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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.

The second phase of the FARC-EP process of laying down their arms ended on Tuesday, June 13th. This represented a total of **40% of the nearly 7,000 individual registered arms of the guerrilla under U.N. custody**. Additionally on this date, **1,180 militia members** had also arrived to the 26 transitional points and zones throughout Colombia.¹ By Saturday, **June 17th, the U.N. announced they had advanced to controlling 60% of FARC-EP arms**. The goal is to have all of the individually registered weapons handed over by Tuesday, June 20th.²

By June 15th, **4,011 former FARC-EP and militia members had been accredited** in the process of laying down their arms. First, 2,441 former guerrillas who were prisoners received the certification, followed by another 1,570 other members and militia located in the transitional zones. Militia members are those who tended to live in more urban areas and who served as logistical and intelligence support to the guerrilla group.³

One June 16th, the CSIVI released a joint communiqué detailing advances in the formation of the Special Tribunal for ensuring the gendered approaches to implementing the final accord. It thanked the 818 organizations that participated at the national and territorial levels, and noted that the summary of their findings would be made available in July, and that it would be based on 32 department level assemblies and two national-level workshops conducted throughout May and June of this year.⁴

Former FARC-EP members training to serve as bodyguards to future political party leaders

In the second full week of June, 305 former guerrillas began training as security and bodyguards for protecting future political party leaders of the FARC-EP. They will be joined together with and coordinated by the National Protection Unit of the National Police. Of the more than 300 guerrillas training for this new role, 57 are women. The push to have former guerrillas as bodyguards for future candidates grounds in past experiences of politically motivated assassinations of former guerrilla leaders from other groups.⁵

Explosives attack and kidnapping attributed to the ELN in the northern departments of Colombia

On Monday, June 19th, the ELN kidnapped two Dutch investigative journalists who were working on a project related to families reuniting throughout the world. They were in the Norte de Santander department, Catatumbo region; five of the last six kidnappings of journalists have occurred in this region. Authorities are working to coordinate their release.⁶ In the nearby department of Arauca to the southeast, an explosives attack against the Colombian army that left one soldier dead and three injured was attributed to the ELN as well.⁷