

I will not sign a bad deal to meet a deadline: Santos

The GOC and FARC acknowledge that it is unlikely a peace deal can be signed by the March 23 deadline¹. Although both delegations are working intensively, the main reason for reevaluating the date is the lack of time to cover all the points in the agenda².

Congress approves the FARC demobilization areas

On March 9, the Colombian Congress voted unanimously for the creation of the FARC concentration areas³. The law allows the GOC to create special temporary zones for the disarmament and demobilization of the FARC combatants and suspend the capture orders against them. The law does not specify a particular number of concentration areas, but does prohibit their establishment in border areas, urban areas or areas with presence of illegal mining⁴. In a surprising move, the opposition party Centro Democrático led by senator and former President Álvaro Uribe supported the bill and stated that it permits the identification of FARC dissidents operating outside the concentration zones⁵.

Jean Arnault selected to head the UN verification mission in Colombia

UN envoy Jean Arnault of France will coordinate the UN's political mission in Colombia to monitor and verify the cease-fire between the FARC and GOC⁶. The Secretary General of the UN revealed that the deployment of the mission involves three phases. In the first phase, which began on February 24, a national office will be established and the locations of 8 regional offices will be identified and prepared. In the second, operation of the regional offices will be initiated together with representatives of the FARC and GOC. And the third phase involves the deployment of the UN observers, once the peace accords are signed⁷.

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