

 PEACE MAIL

October 18-24, 2016

**GOC and FARC representatives return to the negotiating table with proposed revisions to the peace accord**

Members of the GOC negotiating team returned to Havana over the weekend to begin negotiations with the FARC over a revised accord. In the near term, GOC and FARC representatives will develop a matrix of all of the proposals and review both those that are viable and those that pose significant challenges.<sup>1</sup> To date, the government of President Juan Manuel Santos had received and catalogued 455 proposals for modifying the peace accords.<sup>2</sup>

**FARC Transitional Pre-Grouping Points (PTT) under similar regulations as transitional zones**

The FARC have gathered in 26 undisclosed PTTs, which operate under similar guidelines as the formerly proposed transitional zones. These PTTs were developed as a stop-gap solution for the extended ceasefire period through December 31<sup>st</sup> after the NO vote won in the plebiscite on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The PTTs are coordinated by the public forces and under the supervision of the tripartite UN-GOC-FARC Monitoring and Verification Mission. Most notably, they are located away from civilian populations and roads, offensive military actions are prohibited in these zones, and there is a 5,000 ft. military no fly zone over the camps.<sup>3</sup>

**President Santos names Juan Camilo Restrepo as chief GOC negotiator for the ELN peace talks**

On Sunday, President Santos announced ex-Minister Juan Camilo Restrepo as the chief government negotiator for the public phase of the peace talks with the ELN guerrillas, scheduled to begin Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. Restrepo has served the Santos administration as the Agricultural Minister, and was one of the architects of the Comprehensive Rural Reform component of the peace accords developed with the FARC in Havana. He was the Mining Minister in the Gaviria administration, and Finance Minister in the Pastrana Administration.<sup>4</sup> The remaining potential hurdle to launching the public phase of the talks centers around high-profile ELN hostage, Odín Sánchez, who, Restrepo asserts, must be released before the talks can begin.<sup>5</sup> Sánchez is an ex-representative of the U Party who fell into the hands 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.