

 **PEACE MAIL**

August 23-29, 2016

Final peace accord reached between GOC and FARC-EP negotiators in Havana

On Wednesday, August 24, the longest running armed conflict in the Americas ended. The Government of Colombia (GOC) and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) agreed upon a final set of peace accords after four years of negotiations in Havana, Cuba. In particular, the final accord is notable in its ambitious attempt to address the structural causes of the armed conflict: the final document contains no fewer than 200 initiatives, plans, programs, projects, and instances intended to improve the conditions for broader Colombian society (e.g., the National Plan for Tertiary Roads, the Land Trust, and the Connectivity Plan).¹ These programs fall within six overarching points: comprehensive rural reform, political participation of the FARC-EP, end of conflict, illicit drugs, victims, and implementation and verification mechanisms.

Bilateral ceasefire in effect, attention shifts to transitional zones

On Monday, August 29th, the bilateral and definitive ceasefire officially went into effect. The midnight end to 52 years of war occurred five weeks after the initial release of document on June 23rd by GOC and FARC-EP negotiators in Havana.² As a result of this agreement, Colombian armed forces suspended their offensive activities and committed to not engage in military movements in the areas where the FARC will gather to lay down their arms. Instead, the GOC deployed 500 members of its military to provide security for the guerrillas as they head towards these transitional zones.³ The FARC-EP has already begun to move to these 28 sites (22 transitional zones, and 6 smaller camps).

ELN wishes FARC-EP luck, seeks alternate route

The chief leader of the ELN, Nicolás Rodríguez Bautista, alias "Gabino," released a statement on Monday wishing the FARC-EP good luck in their decision to sign the peace accords and form a political movement, but emphasizing once again the ELN's desire for alternate approaches to addressing their own insurgency. The leader of the guerrilla group cited a perceived lack of political will for peace on the part of the GOC.⁴ Peace talks with the ELN have stalled since their announcement at the end of March of this year due to various back-and-forth taunts between the ELN and the GOC.⁵ The GOC's principal unmet demand is that the guerrillas stop their attacks and kidnapping practices. Just this past week, however, presumed clashes with ELN combatants resulted in 45 families displaced in the department of Nariño.⁶