

PEACE MAIL

December 12-18

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.

Minister of the Interior, Guillermo Rivera, announced that the GoC plans to **continue processing legal projects related to the peace accord using normal legislative procedures** beginning in March of 2018, when the congresspersons return to their responsibilities amidst the electoral campaign season. This announcement was made in light of the fact that the *fast track* mechanism expired on November 30th.¹

In the Territorial Space for Training and Reincorporation (ETCR) Martín Villa, Arauca, **85 former guerrillas and 20 members of the communities surrounding the transitional zone attained their high school diplomas**, marking the largest graduation ceremony to date in any of the ETCR. The multi-sector collaboration was named as illustrative of the priority that education holds in the implementation process, and officials stated that this would be just the first of many waves of former combatants and community members to attain their high school degree.²

ELN willing to continue bilateral ceasefire

The ELN guerrilla group announced via Twitter that it would be willing to consider continuing the current bilateral ceasefire, which is scheduled to end on January 9th.³ To date, the General Secretary of the UN in Colombia, Antonio Guterres, says that the Mission has verified 27 incidents, although 35 cases have been presented for consideration. In all instances, the outcome has been positive in terms of the ceasefire – i.e., the ELN has not engaged in confrontations with the armed forces of Colombia. Overall, Guterres noted, violence has reduced and humanitarian conditions have improved. The departments of Chocó and Arauca reported the greatest number of incidents.⁴