

PEACE MAIL

May 15-21

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 possible extradition of Jesus Santrich has prompted a debate between the Attorney General's Office and the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) about the future of his case, the limits of transitional justice, and the ability for the JEP to make decisions while its Rules for Procedure are pending in Congress.¹ As a result, President Santos has called on Congress to approve said Rules as soon as possible.² The JEP began its work on 15 March of this year, but has been operating without this fundamental legislation. Among its key tasks is to review the cases of FARC former combatants and members of the Colombian military who admit to having committed crimes prior to the signing of the Peace Accord, which are not included in the Amnesty Law.

On the night of 18 May, an explosive device detonated at the residence of Carlos Andrés Bustos Cortes, member of the FARC political party, in Algeciras, Huila.³ While part of his home was destroyed, no injuries or deaths were reported. The commander of the police in Huila has committed to working with investigation experts and the military to collect evidence on the incident. Thirty-three FARC former combatants have been assassinated so far this year.⁴

Leader of the FARC, Rodrigo Lodoño "Timochenko" has invited former president Uribe to meet in front of the recently established Truth Commission to clarify "responsibilities of the past" and to publically apologize to those who were kidnapped by the FARC.⁵

The High Commissioner for Peace, Rafael Pardo, is in critical condition in hospital after suffering a ruptured aorta on Thursday, May 17th.⁶ No public update on his condition has been given since.

For a period of 5 days around the first round of the presidential elections, which take place next Sunday 27 May, the ELN has announced a unilateral ceasefire.⁷ However, presidential candidates have called for the ceasefire to be indefinite. The last ceasefire, which was bilateral, was observed between October 2017 and 12 January, 2018. As of the 10 May, the ELN and Colombian government have reinitiated peace talks in Havana, Cuba.

The Colombian Minister of Foreign Relations stated that the Colombian government will not recognize the results of the Venezuelan presidential election, which took place on Sunday, 20 May, citing the absence of legal guarantees, transparency, and international observance.⁸ The Lima Group, a multilateral body created to mediate the Venezuelan crisis, has announced that all 14 of its member countries have repudiated the elections and called for their ambassadors based in Caracas to exit the country. The Venezuelan government has reported that incumbent president Maduro won the election with 67.6% of the vote.⁹ The opposition called for its followers to boycott the election.