


PEACE MAIL

January 17-23 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 18th, High Commissioner for Peace Sergio Jaramillo announced that all FARC-EP members will be in their 36 designated transitional zones by January 31st, after delays due to logistical and other issues (malaria concerns, presence of coca crops) slowed the process originally scheduled to occur in December of last year. According to the GOC, the guerrilla troops are currently grouped in 45 different areas of the country and are waiting to move to the transitional zones.¹

GOC-ELN conversations advance ahead of planned release of Odín Sánchez

After the initial conversations between the GOC and the guerrilla group the ELN began last week in Quito, Ecuador, delegations from both sides cited February 7th as the planned start date for the public phase of the peace talks, contingent upon the release of ex-Congress person Odín Sánchez. Currently, the release of the high-profile hostage is set to occur on February 2nd, and is the lynchpin in moving forward with the public phase of the dialogues.² After Sánchez is released, the GOC will pardon two of the ELN guerrillas currently incarcerated in Medellín – Juan Carlos Cuéllar and Eduardo Martínez Quiroz - who were key actors in the exploratory phase of the talks, and who currently face health issues.³ For its part, the GOC announced on Thursday, January 19th, that the Special Jurisdiction for Peace developed through the accords with the FARC-EP would also apply to the ELN in the event that an accord is reached.⁴ Following on these announcements, the International Committee of the Red Cross released a statement on January 21st, confirming the coordinated release in a rural area of the department of Chocó of an international citizen who had been held hostage by the ELN.⁵

FARC-EP holds central command meeting, releases proposals for transitional government

The Central Command of the FARC met for four days between the 18-21 and released a statement on Sunday, January 22nd. Chief of the FARC-EP delegation for peace, Iván Márquez, named the following as key points of discussion in the encounter: the urgency behind implementing the peace accords, the role of the Commission for Tracking, Verification, and Implementation, the security concerns of the guerrilla leadership, the significance of the reincorporation processes, and fears about the perceived growth in paramilitary activities. Márquez also announced the formation of the new leadership – now numbering at 61 members - for the structural transition of the guerrillas from an illegal armed group to a political party. The political party is scheduled to launch at the end of May. The meetings also resulted in a proposal for a transitional government that would ensure the effective implementation of the accords and other social concerns.⁶