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PEACE MAIL

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WEEKLY UPDATE: Implementing the Peace Accords

The final peace accord contains a three-pronged approach to ensuring fulfillment of commitments included in the text: the *Commission for Monitoring, Promotion, and Verification of the Implementation of the Peace Accord* (CSIVI), the *National Reincorporation Council* (CNR) and the GOC-FARC-UN tripartite *Monitoring and Verification Mechanism* (MM&V). This callout box includes a weekly update on releases and work related to these supports for implementing the peace accords in Colombia.

As noted in last week's Breaking News, **on Tuesday June 27, the FARC officially ended its existence as an illegal armed group with the completion of the disarmament process.** In total, 7,132 arms, representing 100% of the registered FARC individual weapons less those 700 remaining in use in the transitional zones for security reasons, are now under U.N. control. The final disarmament ceremony was held in Vista Hermosa, Meta, and included speeches from leaders from both sides.¹

Next steps after the completion of the disarmament phase with the FARC include the destruction and **removal of the remaining weapons caches throughout the country.** First, between Wednesday, June 28th and July 31st, the UN will extract the final 7.132 arms from the transitional zones. Second, the UN will then search for the roughly 850 remaining weapons caches – with the help of intelligence provided by the guerrillas - in order to locate and destroy them. Additionally, on August 1st, the transitional zones will change their legal and procedural structures, becoming "Territorial Spaces for Training and Reincorporation."²

On Thursday, June 29th, 40 members of the FARC began training in Bogotá for the socioeconomic reintegration initiative ECOMUN, delineated in the final accord. The purpose of the collective is to ensure that the reincorporating guerrillas have the social, economic, and productivity tools that they need to facilitate, in particular, their collective reintegration. The 24-hour training schedule is directed towards mid- and high-ranking ex-combatants, and includes one representative from each zone, and 14 FARC located in Bogotá.³

U.N. Security Council member countries back request for second Colombia mission

After President Juan Manuel Santos requested a second Colombian mission from the U.N. in order to support the reincorporation phase of the implementation of the accords, several member countries of the Security Council backed the request during a session in the last week of June. In response to the initial letter from President Santos, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Colombia and Head of the UN Mission in Colombia, Jean Arnault, reiterated his accolades for the demonstrated commitment of both the GoC and FARC to date. Further developments will follow as the UN continues to process the request.⁴

Second round of GoC-ELN negotiations ends

The second round of ELN-GoC talks ended Friday, June 30th in Quito, Ecuador, and the two sides will remain in recess until July 24th. Despite a lackluster second round, in which the only tangible advances were (1) the creation of a committee that would evaluate the feasibility of discussing proposed content for the accords, and (2) a representative team responsible for determining the pedagogy and communications strategy for the peace process, the stated goal of the third round of talks is to determine the conditions for a bilateral ceasefire between the two sides.⁵