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## PEACE MAIL

March 20-26

### WEEKLY UPDATE: Implementing the Peace Accords

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

The current government now has **three months to get the remaining legislation for the implementation of the Peace Accords through Congress**, in a persistently polemical atmosphere. Pending laws include the legal code under which the JEP will judge serious war crimes; the land law for the delivery of property to poor people in rural areas; the rural cadastral; the decriminalization of small-scale coca growers; and adjustments to the Development Plan to ensure the implementation of the Peace Accord is budgeted for. The 16 seats for victims in Congress and the political reform to guarantee greater transparency in the electoral system also await approval.<sup>1</sup> The FARC this week rejected the Government's new legal project for small-scale coca, marijuana, and opium poppy farmers.<sup>2</sup>

**The GOC and the ELN set out a roadmap for the 5<sup>th</sup> Round of negotiations in Quito** this week. The central issue will be a de-escalation of the conflict, particularly in areas where there have been confrontations between the ELN and other armed groups. The outlook is as follows: 23 March, a sub-committee will begin work on the mechanism and schedule for society participation in the peace process; 2 April, an evaluation of the ceasefire which ended on 9 January will begin; 5 April, negotiations will focus on how to reach a humanitarian agreement for the Chocó.<sup>3</sup>

A UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Colombia report expressed extreme concern with regards the **increase in assassinations and attacks against social leaders in the country**, presenting this issue as the primary challenge for the implementation of the Peace Accord. The UN recorded 441 attacks against human rights defenders last year, of which 121 were assassinations. The majority of cases occurred in areas with illegal economies, endemic violence, and higher than average multi-dimensional poverty. These are also areas where state presence is weakest, and several victims were attacked for supporting policies derived from the Peace Accords.<sup>4</sup>