

PEACE MAIL

September 12-18 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.

The United Nations announced on September 15th that **weapons cache extraction in Colombia has ended**. In all, they were able to remove and/or destroy 750 of the 998 caches with information provided by the FARC, and will be reporting on why they were unable to attend to the remaining 248. The operations occurred through a collaboration between members of the FARC and international observers, with security and logistical support provided by the Armed Forces.¹

On Thursday, September 14th, **the United Nations Security Council unanimously approved the technical architecture of the second mission in Colombia**. In contrast to the first mission, the second one will comprise principally civilian members and will be charged with verifying the reincorporation of the excombatants and the security of the communities that receive them. This second mission will have 120 observers, compared with the roughly 500 that made up the first mission.²

Another pardoned FARC member assassinated

Another FARC member was assassinated in Tumaco after being pardoned. Luis Herminsul Guadil Hinestroza had gained his freedom just two days before his murder. The FARC leadership has pointed the finger at paramilitary expansion in the region, and connects the incident with other social leader assassinations, which have totaled 101 between January and August of this calendar year.³

Illicit crop removal and substitution advances

On Tuesday, September 12th, Ministry of Defense, Luis Carlos Villegas, announced that the Armed Forces of Colombia have already forcibly eradicated 62% of the 50,000 hectares of coca crops scheduled for destruction this year. The total goal between forced eradication and crop substitution for the year totals 100,000 hectares. Roughly 8,000 uniformed soldiers are working on the forced eradication process.⁴