. The sites will be extended according to local needs – for example, a group of ex-FARC-EP might stay for six additional months if they are simultaneously receiving vocational training from SENA that covers that timespan. Córdoba noted that while the change in plans does depart from the original explicit definition of the transitional zones developed in Havana, it allows the FARC-EP members to transition to legality under conditions of dignity and with the support of the GoC.²

Ten minors released from transitional zones

On Friday, May 12th, the FARC-EP released 10 adolescents from the transitional zones in the southern region of Colombia, who were then received by the ICRC, along with support from UNICEF and IOM. The new total for minors released by the FARC-EP since September 2016 is now 86.³

U.N. Security Council offers reflections after Colombia visit

Following a visit to Colombia in early May, the U.N. Security Council offered several reflections on the implementation of the accords and the peace process in general, as well as its renewed support for Colombia's peacebuilding efforts. In remarks made from New York on Thursday, May 11th, the Council noted that the rapid implementation of all of the agreed upon measures for ensuring effective reincorporation and reconciliation was key, as well as the full participation of women throughout the peace processes. It expressed concern over the ongoing killing of social leaders, and called for greater security guarantees for these individuals.⁴