

 PEACE MAIL

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As FARC-GOC peace deal finalizes, new armed groups prepare to fill FARC vacuum while others negotiate demobilization

On Wednesday, August 17th, Tumaco mayor María Emilsen Angulo asked President Juan Manuel Santos for support to address the city's soaring crime rates. The increase in violence in the capital city of the southwestern department of Nariño results from the emergence of a new illegal armed group preparing to take over the extortion and drug trafficking activities that will be abandoned by the anticipated demobilization of the local FARC unit. Homicide levels in Tumaco are as high as they were in 2015, extortion has increased, and the illegal groups reportedly move freely in the waterways and at sea.¹ Earlier in the week, the *Comisión Intereclesial de Justicia y Paz* released a statement denouncing paramilitary activity in areas of Chocó and Urabá, Antioquia, where illegal armed units have been capturing indigenous youth to use as guides and leading "armed strikes," in which residents are neither allowed to open their stores nor make purchases on designated days.² At the same time, the government of the department of Antioquia has announced that it is close to achieving a negotiated demobilization with both the Gaitanista Self-Defense Forces of Colombia and the *Oficina de Envigado*, highlighting the regional variance in these dynamics.³