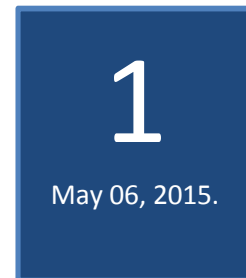




# Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

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## 1. Background

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## 2. GOC – FARC Key Developments from April 29<sup>th</sup> – May 5<sup>th</sup>

### Public opinion of talks drops after FARC attack

The most recent peace-related Gallup poll demonstrated a 17% drop in public opinion with regard to whether the peace process is the best way to end the conflict. This result came after the group's attack in on April 14<sup>th</sup>, which left 11 soldiers dead.<sup>1</sup> Optimism in response to other questions about the peace process did not change, but opinion of Santos dropped.<sup>2</sup>

### De-mining plan advances, first locations identified

The GOC and FARC commission on de-mining has progressed in de-mining planning, stated the two parts on Monday. The first locations in which de-mining activities will be conducted have been identified, but will not be announced until the local authorities have confirmed their participation. The commission aims to facilitate the initiation of de-mining activities as soon as possible.<sup>3</sup> Meanwhile, the FARC have requested the immediate implementation of the partial agreement on illegal drugs. The GOC has not responded to this request.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/encuesta-gallup-apoyo-a-dialogos-cae-17-puntos/15660279>

<sup>2</sup> <http://lasillavacia.com/historia/no-es-pesimismo-son-santos-y-la-paz-50173>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/gobierno-y-farc-planean-iniciar-desminado-cuanto-antes-articulo-558480>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-pide-inmediata-aplicacion-de-acuerdo-sobre-drogas-articulo-557917>



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## 3. GOC – ELN Key Developments from April 29<sup>th</sup> – May 5<sup>th</sup>

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### **FARC calls for start to ELN talks**

FARC called for the ELN and GOC to initiate formal talks soon, saying that an agreement between them is necessary as there is only one conflict, so its end must include all parties.<sup>5</sup>

## 4. International

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### **Do all FARC members really follow their commanders: Mujica**

Ex-President of Uruguay José Mujica has supported the GOC-FARC peace talks since their initiation, and was interviewed by El País last week. He discussed his optimism about the dialogues, and his view on why a negotiated settlement is the best solution to the Colombian conflict. He also questioned whether the entire FARC organization really obeys the high commanders who are at the dialogue table in Havana.<sup>6</sup>

### **Muhammed Yunus discusses micro-finance for the post-conflict phase**

Micro-finance and poverty expert Muhammed Yunus was interviewed by El Tiempo. In the article, he discusses how the Campo Vivo model currently used by his foundation in Colombia could be adapted for the post-conflict phase in order to ensure greater income generation and sustainable livelihoods for the most vulnerable communities.<sup>7</sup>

## 5. Other Voices

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### **Broad Front for Peace calls for bilateral ceasefire**

The social organizations that make up the left-leaning Broad Front for Peace (Frente Amplio por la Paz) called on the GOC to agree to a bilateral ceasefire. They also called for all actions possible to be taken to end the conflict and its violence as soon as possible.<sup>8</sup>

## 6. Emerging Challenges and Responses

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### **Ex-President Uribe and GOC discuss peace process**

Ex-President Alvaro Uribe has long expressed his disagreement with the way the GOC-FARC peace process is being conducted, criticizing aspects such as the suspension of bombing against the FARC and the partial agreements that have been reached so far. After widespread calls for Uribe and his followers to start a more constructive dialogue with the GOC, Uribe finally met with Minister of the Presidency Nestor Humberto Martínez to express his concerns and enter a more direct debate.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/proceso-de-paz-farc-insta-al-arranque-formal-de-dialogos-de-paz-entre-eln-y-gobierno-/15673036>

<sup>6</sup> [http://internacional.elpais.com/internacional/2015/05/05/actualidad/1430833813\\_436915.html](http://internacional.elpais.com/internacional/2015/05/05/actualidad/1430833813_436915.html)

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/economia/sectores/entrevista-con-muhammad-yunus/15670475>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/frente-amplio-paz-insiste-al-gobierno-y-farc-un-alto-bi-articulo-558568>

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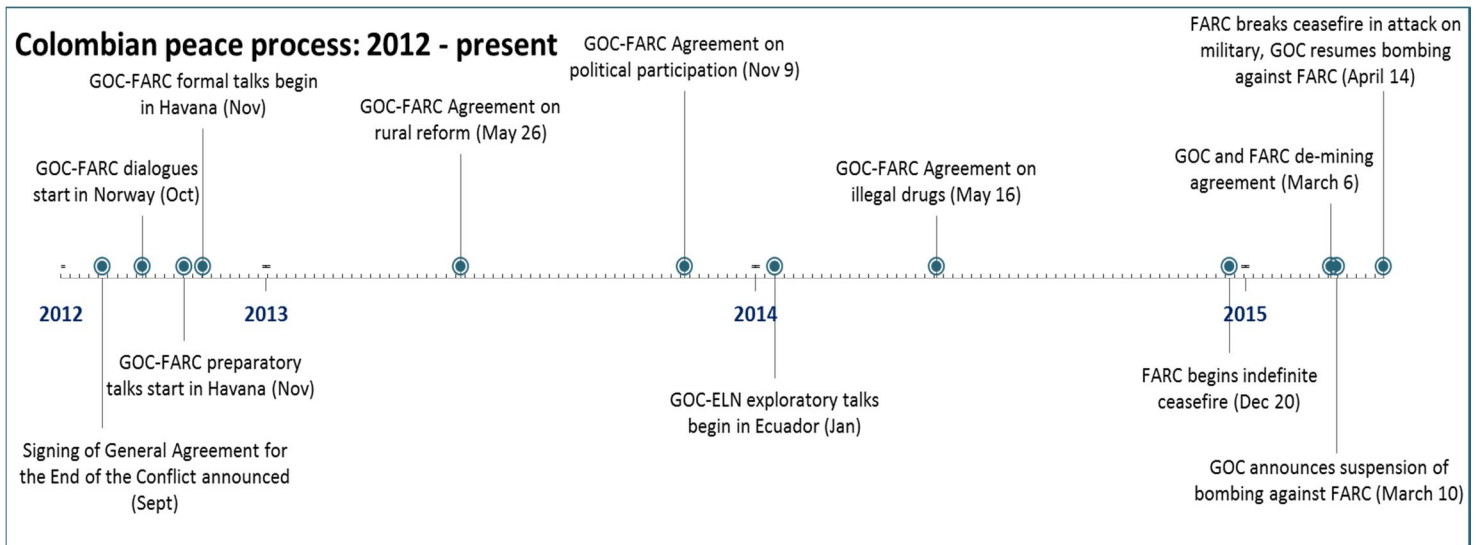
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Some analysts believe that President Santos is trying to bring Uribe onboard in order to strengthen public opinion of the talks, while others state that Uribe's supporters had begun to call for him to take a more participatory and constructive role in debates surrounding the peace process.<sup>9</sup>

### Financial plans for post-conflict: a key part of the process

El Espectador published an article highlighting the importance of strong financial planning as part of preparations for the post-conflict stage. The article says that such planning should be based on four pillars: 1) a strong institutional framework for the mobilization of peace-related resources; 2) a financial system dedicated to post-conflict projects; 3) a system supporting investments for peace; and 4) effective monitoring and evaluation systems.<sup>10</sup>

## 7. Timeline



## 8. Further Reading

### Eleven peace-related lessons for Colombia

El Tiempo compiled "lessons learned" for Colombia, taken from national and international peace processes. The eleven lessons range from the idea that peace processes are opportunities to address historically entrenched issues and the affirmation that it must be clear to civil society that the post-conflict phase can last decades, to the proposal that communications strategies must

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/gobierno/uribe-y-santos-que-hay-detras-de-su-acercamiento-/15675175>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/posconflicto-estrategia-financiera-de-paz-articulo-558233>



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make every individual feel engaged with peace and the notion that peacebuilding must begin now and must not depend on the final peace agreements.<sup>11</sup>

### **Truth Commission expert discusses peace in Colombia**

Carlos Beristain is an expert on truth commissions and has participated in various such bodies around the world. In interview with Verdad Abierta, Beristain discussed the GOC-FARC talks, their progress on topics relating to justice and truth, and the types of truth mechanism that could be used in Colombia.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/posconflicto-en-colombia/15659117>

<sup>12</sup> [www.verdadabierta.com/procesos-de-paz/farc/5742-no-hay-que-tenerle-miedo-a-una-comision-de-la-verdad-carlos-beristain](http://www.verdadabierta.com/procesos-de-paz/farc/5742-no-hay-que-tenerle-miedo-a-una-comision-de-la-verdad-carlos-beristain)

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### 2. GOC – FARC Key Developments from May 6<sup>th</sup> – May 12<sup>th</sup>

#### **Two FARC commanders to participate directly in de-mining**

Two un-named FARC commanders will travel to Colombia from Cuba to participate directly in de-mining efforts to begin soon. After providing support to the initiation of the de-mining program, which resulted from a GOC-FARC agreement on March 6<sup>th</sup> 2015, the two will return to Havana to continue their role in the peace talks.<sup>13</sup> The design of the de-mining program was confirmed by the GOC-FARC dialogue table and will be implemented by the Armed Forces De-mining Battalion and members of the FARC, with support from Norwegian People's Aid.<sup>14</sup>

#### **GOC open to possibility of Constituent Assembly**

After months of rejecting the idea of holding a Constituent Assembly to gain popular approval of a peace agreement, the GOC indicated it could be open to discussing such a mechanism. Minister of the Interior Juan Fernando Cristo said the GOC would be open to public debate about abandoning the idea of a referendum and holding a Constituent Assembly in the future.<sup>15</sup>

#### **FARC claim agreement on victims is close**

The FARC claimed that the foundations for an agreement on victims have been laid, and that an agreement could be reached soon. However, they said that they have yet to hear all GOC proposals on this point. The GOC neither confirmed nor denied that an agreement on victims is

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/dos-negociadores-de-farc-cuba-regresaran-colombia-apoya-articulo-559948>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/dialogos-de-paz-gobierno-y-farc-ya-tienen-ruta-para-implementar-desminado/15712659>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/gobierno-no-descarta-refrendar-acuerdo-farc-asamblea-co-articulo-559164>

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close.<sup>16</sup> Meanwhile, the technical sub-commission on the End of the Conflict continues joint work on a DDR model and other components of the official conclusion to the armed violence.<sup>17</sup>

### 3. GOC – ELN Key Developments from May 6<sup>th</sup> – May 12<sup>th</sup>

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#### **FARC and ELN commanders met in Havana**

FARC commander ‘Timochenko’ and ELN commander ‘Gabino’ met in Havana in late April to discuss their respective groups’ efforts to secure a negotiated settlement with the GOC. Both sides presented the progress made in the talks they are holding with the GOC, and discussed ways to ensure that the ELN enter formal talks as soon as possible and that a true end of the conflict can be obtained.<sup>18</sup> The GOC clarified that the FARC-ELN meeting did not take place at the GOC-FARC dialogue table, and was permitted in hopes of coordinating the two processes and thereby the two possible final agreements.<sup>19</sup>

### 4. International

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#### **Apartheid expert discusses difficulties of peace**

The South African philosopher Willie Esterhuysen, who supported the talks that brought an end to Apartheid in his country, discussed lessons from South Africa that could be applied to the Colombian peace process. He said that the transformation of society and the termination of structural violence require time and patience, and the signature of an agreement is only the beginning of the process of reconstruction and peacebuilding. He also emphasized the importance of bottom-up peace initiatives.<sup>20</sup>

#### **Nicaraguan ex-guerrilla leader expresses optimism over talks**

Sergio Ramírez, an ex-guerrilla leader who fought against the Somoza dictatorship in Nicaragua, was in Bogota to promote his book. He discussed the difficulties of achieving peace while the conflict is still occurring, and highlighted his optimism regarding President Santos’ determination to continue the GOC-FARC talks even while others criticize him for doing so.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-dice-hay-bases-suficientes-materializar-punto-sobr-articulo-558957>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/generales-colombianos-y-guerrilleros-preparan-el-fin-de-articulo-558954>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/ni-gabino-ni-timochenko-han-participado-mesa-de-negocio-articulo-560033>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/santos-autorizo-reunion-de-timochenko-y-gabino/15734135>

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/paz-vista-un-experto-del-apartheid-articulo-559275>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/el-unico-camino-de-farc-son-elecciones-sergio-ramirez-articulo-559145>



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## UN Resident Coordinator discusses peace and justice

UN Resident Coordinator in Colombia Fabrizio Hoschild was interviewed by El Tiempo. In the article, he stresses a need for efforts to inform the population about the tensions between justice and peace, and about the international justice system's function of supporting peace processes around the world. He also addressed the importance of truth in victims' reparations and in bringing the conflict to a close.<sup>22</sup>

## 5. Other Voices

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### AGO highlights need for institutional restructuring

Attorney General Eduardo Montealegre stated that in the case of a peace agreement, the justice system and overall institutional framework around justice and peace in Colombia must be restructured. He also discussed the possibility of a Constituent Assembly, which he said would have limitations in terms of how much of the Constitution it could modify, but would be advantageous due to its inclusion of all actors in the conflict, as well as civil society.<sup>23</sup>

## 6. Emerging Challenges and Responses

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### GOC has identified land for restitution

The GOC has identified land that could be used for restitution and titling programs that result from the agreement on integral rural reform. Most of this land will come from state-owned properties, or properties that have been usurped from the State. However, although the land has been identified, it will be very difficult to hand it over to program beneficiaries due to disorganization in the institutional processes surrounding titling and purchase. The GOC has yet to define specific adjustments that must be made in order to implement these programs.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/proceso-de-paz-entrevista-con-coordinador-de-onu-en-colombia-fabrizio-hochschild/15735395>

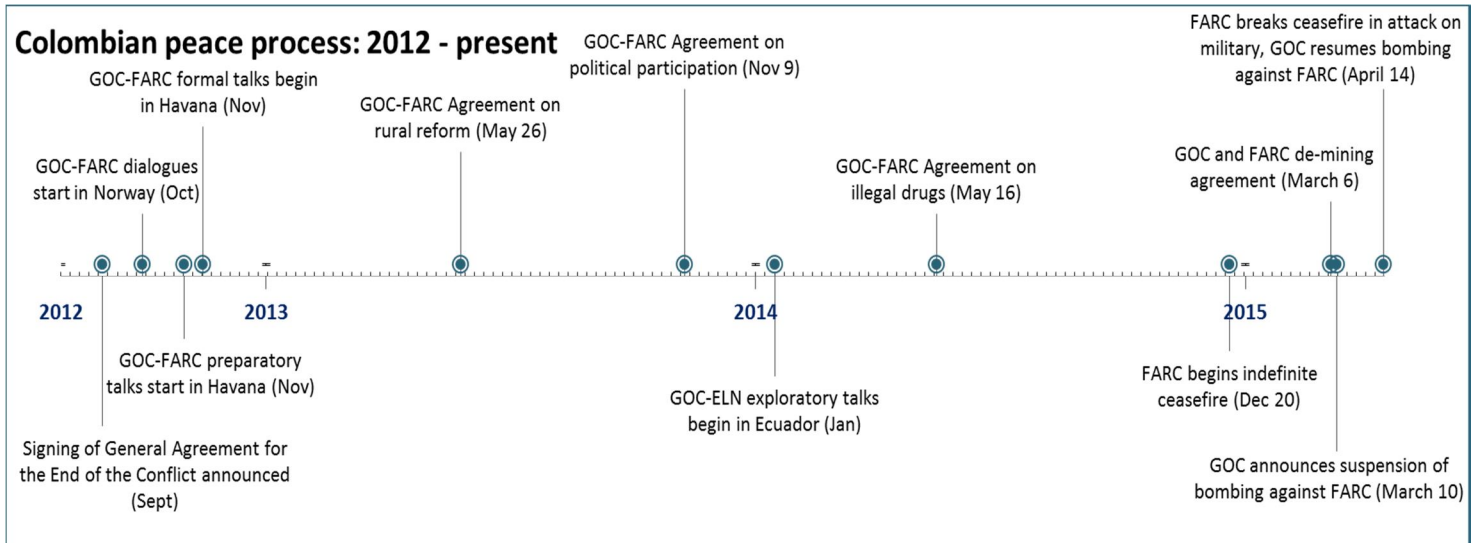
<sup>23</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/proceso-de-paz-tiene-terminar-un-gran-rediseño-institucional-artículo-560041>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/4-millones-de-hectareas-para-el-posconflicto/15727295>

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### 7. Timeline



### 8. Further Reading

#### Verdad Abierta interview with three female FARC dialogue team members

Verdad Abierta interviewed three female members of the FARC dialogue team: Yira Castro, Mireya Andrade, and Erika Montero. All agreed that the talks would progress more rapidly if there were more women at the dialogue table, as women are more effective negotiators and their desire for peace is stronger. They also addressed the role and impact of the gender sub-commission in the dialogues, and denied that sexual violence occurs within the ranks of the FARC.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.verdadabierta.com/procesos-de-paz/farc/5752-si-en-la-mesa-hubiera-mas-mujeres-iria-mas-rapido>



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### 2. GOC – FARC Key Developments from May 13<sup>th</sup> – May 19<sup>th</sup>

#### **De-mining to begin in Antioquia without FARC commanders**

Pilot programs to conduct de-mining in the framework of the partial GOC-FARC agreement on this topic are set to begin soon in Antioquia. The governor of that department, Sergio Fajardo, affirmed that implementation is almost ready, but that no FARC commanders will participate in the de-mining efforts. The FARC confirmed that despite President Santos' recent statement that two FARC commanders would travel to Colombia to support initial de-mining efforts, they did not consider this a viable option and will support the efforts from Cuba.<sup>26</sup>

### 3. GOC – ELN Key Developments from May 13<sup>th</sup> – May 19<sup>th</sup>

#### **Ecuador renews offer to facilitate talks**

President Rafael Correa of Ecuador reiterated his country's offer to facilitate GOC-ELN talks, stating his hope that they will become formal soon.<sup>27</sup> Meanwhile, FARC leaders have stated their

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/gobernacion-de-antioquia-descarta-participacion-de-jefe-articulo-560288> and <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/jefes-de-farc-cuba-no-vendran-apoyar-labores-de-desmina-articulo-560133>

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/ecuador-se-ofrece-acoger-nuevos-contactos-entre-colombi-articulo-560354>

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belief that the ELN should become part of the GOC-FARC process in order to consolidate efforts to sign a peace agreement and bring a true end to the conflict.<sup>28</sup>

### **ELN talks agenda must include ceasefire and disarmament**

GOC dialogue team leader Humberto de la Calle affirmed that an agenda for GOC-ELN talks must include ceasefire and disarmament, to ensure that these topics are addressed and produce agreements as part of the dialogues. He also reiterated the GOC's desire to formalize talks with the ELN.<sup>29</sup>

## 4. International

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### **ICC emphasizes need for punishment of ultimately responsible**

Deputy Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court James Stewart was in Colombia last week, where he spoke at an El Tiempo forum on peace and transitional justice. Stewart addressed the fact that countries have the discretion to design transitional justice mechanisms that respond to their own needs, culture, and objectives, but highlighted that those considered ultimately responsible for crimes against humanity must be punished through alternative sentences.<sup>30</sup> Attorney General Eduardo Montealegre echoed this statement, emphasizing that the FARC cannot expect impunity or amnesty for grave crimes, but rather must face some kind of punishment.<sup>31</sup>

## 5. Other Voices

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### **People's Ombudsman to victimization report to FARC**

Representatives from the People's Ombudsman's Office will travel to Havana to present a report on kidnapping, illegal recruitment, and sexual violence to the FARC, with the goal of highlighting these types of victimization and making recommendations about how to address their reparations.<sup>32</sup>

### **Church representative discusses peace**

Monsignor Hector Fabio Henao, Director of the church-based group Pastoral Social, discussed the organization's peacebuilding efforts and his views on the peace process. Henao emphasized the importance of generating spaces for regional dialogue about peace, and of distributing

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<sup>28</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/urgente-eln-se-vincule-proceso-de-paz-timochenko-articulo-560247>

<sup>29</sup> [www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/proceso-de-paz-no-se-inicia-dialogo-con-eln-si-no-se-discute-cese-del-fuego-de-la-calle-15753355](http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/proceso-de-paz-no-se-inicia-dialogo-con-eln-si-no-se-discute-cese-del-fuego-de-la-calle-15753355)

<sup>30</sup> [www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/foro-de-el-tiempo-sobre-justicia-transicional-discurso-del-vicefiscal-de-la-cpi-15748962](http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/foro-de-el-tiempo-sobre-justicia-transicional-discurso-del-vicefiscal-de-la-cpi-15748962)

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/imposible-construir-un-modelo-de-justicia-transicional-articulo-561300>

<sup>32</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/defensoria-presentara-farc-informe-sobre-reclutamiento-articulo-560704>



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information about the peace talks so that the population believes that a final agreement would have the capacity to bring about real change in Colombia.<sup>33</sup>

### 6. Emerging Challenges and Responses

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#### **High Commissioner highlights need to extract politics from peace**

High Commissioner for Peace Sergio Jaramillo spoke at Oxford University last week, highlighting the need for peace to be less political, and less associated with one party or another. He also stressed that regional contexts and requirements are at the center of the talks, and that the dialogue teams are making sure that the peace agreements are relevant to those most affected by the conflict.<sup>34</sup>

#### **Public opinion of peace talks decreases**

Survey “Pulso Pais” found that the percentage of the public who believes that the FARC have legitimate intentions in the peace talks dropped from 31% in April to 19% in May. In addition, those who agreed with the way President Santos is managing the talks dropped from 40% in April to 24% in May. These drops could be the result of the FARC breaking its ceasefire on April 14<sup>th</sup>, which caused widespread public criticism of the peace process.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/entrevista-con-el-director-de-pastoral-social/15773382>

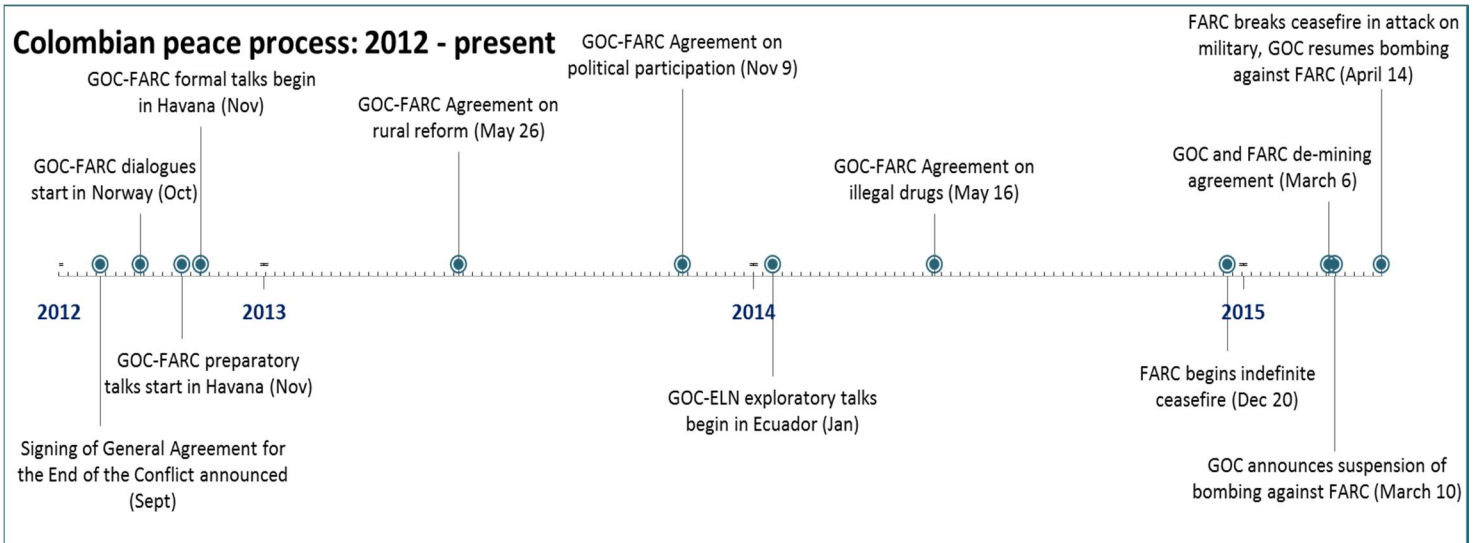
<sup>34</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/politica-no-puede-estar-encima-de-paz-sergio-jaramillo-articulo-560537>

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/confianza-de-los-colombianos-en-el-proceso-de-paz/15750135>

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### 7. Timeline



### 8. Further Reading

#### Director of Land Restitution discusses institutional objectives for 2015

Ricardo Sabogal, the Director of the Land Restitution Agency, wrote an article for *El Tiempo* in which he describes his institution's objectives for 2015 and for the coming post-conflict phase. These include restituting 40% of the land requests currently being processed within the coming year, and streamlining restitution processes so that they are more efficient in the post-conflict phase.<sup>36</sup>

#### *El Tiempo* analyzes justice options for the FARC

*El Tiempo* published an article that analyzed Colombia's options in terms of the type of justice that can be applied to the FARC. The article addresses international standards and concepts such as conventionality, the inclusion of victims' rights in justice planning, and the need to obtain popular approval of a final peace agreement.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>36</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/restitucion-de-tierras-primera-cuota-para-el-posconflicto/15773388>

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/proceso-de-paz-justicia/15779376>

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### 2. GOC – FARC Key Developments from May 20<sup>th</sup> – May 26<sup>th</sup>

#### **FARC suspend unilateral ceasefire**

On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, the FARC announced the suspension of their unilateral ceasefire, five months after it was implemented on December 20<sup>th</sup> 2014. The FARC blame the suspension on the Colombian Government, stating that despite their own efforts to maintain their truce, it has become militarily impossible not to respond to the onslaught of the armed forces around the country, especially given a recent military attack that left 26 guerrilla members dead.<sup>38</sup> President Santos responded to the FARC's announcement, affirming that the military is prepared for the guerrilla group to resume operations and that the government will continue to work towards a peace agreement at the dialogue table in Havana.<sup>39</sup>

Analysts and the Ministry of Defense agree that now that their ceasefire is broken, the FARC's first targets will be infrastructure such as pipelines and highways, so measures are being taken to protect these structures and their surrounding communities.<sup>40</sup> Think tank CERAC had reported an 85% reduction in violence in areas controlled by the FARC during the first four months of the ceasefire, with a slight increase in the last month with the attack in Cauca.<sup>41</sup>

<sup>38</sup> [www.pazfarc-ep.org/index.php/noticias-comunicados-documentos-farc-ep/estado-mayor-central-emc/2714-farc-suspenden-cese-al-fuego-unilateral](http://www.pazfarc-ep.org/index.php/noticias-comunicados-documentos-farc-ep/estado-mayor-central-emc/2714-farc-suspenden-cese-al-fuego-unilateral)

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/farc-suspenden-el-cese-unilateral-del-fuego-respuesta-de-santos/15803957>

<sup>40</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/proceso-de-paz-infraestructura-el-primer-frente-a-proteger-tras-fin-de-la-tregua/15812219>

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/tan-efectiva-fue-tregua-de-farc-articulo-562078>



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## GOC calls for FARC to stop planting mines, start committing to peace

GOC dialogue team leader Humberto de la Calle urged the FARC to stop planting mines and to commit to peace more fully.<sup>42</sup> President Santos and Minister of the Interior Juan Fernando Cristo also called for the FARC to recognize the Colombian public's need for peace and to accelerate the pace of the dialogues to reach an agreement as soon as possible, adding that the suspension of the FARC ceasefire confirms that conditions are not right for a bilateral ceasefire.<sup>43</sup> These calls come at a time of great tension regarding the peace process and its relationship to conflict dynamics on the ground, as the FARC suspended their unilateral ceasefire last week after a military attack that killed 26 of their members.<sup>44</sup> The FARC stated their continued commitment to peace, but did not directly respond to de la Calle or Santos' declarations.<sup>45</sup>

## 3. International

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### Santos to talk to Pope about peace

President Santos will travel to Italy next week to meet with Pope Francis and discuss a range of issues affecting Colombia, including the peace process. He stated his hope that the Catholic leader will help him to make the right decisions at this tense moment in the dialogues.<sup>46</sup>

### UN concerned over conflict escalation

The UN in Colombia expressed its concern about recent escalations in conflict-related violence, which have occurred in the last month leading up to the FARC's suspension of its unilateral ceasefire. The UN statement said that concrete progress must be made in the peace talks so that an agreement, and peace, can soon be achieved.<sup>47</sup>

### China to donate US\$8 million to post-conflict phase

On a recent visit to Colombia, Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang confirmed that his country is committed to donating US\$8 million to Colombia's post-conflict reconstruction and development efforts. Li Keqiang and President Santos also discussed possible trade agreements between their two countries.<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>42</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/proceso-de-paz-gobierno-pide-a-las-farc-no-sembrar-mas-minas-/15794879>

<sup>43</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/proceso-de-paz-santos-pide-celeridad/15810015> and

<http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/no-hay-condiciones-declarar-un-cese-al-fuego-bilateral-articulo-562101>

<sup>44</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/proceso-de-paz-mesa-de-la-habana-mas-alla-de-la-guerra-en-colombia/15812217>

<sup>45</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/farc-continuan-en-el-proceso-de-paz/15820058>

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/santos-viajara-italia-dialogar-papa-francisco-acerca-de-articulo-562291>

<sup>47</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/onu-se-declara-preocupada-escalamiento-del-conflicto-co-articulo-562053>

<sup>48</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/china-donara-ocho-millones-de-dolares-el-posconflicto-articulo-561918>

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### 4. Other Voices

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#### **Debate on future of armed forces hears from all sides**

A Senate debate on the post-conflict future of the police and military heard a range of opinions last week, including Minister of Defense Juan Pablo Rodríguez, who opined that the number of soldiers and police personnel on the group should remain the same in the post-conflict. This, he said, is due to the fact that new violence could erupt in the post-conflict stage and the State must be able to respond.<sup>49</sup> Liberal Party Senator Juan Manuel Galán and Policy General Rodolfo Palomino agreed that the police should be “demilitarized” as part of the institution’s preparation for the post-conflict phase.<sup>50</sup>

### 5. Emerging Challenges and Responses

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#### **Chancellor Holguin aims to convince FARC to accelerate talks**

Chancellor Maria Angela Holguin has gone to Cuba with the goal of convincing the FARC to accelerate the pace of the talks. She will present the guerrilla group commanders with a range of arguments about why they should work to reach a peace agreement as soon as possible. The main argument is that international support for the peace process will wane, if it has not begun to do so already, if demonstrable progress is not made.<sup>51</sup>

#### **Critics must be engaged in peace talks: Ordóñez**

Inspector General Alejandro Ordóñez stated that given current tensions in the peace talks caused by recent escalations in the conflict, peace process critics and sectors that have not been involved in the talks should be more directly engaged in order to ensure broader support and legitimacy of the process.<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/posconflicto-pie-de-fuerza-debe-mantenerse-intacto-fuer-articulo-562727>

<sup>50</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/proceso-de-paz-proponen-desmilitarizacion-de-la-policia-en-el-posconflicto/15830178>

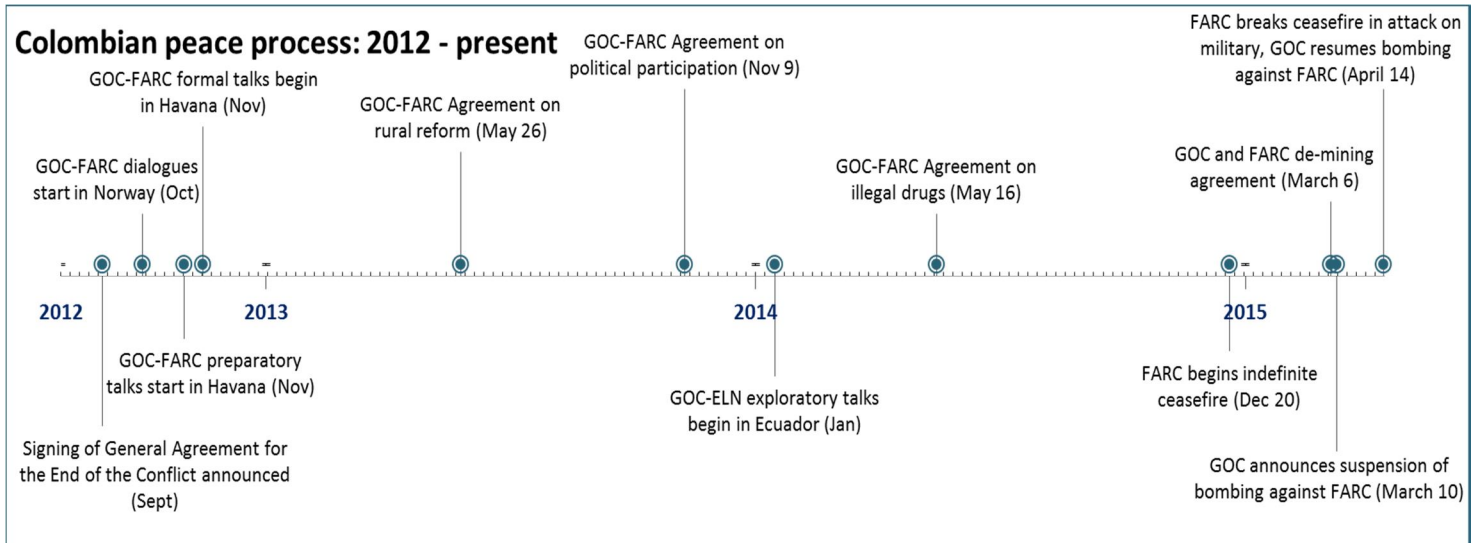
<sup>51</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/canciller-maria-anguela-holguin-en-la-habana/15792181>

<sup>52</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/el-proceso-de-paz-esta-crisis-hay-rescatarlo-ordonez-articulo-562600>

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### 6. Timeline



### 7. Further Reading

#### **Piedad Córdoba advocates for a Constituent Assembly**

Left-leaning Senator Piedad Córdoba wrote an article for *El Tiempo*, stating her perception that Colombia needs a Constituent Assembly to re-design the Constitution. She says that the 1991 Constitution has fallen short of its promise of inclusive democracy, and that a new governing document is therefore necessary to strengthen peace.<sup>53</sup>

#### **Francisco de Roux weighs in on transitional justice**

Transitional justice expert Francisco de Roux wrote an evaluation of the current debates surrounding transitional justice in Colombia, with a focus on the controversy relating to the question of impunity for FARC commanders ultimately responsible for crimes against humanity. De Roux emphasizes that transitional justice is an essential part of the transition to peace, but must be implemented in such a way that it serves all parts of the conflict and Colombian society as a whole.<sup>54</sup>

#### **Peace process expert discusses comparative peace processes**

Vicenç Fisas, Director of the *Escola de Cultura de Pau* in Barcelona, was interviewed by *El Espectador*. In the article, he discusses the progress made by other peace processes around the

<sup>53</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/analisis-de-piedad-cordoba-ruiz-sobre-rama-judicial/15806737>

<sup>54</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/magnanimidad-y-justicia-opinion/15818089>





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world compared to Colombia, the role of guarantor countries in peace talks, and his opinion on the peace talks with the FARC and the ELN.<sup>55</sup>

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<sup>55</sup> <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/el-acuerdo-de-paz-no-el-punto-final-experto-resolucion-articulo-561842>