

March 21-27 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 Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, President Juan Manuel Santos met with members of the FARC-EP leadership in Cartagena **to review the first 100 days of the implementation** of the final peace accord. Notable challenges in execution since D-Day (December 1, 2016) have included security guarantee provision, transition to legality, and the construction of the transitional zones and camps. The GOC committed to delivering the totality of all infrastructure supplies to all transitional zones, including the construction of the reception areas, in April.<sup>1</sup>

Separately, Secretary General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, **reported on the first trimester of activities of the UN Verification Mission in Colombia**. Several contextual and procedural themes emerged in his address: 1) an assessment of a political environment increasingly shaped by the 2018 presidential election dynamics; 2) lagging implementation of the Amnesty Law; and 3) successes with gathering all FARC-EP members in transitional zones, beginning the laying down of arms, and UN Mission responses to specific incidents in the field. Guterres also noted that the Mission has formally identified seven failures to comply with the ceasefire agreement along with eight minor violations and two major violations of the same. In closing, he warned of high levels of insecurity around the transitional zones, bolstered by deeply-rooted illicit conflict economies.<sup>2</sup>

#### **FARC-EP militia members turn themselves in**

On Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 117 presumed FARC-EP militia members – among them, 17 minors - turned themselves and a small weapons cache in to authorities in Tumaco, Nariño, a major port for cocaine exiting the country. The Colombian Army announced that these militia members were part of the support network for the *Mobile Column Daniel Aldana* of the FARC-EP. This coordinated process resulted from a collaboration between the National Police, the Office of the Ombudsman, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Catholic Church, and the Human Rights Office, in which they approached various militias in the barrios of Tumaco to arrange the handover.<sup>3</sup>

#### **Seven more minors released from FARC-EP ranks**

On Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, UNICEF received seven more minors from the FARC-EP ranks delivered to them by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); both agencies operated with support from the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF), the Presidential Council for Human Rights, and IOM.<sup>4</sup>

### **In the wake of an attack in Chocó, ELN political will for peace questioned**

An attack on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, in the department of Chocó left five people dead, one minor hospitalized, and roughly 50 persons displaced. Reports from the Attorney General's Office reveal that testimonies of the town's inhabitants identified seven individuals dressed in camouflage and wearing ELN arm bands as the attackers. Attorney General Néstor Humberto Martínez published through his Twitter account a picture of an ELN flag at the scene. For their part, the ELN responded through their own Twitter account that the evidence presented was falsified and that they were not responsible for the attacks.<sup>5</sup>