

March 28-April 3 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.

During the last week of March, the United Nations Mission in Colombia reported that **the FARC-EP laid down 350-400 arms**. Additionally, the Mission was on track to have 85% of all of the guerrilla arms registered (roughly 7,000). The next step is to collect the arms that remain in the caches where the FARC-EP were previously operating, which presents unique logistical challenges due to their remote locations. Nonetheless, mission leader Jean Arnault asserted that they are still on track to complete the process by the D+180 date of the end of May.¹

In a vote of 97-60, **Congress approved the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP)**. However, some of the changes that were made in the process of revision by the legislative branch have some analysts concerned about the degree to which the JEP will still be able to hold some conflict actors to account. One of the changes is a new article that removes from JEP jurisdiction third-party civilian actors who have financed or collaborated with illegal armed groups. Another arguably frees high-ranking military commanders from responsibility for crimes committed by their subordinates unless it can be demonstrated that they had effective control over them and knowledge of the conduct in question that would affect the civilian populations.²

Sixteen more minors exit FARC-EP Ranks

On Sunday, April 2nd, 16 more minors exited the FARC-EP ranks, bringing the total number of adolescents to emerge since September 2016 to 57. UNICEF received them together with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); both agencies operated with support from the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF), the Presidential Council for Human Rights, and IOM.³

ELN and GoC commit to demining initiative; Colombian Air Force bombs ELN camp in Norte de Santander

Naming the impending papal visit to Colombia as an impetus to accelerate the peace dialogues between the ELN and the GoC, chief guerrilla negotiator Pablo Beltrán announced along with the GoC on Thursday March 30th that a pact to remove all antipersonnel mines would emerge on April 7th.⁴ Following, in the now all too familiar juxtaposition of slowly advancing peace talks and ongoing armed encounters between the GoC and the ELN, an air attack by the Colombian Air Force in the department of Norte de Santander, resulted in the deaths of a reported 7-10 members of the guerrilla group. The victims of the attack were reported to have belonged to the particular unit responsible for the killing of a patrol officer, an attack

against the caravan of the governor of the department, and an attempted kidnapping of Edwin González, the mayor of El Carmen. Five long-range weapons, one rifle, six hand guns, six hand grenades, and other various munitions and explosives - including 70 PVC antipersonnel mines - were also decommissioned in the process of the operation.⁵