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PEACE MAIL

November 15-21, 2016

Confrontation between FARC guerrillas and Colombian Army prompts calls for rapid implementation of new accords

The November 13th confrontation between members of the 37th Front of the FARC and GOC armed forces in the Santa Rosa municipality in the south of the department of Bolívar resulted in two guerrilla deaths and one capture.¹ This event marks the first time that the Tripartite Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (MM&V) will be called on to investigate the potential breach of the bilateral ceasefire agreement; it has been in operation since August 29th and comprises representatives from the FARC, the GOC, and the United Nations. The MM&V is currently investigating the events and hopes to release its findings within the week.² Last Wednesday, the High Commissioner for Peace, Sergio Jaramillo, led a meeting with seven governors' offices and 26 mayors from areas in which the transitional zones will be located. He noted in the context of this meeting, referring to the clash, that "we have a very fragile situation and we need to rapidly pass on to the implementation [of the new accords]."³

President Santos to present new accords to Congress

Following much debate on what referendum mechanism would be used to ratify the new accords, President Santos announced on Saturday that he would present them to Congress over the next week.⁴ Despite hosting a meeting at the opening of this week with the NO leadership in Bogotá, GOC and FARC negotiators in Havana have already asserted that there will be no more changes to the document, with both the signatures of GOC and FARC leaders and presentation of the document to Congress expected shortly.⁵