

PEACE MAIL

August 29-September 4 2017

WEEKLY UPDATE: Implementing the Peace Accords

This callout box includes a weekly update on releases and work specifically related implementing the Final Peace Accord between the Government and the FARC in Colombia.

On Thursday, August 31st, the U.N. Mission in Colombia announced an agreement to **extend the deadline for decommissioning the FARC weapons caches to September 15th**. The extension was approved both by the GoC and the FARC. Currently, the Mission has extracted 640 caches and anticipates a total of 957. The operations have been supported by FARC intelligence, with operational support from the Colombian Armed Forces and National Police.¹

The **second U.N. Mission in Colombia** will maintain the same presence in the territories that the first Monitoring and Verification Mission has had and will be responsible for verifying the economic, political, and social reincorporation of the FARC and attendant security guarantees included in the Final Accord. Some of the current transitional zones will be moved to more centralized, easy to access locations, and the majority of the mission will comprise civilians, and will total 120 international observers along with a national team of a still unspecified number.²

GoC-ELN Temporary bilateral ceasefire announced

Representatives from the Government of Colombia and the National Liberation Army (ELN) announced early on September 4th that the two parties had reached a temporary bilateral ceasefire agreement for the first time in the group's 52-year history. The bilateral ceasefire marked the conclusion to the third round of talks between the two groups in Quito, Ecuador. It will take effect on October 1st and last for 102 days until January 12, 2018. The GoC has required of the ELN that they 1) end kidnapping practices, 2) cease attacks on infrastructure, 3) discontinue the practice of laying antipersonnel mines, and 4) no longer recruit minors into their ranks. For its part, the GoC has committed to 1) suspend all military actions against the group, 2) investigate and address the ongoing assassinations of social leaders, 3) more effectively address the other illegal armed groups in the country, and 4) improve the conditions and develop a humanitarian plan for the guerrilla prisoners currently in Colombian jails.³

FARC launches political party, Names Londoño as president of party

After five days of deliberation, the FARC announced on August 31st, that their new party will retain the FARC acronym – a controversial decision – but that the letters will stand instead for the Revolutionary Alternative Force for the Common People. The delegation of 1,200 members who attended the FARC congress ended with a 628 vote in favor of the new party name.⁴ On Tuesday, September 4th, the 111 member National Council of the new party created a National Political Council comprising 15 individuals. Former chief negotiator for the FARC, Rodrigo Londoño (former alias “Timochenko”), was designated as the president of the political party.⁵