

PEACE MAIL

April 25-May 1 2017

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.

On Thursday, April 27th, President Juan Manuel Santos announced the creation of the **Colombia in Peace Fund**, which will receive and administer nationally budgeted resources, support from royalties, and private sector and international supports for implementing the peace accords. A Directive Council of seven individuals will oversee the fund, four of whom will be independent representatives of the social and private sectors.¹

A second FARC-EP militia member beneficiary of the Amnesty Law has been killed, this time in Cauca (the first was in Nariño). After 18 years affiliated with the guerrilla group, José Huber Yatacué decided to demobilize along with his family. He reportedly received a call in the evening of Tuesday, April 25th, from a member of an illegal armed group moving into previous FARC-EP territory and left his house. It is currently presumed that Yatacué was killed by this man, who belongs to an IAG that has recently increased recruitment efforts in the region.²

Sixteen minors released from FARC-EP

On Thursday, April 27th, the FARC-EP released 13 minors from the transitional zones, who were then received by the ICRC, along with support from UNICEF and IOM.³ On Friday, April 28th, the ICRC announced that they had received 3 additional minors as well, for a total of 76 minors released since September 2016.⁴

ELN attacks continue alongside GOC-ELN peace dialogues

On Tuesday, April 25th, the ICRC received two individuals who had been held by the ELN in the department of Chocó.⁵ The Office of the High Commissioner for Peace announced Friday, April 28th, that it approved a meeting between the Central Command of the ELN and the High Secretariat of the FARC-EP in Havana, Cuba for the first week of May. The second round of peace negotiations between the GOC and the ELN were scheduled to begin on May 3rd; it has now been rescheduled to May 10th due to the Havana visit.⁶ However, the second round of talks will launch under the shadow of ongoing ELN attacks, kidnapping, and confrontations with the regular Army. On Thursday, April 27th, the group allegedly attacked an oil pipeline in El Carmen, Norte de Santander, and leaving 700 families without water service due to the pollution that the attack released into the water supply.⁷ Three days later, in the municipality of Pailitas, César, the ELN reportedly detonated explosives in a car, killing one police officer, and leaving four more individuals wounded.⁸