

GOC and ELN to begin peace talks

On April 24, the ELN and the GOC confirmed that the formal phase of peace negotiations will begin in May. The initial epicenter for the talks will be in Ecuador, one of the five host countries along with Brazil, Chile, Cuba, and Venezuela. The GOC's chief negotiator called on the private sector, unions and citizens to actively participate in shaping the discussions with the ELN¹.

Elite units of the FARC at the negotiating table

The leader of one of the FARC's most elite and hostile units arrived in Havana on April 22, accompanied by a committee of the International Red Cross and the Government of Norway, a guarantor country for the peace talks². Although not an official negotiator, the arrival of alias "El Paisa" sends a message of unity among the FARC, and undermines previous reports suggesting that he was not interested in a negotiated peace³. In addition, with his presence in Havana, all of the FARC commanders have now been involved in the peace process.

GOC ready to ensure the security of demobilized FARC

The GOC and FARC negotiating teams continue to discuss the issue of security for FARC members once they lay down their arms. The head of the National Protection Unit, a government body in charge of the safety of all persons at risk, explained to the FARC leaders how the Unit operates, and its protection plans for demobilized FARC members and their families in areas where the FARC will concentrate for demobilization⁴. However, the actual security scheme for the guerrilla group has not yet been confirmed⁵.

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