

PEACE MAIL

April 17-23

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.

Jesús Santrich maintains his hunger strike in Bogotá's La Picota prison, where he awaits a decision on his extradition to the United States for drugs trafficking.¹ The habeas corpus case presented by his defense was rejected by the Supreme Court, which did not find the Attorney General's Office guilty of misconduct in his capture.² Although the FARC continues to support him, the **case has caused uncertainty amongst members** since leaders issued contrasting messages this week, with Londoño calling for calm and reminding members of their commitment to acting within the law, and Márquez calling on those in the Territorial to demand his immediate release.³ Márquez moved to the Miravalle territorial space in Caquetá, occupying the position left by "El Paisa" in protest at Santrich's imprisonment.⁴

The GOC launched a new oversight system for the implementation of post conflict funds and programs on 17 April. Ernst and Young will audit contracting carried out through the Colombian Peace Fund, and information will pass through the Public Contracting Electronic System (SECOP).⁵ This announcement responds to concerns voiced by Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland, who have donated almost half of the total resources, at the beginning of April. Although no corruption has been uncovered, the Attorney General warned that a network of intermediaries are likely managing and taking a cut of each contract awarded.⁶

The ELN and GOC peace delegations held their last meeting in Quito on 20 April, during which they discussed the possibility of moving the negotiations to Chile, which offered to act as host after Ecuadorian President Lenin Moreno announced that his country would no longer act as guarantor. Moreno's decision follows the confirmed deaths of three Ecuadorian journalists and the kidnapping of an Ecuadorian couple by FARC dissidents under the command of alias "Guacho."⁷ President Santos remained positive, stating that he hoped to leave the next president with some basic agreements, such as a ceasefire, already in place.⁸

A unified command post was installed in Ocaña, Norte de Santander, on 23 April, to tackle the humanitarian crisis affecting the Catatumbo region after 41 days of confrontations between the EPL ("los Pelusos") and the ELN. The initiative aims to guarantee humanitarian corridors for the transport of goods, agricultural products, and those in need of medical care. The measure comes after the meeting of 16 mayors from the Ocaña and southern Cesar region, community leaders, and a GOC delegation.⁹ They also discussed the consequences of the armed strike decreed by the EPL on April 15.¹⁰