

 PEACE MAIL

January 31-February 6 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.

The **FARC-EP** are currently in the process of finalizing their movement to **26 transitional points and zones**, where they will begin the formal process of laying down arms. At this point, it is expected that the final count of participating guerrillas will be around 6,300. Currently, a number of the transitional zones are suffering from difficult logistical and lodging conditions, making it difficult to maintain the pre-set schedule for operations pegged to “D Day,” or December 1st of last year. However, progress continues on all sides regarding the construction and occupation of these transitional zones.¹

The **Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP)** passed in the plenary session of the House of Representatives. The Senate had previously approved the initiative 85-20. Minister of the Interior, Juan Fernando Cristo, noted that the transitional justice mechanism will apply alternative penal mechanisms to those FARC-EP guerrillas entering the transitional zones, and they will not apply to any dissident members of the group, who will thus be tried and punished through ordinary justice mechanisms.² Additionally, despite calls from the Attorney General’s office that the institution be permitted oversight and participation in the JEP, President Santos was firm in his assertion that this would not be the case, since it was not the agreed upon arrangement set forth in the final set of accords.³

ELN releases Odín Sánchez, public talks set to begin February 7th

As planned in the most recent set of agreements between the ELN and the GOC, the guerrilla group released 62-year-old Odín Sanchez, the former congressman who had swapped places with his sick brother who had been kidnapped by the guerrillas for two years and nine months. The new start date of February 7th for the public phase of the peace talks comes after several false starts and three years of informal discussions. Current negotiators include GOC lead Juan Camilo Restrepo, who will be joined at the table by former environment minister Luz Helena Sarmiento, retired major general Eduardo Herrera Berbel, Rosario University professor Alberto Fergusson, conflict expert and former presidential adviser Jaime Avendaño, and journalist and former director of *Confidencial Colombia*, María Alejandra Villamizar.⁴ On Monday, February 6th, Senator Roy Barreras also joined the GOC negotiating team in Quito, Ecuador. Barreras is the President of the Senate’s Peace Commission and was a negotiator with the FARC-EP in Havana.⁵ One remaining concern had been a kidnapped soldier in Arauca, who the ELN was handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross on the 6th as well.⁶