

 PEACE MAIL

September 20-26, 2016

War in Colombia ends

On Friday, September 23rd, the FARC ratified the peace accord during their Tenth Conference. The week-long event marked their last such conference as an armed guerrilla group.¹ Three days later, on Monday September 26th, Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos and FARC leader and chief negotiator Rodrigo Londoño (alias 'Timochechko') signed the final peace accord in Cartagena de Indias. This coming Sunday, Colombian citizens will vote either "yes" or "no" for the accord in the popular referendum (plebiscite). Various nationally conducted surveys report differing levels of support for the peace accords, but all recent large-scale polls predict the "yes" vote winning this weekend. Should the accords pass, the FARC will begin to concentrate their forces in the designated transitional zones. United Nations delegates will manage the collection and final disposition of the arms turned over by the ex-guerrillas. The disarmament process has a timeline of 180 days after Monday's signing of the accord.²

ELN pledges no offensive attacks leading up to plebiscite

On Sunday, September 25th, the commander of the ELN guerrilla group, Israel Ramírez Pineda (alias 'Pablo Beltrán'), announced that the group would cease offensive actions leading up to and during the October 2nd plebiscite, but it would still be prepared to conduct defensive operations if attacked.³ This announcement came on the heels of a request by the Electoral Observation Mission in Colombia, saying that it was "urgent" that the ELN declare a unilateral ceasefire beginning this past weekend and lasting until after the plebiscite.⁴

European Union removes FARC from list of terrorist organizations

On Monday afternoon, Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy announced that the FARC will no longer be included on the EU's list of terrorist organizations. In the same announcement, Mogherini confirmed the EU's commitment of roughly 600 million euros to the peacebuilding process in Colombia.⁵

<http://reliefweb.int/report/colombia/farc-ratifies-colombia-peace-deal-declares-war-over>

<http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/paz-esta-firmada-viene-el-plebiscito-y-implementacion-articulo-654529>

<http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/plebiscito-por-la-paz-eln-declara-cese-al-fuego-para-votaciones/495054>

<http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/moe-pide-cese-unilateral-del-eln-garantizar-jornada-ele-articulo-656771>

<http://www.elcolombiano.com/colombia/acuerdos-de-gobierno-y-farc/union-europea-ratifico-que-las-farc-saldran-de-la-lista-de-terroristas-BY5054672>

