

PEACE MAIL

March 7-13 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.

The Ministry of Health and Education along with the Presidential Council for Early Childhood visited a transitional zone in Putumayo on the 11th and 12th of March. They announced that **7,300 FARC-EP guerrillas have been registered in the national health care system**. Additionally, they brought a pediatrician with them to visit the eight children who live in the camp as well as equipment and staff to conduct eye examinations. Since the FARC-EP have begun to gather in transitional zones, the Ministry of Health and Education has conducted 40 health fairs and seen 5,633 individual patients.¹

After stalling, Colombian Congress votes YES on the Special Jurisdiction for Peace transitional justice mechanism

On Wednesday March 8th, the Senate debate continued over the fate of the JEP without a final conclusive vote. The opposition strategy was one of delays and absenteeism.² Congress continued the debate on Monday, March 13th, finally passing the JEP with 61 votes in favor of the transitional justice mechanism designed to process FARC-EP members, members of the Public Forces, and any third party individuals charged with offenses related to the conflict. Although it was approved, 83 modifications were made to the original document based on the proposals made in Congress. The activation of the JEP also sets into motion important attendant mechanisms for implementing the accords, such as the Selection Committee responsible for choosing the magistrates that will comprise the mechanism.³

Constitutional Court Approves Popular Referendum, Overturns Decree

On Thursday, March 9th, the Constitutional Court approved by a slight margin (5 to 4) the popular referendum that Congress used to pass the final set of peace accords following the October 2nd NO outcome in the plebiscite. However, in the same session, the Court overruled in a vote of 6 to 3 the first of the presidential decrees that Santos had issued to implement the accords: Decree 2204 (December 30, 2016) had moved the Agency for Land Renovation to the Administrative Department of the Presidency from its previous assignment within the Ministry of Agriculture. The Court noted that, while Legislative Act 01 of 2016 does grant extraordinary powers to the President for the implementation of the accords, the use of such powers must be sufficiently justified due to the significant decrease in spaces for deliberation when they are applied. In this case, the Court deemed that this requirement had not been met.⁴

Second group of minors exits FARC-EP

On Friday, March 10th, a second group of minors exited one of the FARC-EP transitional zones in the North East of Colombia. Six minors had their health verified, and were then transferred to a receiving center managed by UNICEF; representatives of the same agency confirmed that they would begin their reincorporation and social inclusion process within the “Differential Life Path” program.⁵

Colombian Air Force bombs dissident FARC-EP camp

The Colombian Army, Air Force, and National Police mounted an operation against FARC-EP dissidents – led by Iván Mordisco (alias) - in the Miraflores rural area of Guaviare (La Union hamlet). The ground troops were preceded by an aerial bombardment by the military, and the camp contained a small-scale explosives manufacturing site, information center, and food warehouse, which the troops dismantled. They also immobilized a key narco-trafficking route often used by the guerrilla leader to control the movement of illicit crops and subsequent cocaine production throughout Guaviare and Guainía. Iván Mordisco managed to escape along with thirty of his guerrillas, but the Armed Forces continue their offensive against him and other dissidents. The Army estimates 6% of the FARC-EP membership as dissident rebels (roughly 500 individuals), and that these individuals remain in the 1st, 7th, 14th, 44th, and Acacio Medina fronts.⁶