

## **PEACE MAIL**

July 24-30

### **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 (GOC) and the FARC in Colombia.

Last Wednesday the presidents of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) and of the Truth Commission requested that President Juan Manuel Santos urgently act on the process of setting up of the Unit for the Search of Missing Persons.<sup>1</sup> The deadline to define the structure, layout and definitive nomenclature of the Unit was 15 July, but the government has yet to respond. A partial team has been working for the Unit since the beginning of the year, after a decree was issued establishing a period of 5 months to put the entity into operation.<sup>2</sup>

More than one week after the installation of Congress, uncertainty looms regarding two out of the FARC's ten seats.<sup>3</sup> The resignation of FARC member Jairo González Mora, due to health concerns, was confirmed by the House of Representatives on Thursday.<sup>4</sup> Former chief negotiator of the FARC, Iván Márquez Marín, has not communicated with Congress regarding his absence. Some have suggested that Márquez is waiting for the judge's ruling on case of Jesus Santrich, which will determine whether he is able to take office. The Constitution states that the deadline for taking office is eight days after installment, but it is unclear whether it refers to eight working days or calendar days.

Senator Álvaro Uribe, former president of Colombia, resigned from the Senate on 24 July, after the Supreme Court of Justice disclosed that he and fellow senator Álvaro Prada would be investigated for crimes of bribery and procedural fraud that took place this year, relating to witness tampering.<sup>5,6</sup> His resignation has been met with a wide array of politically-charged responses.

The Ombudsperson's Office reported this week that almost 18,000 Colombians were displaced during the first half of 2018 due to causes associated with internal armed conflict.<sup>7</sup> Norte de Santander registered 54% of those displaced and other affected departments included Antioquia, Córdoba, Chocó, Valle del Cauca, Cauca, Nariño, Risaralda, Guaviare, Arauca y Meta. This number is significantly higher than the 12,841 who were displaced during all of 2017.

The National Liberation Army (ELN) confirmed that they will continue peace talks with the incoming government after Iván Duque takes office as president on 7 August.<sup>8</sup> In coming days, the sixth round of Peace Talks with delegates of President Santos will conclude after 17 months of negotiation. The signing of a temporary bilateral ceasefire is expected before the end of this round.