

 PEACE MAIL

September 11-17

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 **Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) will study the case of Pedro Luis Zuleta**, former FARC member facing extradition to the United States for drug trafficking. Zuleta was director of finances for the FARC in southern Cauca, where he was involved in the payment, taxing, and trade of coca and cocaine, and is wanted in Cali for extortive kidnapping, rebellion, and carrying a weapon. He was captured when beginning reintegration in June 2017, but was released when the High Commissioner for Peace accepted his accredited membership of the former guerrilla group. The JEP's Review Section will consider 46 extradition cases, of which Zuleta's is the second after that of Jesús Santrich.¹

On 10 September, the **JEP issued an ultimatum to the 31 former FARC commanders involved in case 001 on illegal retentions**, giving them 10 working days to report on their legal obligations to transitional justice. Failure to report on their reintegration and contributions to the truth and the search for missing persons may result in the loss of benefits offered by transitional justice. The whereabouts of Iván Márquez, Iván Darío Velásquez (El "Paisa"), José Manuel Sierra Sabogal, Henry Castellanos ("Romaña"), and three other leaders of Territorial Reincorporation and Capacitation Spaces (ETCR) are still unknown.² A Peace Commission led by senator Iván Cepeda received confirmation that Iván Márquez and "El Paisa" remain committed to the peace process, but called on them to make this statement official, and on the GOC to build trust with regards extradition.³ In related news, the leader of the FARC, Rodrigo Londoño, called on President Duque to **reactivate the Commission for Monitoring, Promotion, and Verification** (of Peace Accord implementation),⁴ and the **UN Verification Mission has been renewed** until 25 September 2019.⁵

The **"Mothers of Soacha" delivered their report on false positives to the JEP** on 14 September, detailing 19 cases of extrajudicial killings of young men who were reported as deaths in combat.⁶ On 13 September, General Montoya Uribe appeared before the JEP for cases including false positives, but reiterated his innocence with regards extrajudicial killings committed during his leadership.⁷

The **Centro Democrático presented a project to reform Law 1448**, igniting a debate over the scope of land restitution. Criticism of the reforms focuses on the relegation of victims' rights to the needs of current occupants of lands which were forcefully abandoned or dispossessed, and highlights the need to distinguish between vulnerable populations and those who took advantage of generalized violence to buy or expropriate lands.⁸ The GOC has also presented a **judicial reform project**,⁹ leaving the structure of the Judicial Branch unchanged, but limiting the use of *tutela* (protective actions); altering the election of senior state officials; and limiting magistrates' powers to recommend people for executive positions.¹⁰

On 12 September, the **ELN released six people kidnapped in the Chocó** on 3 August in a gesture which may help break the deadlock over the resumption of peace talks. The impasse results from key differences in the two sides' objectives, with the GOC focusing on the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of ELN combatants, and the guerrilla group seeking social transformation.¹¹ The GOC has called for the release of hostages, and the cessation of kidnappings, recruitment of minors, drug trafficking, and use of Venezuelan territory as preconditions to continuing talks, while the ELN continues to assert its position as an insurgent, rather than criminal, movement.¹²