

July 25-31 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 Monday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, **the process of arms extraction from the transitional zones began** along with the collection of the weapons caches. The process began in the transitional point of Monterredondo in Cauca, and was followed shortly after by the transitional zone in Betania, Nariño. These operations are anticipated to continue through August 15<sup>th</sup>, which is the scheduled date for the end of the disarmament process, the end of the bilateral ceasefire, and the end of the first MM&V (the tripartite verification mission comprising FARC, GoC, and U.N. representatives).<sup>1,2</sup> As of Wednesday, July 26, the United Nations had extracted 304 weapons caches, with information on 779 in total.<sup>3</sup>

On Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, **the Senate approved the second of four debates on the current legal project for the creation of 16 Special Transitional Peace Constituencies** (CTEP) that would result in 16 temporary seats in Congress over two terms (to be elected each term). The purpose of the CTEP is to ensure greater representation of victims and social organizations in the 167 municipalities of the country most affected by the armed conflict. Detractors fear that the CTEP are simply vehicles for FARC control in the same territories that they have historically dominated.<sup>4</sup>

The **FARC began their six-day conference on Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup>**, in order to determine the name, vision, and regulations for their **emerging political party**. In addition to various symbolic acts of commitment to the peace process, they also invited upcoming 2018 presidential candidates from all parties to the conference in order to share their respective visions for the country and commitments to peace. FARC leader Iván Márquez noted that the conference marks the end of the armed confrontation and the beginning of a new era of peaceful politics.<sup>5</sup>

More than **4,000 disarmed FARC members received a bank account**, in which they will receive their financial support of 90% of the minimum legal monthly wage for up to two years (roughly \$245 USD); the benefits will terminate earlier if they engage in a productive project. The benefits are part of an initiative titled “Peace Account” and are run through the state bank, Banco Agrario.<sup>6</sup>

By Monday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, the **FARC had handed in an initial list of all of their assets**; the final list will not be ready until after August 15<sup>th</sup>, when the implementation commission finishes its first phase of work. The assets will be used towards victims’ reparations initiatives and will ostensibly contribute to the reincorporation of these individuals into civilian life.<sup>7</sup>

**ELN-GoC ceasefire overtures sputter in Ecuador, while confrontations continue in Colombia**

A member of the ELN negotiating team in Quito, Ecuador announced that the GoC and ELN representatives were negotiating a roughly three-month ceasefire. However, Chief GoC Negotiator, Juan Camilo Restrepo, said that no such technical conversations were occurring, and, despite the desire of both sides to reach a ceasefire agreement, the GoC would not be willing to do so as long as attacks by the ELN continued.<sup>8</sup> Several days later, in the department of Norte de Santander, clashes between the ELN and the Armed Forces left one soldier dead.<sup>9</sup>