

 PEACE MAIL

January 24-30 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 Wednesday, January 25th, the **CNR** published its first Communiqué: the protocols for releasing remaining minors from the ranks of the FARC-EP would activate once all guerrillas were gathered in the designated transitional zones. The protocols co-developed between FARC-EP and GOC representatives in the CNR will include three phases, and the Presidential Council for Human Rights will assume responsibility for these phases: re-establishment of the rights of minors, reparations, and reincorporation and social inclusion. The CNR has identified ten transitional sites for releasing the minors.¹

Separately, both Chambers of Congress quickly passed the law permitting six delegates from the *Voces de Paz y Reconciliación* mechanism to participate in congressional sessions related to the implementation of the peace accords as congress persons with voice, but without vote. The law included provisions that the members of *Voces* conform to the rules of Congress, and a guarantee for victims' participation. Anticipated dissent from the *Centro Democrático* party emerged in the form of questions from one representative about who will be responsible for paying the *Voces* representatives – arguing that the FARC should be the responsible party. Minister of the Interior, Juan Fernando Cristo, explained that these representatives are civilians - not FARC members – who will be responsible for representing the interests of both the FARC-in-transition and civil society, and that it will be the **CSIVI** that determines how they will be paid.²

Final march of FARC guerrillas to transitional zones commences

According to the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace, 36 land- and river-based operations were planned to mobilize and move to transitional zones 4,394 members of the FARC-EP. Between January 28th and 29th, 1,037 guerrillas were transferred to transitional zones, with some 600 scheduled to move on Monday the 30th, and 2,541 more the next day.³ In all, the guerrillas will gather in 26 different zones throughout the country, located in 25 municipalities across 14 departments, where they will begin the process of laying down their arms.⁴

GOC frees two ELN guerrillas, activates protocols for February 2nd release of Odín Sánchez

Over the weekend, the GOC freed two ELN prisoners who will participate as facilitators in the peace dialogues between the ELN and the GOC. This signaled the completion of the GOC's commitment to meeting ELN demands to being the talks. Current actions suggest the ELN is preparing to fulfill their end of the bargain as well.⁵ Defense Minister, Luis Carlos Villegas, announced on Wednesday, January 25th that the GOC activated the protocols for freeing ex-congressman Odín Sánchez, a long-standing GOC requirement for beginning peace talks with the guerrilla group. The ELN confirmed plans to release the hostage through group representative "Pablo Beltrán" (alias), and it is scheduled to occur before the end of the day,

February 2nd, after which the public dialogs will begin on February 7th.[6](#)