

 **PEACE MAIL**

November 1-7, 2016

GOC-FARC negotiators advance with revisions to the peace accords

The FARC and GOC negotiating teams spent five days in Havana reviewing the more than 500 proposals from the NO campaign that voted down the peace accords by a narrow margin in the October 2nd plebiscite. President Santos announced on Monday, November 7th that advances had been made on the topic of rural reform, especially regarding guarantees for respect of private property and focusing reform on conflict-affected areas of the country. Also addressed in the marathon conversations were themes of fiscal sustainability, land registry, reserve zones, and the rural development model. The negotiating teams have also made adjustments to the guidelines for political participation and justice for the current FARC members.¹

ELN announces plans to release Odín Sánchez

On Friday, November 4th, Chief ELN negotiator, Pablo Beltrán announced that the ELN would release Odín Sánchez in the following week to a humanitarian commission comprising representatives from the countries supporting the GOC-ELN peace dialogues and members of the Catholic Church.² Sánchez is an ex-representative of the U Party who became a prisoner of the ELN six months ago when he exchanged himself for his brother, who had fallen gravely ill after three years as a hostage of the guerrilla group. The peace talks were set to begin on October 27th, but have been moved back due to the ELN dragging its feet on releasing Sánchez.

Monitoring and Verification Mechanism begins operations Monday

The Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (M&VM) comprises representatives from the GOC, the FARC, and oversight by the United Nations, and began operations in eight regional sites on Monday.³ Both the GOC and the FARC have reiterated their support for the bilateral ceasefire in effect until the end of the year, which had been extended in the wake of the plebiscite upset last month. The FARC have gathered in transitional pre-grouping points (PTT) over the past few weeks, which are where the M&VM will first conduct its operations.