

PEACE MAIL

October 31- November 6

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.

Truth Commission begins work, calling on 34 Colombian citizens for interviews by the selection committee. The Truth Commission comprises part of the Comprehensive System for Truth, Justice, Reparation, and Non-Repetition – delineated in the Final Accord - along with the transitional justice JEP mechanism and the Unit for the Search for Disappeared Persons. The Commission has juridical, administrative, budgetary, and technical autonomy.¹

Ten committee members were selected for the National Peace Council's National Committee. The Committee is charged with coordinating policies and initiatives throughout the territories in order to consolidate a political orientation towards reconciliation and a culture of peace in Colombia. The National Committee mandate includes putting into action the pedagogy of the peace accord through trainings on a culture of peace and the creation of a framework for a political culture of reconciliation.²

Colombian Armed Forces authorized to conduct air raids against FARC dissidents

On Tuesday, October 31st, the Defense Ministry announced that the armed forces are authorized to launch air raids against both criminal gangs and FARC dissident groups who are not participating in the peace process. Estimates approximate up to 1,000 members of the former guerrilla group who have decided to remain armed, engage in confrontations with the government, and participate in illegal economies. The air raids will only be permissible if civilian populations are not nearby.³

FARC Announces political candidates for the 2018 election cycle

On Wednesday, October 1st, the National Electoral Council approved the political party (6 in favor, 2 opposed) of the Revolutionary Alternative Force for the People (FARC). Following, the nascent political party announced its presidential candidate for the 2018: Rodrigo Londoño Echeverry (former alias "Timochenko"), accompanied by Vice Presidential candidate, Imelda Daza Cote. Candidates for the Senate include Iván Márquez, Pablo Catatumbo, and Carlos Antonio Lozada. The House of Representative candidates include Marco Calarcá and Jesús Santrich, among others.⁴

One-month balance of accounts in GoC-ELN bilateral ceasefire

After the first month of the bilateral ceasefire between the GoC and the ELN, government lead negotiator Juan Camilo Restrepo announced concerns about incidents like the assassination of the indigenous governor Aulio Isarama Forastero in the community of Alto Baudó in the department of Chocó, which occurred in the second to last week of October. The Verification Mission, which comprises members of the UN, the Catholic Church, and the two negotiating parties, is currently investigating the reported incidents in the first month.⁵