

## **PEACE MAIL**

July 31 - August 6

### **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.

The first two regional pacts, known as Action Plans for Regional Transformation, of the Program for Development with a Territorial Approach (PDET) were signed by President Santos last week.<sup>1</sup> Southern Bolívar and Arauca were the first of 16 regions to successfully construct a regional roadmap for development, which relied on the contributions of over 12,000 people from 11 municipalities, who participated in local workshops to assess community issues and establish development priorities. The PDETs were outlined in the first point of the Peace Accord, which addresses comprehensive rural reforms.

Ten reports detailing crimes committed by the FARC and the Colombian Armed Forces since 1958 were delivered to the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP), the Truth Commission, and the Unit for the Search of Missing Persons this week.<sup>1</sup> The reports, which include documentation of 353,531 acts of violence, were compiled for over ten years by the Center for Historic Memory. Additionally, the Network of Women Victims and Professionals and other groups delivered to the same bodies a set of reports on 2,000 documented cases of sexual violence.<sup>2</sup> In other news at the JEP, María del Pilar Bahamón Falla took office as the new Executive Secretary last week.<sup>3</sup>

The sixth round of negotiations between the ELN and the Colombian government ended on 31 July with no agreement for a ceasefire; however, a declaration was shared stating that the best way to achieve a political solution was dialogue.<sup>4</sup> Just days later, 1,155 organizations and social leaders who convened in the National Meeting for Peace sent a letter requesting President-elect Iván Duque to continue peace negotiations with the ELN.<sup>5</sup>

The death toll of the massacre committed in El Tarra, Catatumbo on 30 July rose to 10 this week, as a former member of the FARC guerilla died in the hospital.<sup>6</sup> Three other former members of the FARC and six locals, including a community leader, were among the victims of the attack, in which 10 armed men opened fire in a local billiard hall. The attackers have not yet been identified, although authorities are investigating possible connections to the on-going conflict between the EPL and the ELN armed groups.<sup>7</sup>