


PEACE MAIL

February 7-13 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 February 7th, the GOC and the FARC-EP announced through the second Joint Communiqué of the **CNR** that they are preparing for the minors who will be exiting the FARC-EP ranks throughout the country, and that they would be transported from the assigned transitional zones by the ICRC and ultimately received by UNICEF in transitional reception zones with support from IOM, the Presidential Council for Human Rights, and delegates of the CNR. Up until this moment, only 13 minors have left the FARC-EP since the May 15th agreement last year that the guerrilla group would release all minors under 15 years of age.¹

High Counselor for Post-conflict, Rafael Pardo, announced the formation of **Humanicémonos**, which will be the joint FARC-EP and ELN humanitarian demining initiative. The project looks to involve roughly 20% of the disarming guerrilla population, or 1,200 former guerrillas to help support the goal of a completely demined Colombia by the year 2021. Colombia has the second highest incidence of antipersonnel mines after Afghanistan. Given that it is classified as a humanitarian operation, Humanicémonos is eligible to receive GOC and international aid resources.²

JEP enters next phase of debates and discussion

On February 13th, the president of the Legislative Branch, Carlos Fernando Mocoa called for a public hearing regarding the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) with the intention of hearing perspectives from all sectors, including the Attorney General's and Inspector General's Offices. The First Commission of the Senate will then debate the legal measure, with voting expected to occur before February 22nd, and, if approved, with implementation occurring in the first week of March. President Santos and Minister of the Interior, Juan Fernando Cristo, have assured that the JEP will only apply to those guerrillas who have completed their entry into the transitional zones, and will not apply to any dissidents of the FARC-EP. Additionally, any former guerrillas who fall benefit from the JEP, but who later commit crimes of any kind, will be removed from the coverage of the transitional justice mechanism.³

Public phase of ELN-GOC peace talks begins

On Thursday, February 9th, the GOC and the ELN began the public phase of the peace talks between the two sides, beginning with three topics: public participation in political change, victims, and the end of conflict and implementation. These talks began after three years of exploratory conversations and a frustrating number of false starts, generally complicated by ongoing ELN insurgent activity – especially the retention of key hostage ex-congressman Odín Sánchez who was finally released last week - and ELN accusations of GOC intransigence on core areas of concern for the guerrilla group.⁴