

December 4-10

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) requested information on the whereabouts of Hernán Dario Velázquez Saldarriaga (alias “El Paisa”), former commander of the FARC, on 6 December. The JEP gave 11 public entities 10-15 working days to deliver information on his location and the possible regrouping and rearming of structures operating under him. The decree follows the JEP’s 10 September call for the 31 former FARC combatants involved in Case 001 to report on their reincorporation. Velázquez was the only one not to respond; neither did he appear before the JEP or designate a lawyer to represent him when the case opened.¹ If he does not show evidence of his commitment to reincorporation, truth, and victims’ reparations, the JEP could permit his arrest and withdraw other benefits offered him through the Peace Accord.²

The GOC, donor countries, and the UN have agreed to **continue the Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Colombia (MPTF), with a further US\$28.5 million** for the consolidation of peace. In its second phase, which will last until December 2022, the MPTF will support projects in the 16 regions with an Action Plan for Regional Transformation, made up of 170 Development with a Territorial Focus Programs (PDET) municipalities.³

The **National Summit of Women and Peace shared an assessment of women’s rights** in the implementation of the Peace Accord on 5 December, highlighting the inclusion of women (though without statistics) in educational, economic, social, and cultural programs in ETCRs. Positive results cited include the 1,615 land titles for women (47.5% of the total) delivered by the National Land Agency (ANT) thanks to their preferential access criteria for women in rural areas, victims, and heads of household; women’s leadership in 50% of PDETs;⁴ and the 53% of JEP magistrates and 45% of Truth Commissioners who are women.⁵

Civil society organizations denounced impunity in the assassinations of social leaders and human rights defenders to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on 6 December. The organizations demanded the results of investigations be shared, and called on the Attorney General’s Office to focus on sentencing and revealing the networks behind these crimes, whilst also condemning the suggestion they are linked with drug trafficking or crimes of passion. The organizations also called on the State to commit to a protection policy that goes beyond militarization.⁶ “Bulletproof Voices,” a new civil society project seeking to protect the rights of social leaders, was also launched this week, publishing 11 tales of resistance. The first-person accounts are designed to draw attention to these cases and the impact they have had on the most affected and marginalized regions, as well as the positive implications of social struggles for Colombia as a whole.⁷ The UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights, Michel Forst, delivered his report after a two-week visit on 4 December, highlighting the convergence of assassinations of human rights defenders with illegal economies, poverty, limited State presence, and delays in the implementation of the Peace Accord in territories contested by illegal armed groups.⁸ The *Fundación Ideas para la Paz* also linked these factors with gender-based violence in Tumaco in a report published on 5 December.⁹

The **Autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia (or the Clan del Golfo) armed group have announced a unilateral ceasefire** to cover the Christmas period from 8 December to 10 January 2019. The group called on others to contribute to peace, whilst also indicating that they would redouble their political, social, and military presence to “offer tranquility, security, and protection to communities in popular neighborhoods and economic unions.”¹⁰ Two Indigenous community members were kidnapped by an unknown armed group in Cauca on 7 December.¹¹