

PEACE MAIL

May 29 - June 4

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.

On Sunday 3 June, **the FARC denounced the assassination of one of its members in Ituango, Antioquia**, who was in process of reincorporation in the Santa Lucia Territorial Training and Reincorporation Space (ETCR). The FARC reported that the armed attack was carried out by individuals from Estiven Chica Chica, formerly known as the Arley Posada armed group. This incident comes after a series of assassinations of former FARC combatants last week in Cauca and Valle de Cauca. The number of former FARC combatants in processes of reintegration that have been assassinated since the signing of the Peace Accord is reported by the government at over 40, while the FARC claim that figure is over 60.¹

Congressman Samuel Hoyos has filed a complaint with the Office of the Inspector General accusing former Executive Secretary of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP), Néstor Raúl Correa, of overstepping his official duties in allowing six former members of the FARC to leave the country in March and April of this year.² Hoyos claims that while the Peace Accord allowed for the JEP to provisionally authorize former members of the FARC to leave the country, Correa was only allowed to do so until 15 January 2018, when the 31 magistrates of the JEP had been appointed and should have taken over the function. **The JEP stated that Correa did, indeed, act out of his powers** by allowing the six, who had applied for amnesty, to leave the country once the Board for Amnesty and Pardon had been established.³

The European Union (EU) High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy has announced that the EU will contribute an additional 15 million euros to its Trust Fund for the Colombian peace process. **The funds are designated for reincorporation of former FARC combatants.** The EU has already contributed 96.4 euros to supporting the implementation of the peace process.⁴

Four Afro-Colombian social leaders from El Naya who were kidnapped by dissents of the FARC at the end of April have been reported dead in a video that the armed group published on Sunday. Among other roles, the leaders were part of the Río Naya Community Council, which is one of the pacific regions in the Valle del Cauca most affected by armed conflict. The region is primarily inhabited by ethnic minorities.⁵ The high rates of **assassinations of human rights defenders in Colombia has prompted 73 members of the United States Congress to sign a letter** urging U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and the Trump Administration to protect Colombian social leaders through increased assistance.⁶