

FARC leaders visit La Guajira without GOC knowledge

The visit by the FARC negotiation team, accompanied by several armed men, on 18 February to La Guajira department generated controversy with the Government of Colombia (GOC). The established protocol, according to the GOC, was that FARC commanders can visit their camps but may only meet with their guerrilla units, not with the civilian population¹. The GOC asked for the suspension of visits of the insurgent leaders to FARC camps, and demanded that they return as soon as possible to Cuba². On the day of the visit, the local army commander withdrew soldiers from the area in order to prevent violence³. The FARC called on the GOC to overcome the impasse, stating that they were explaining the progress made in the peace process to the civil population⁴.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State analyses US aid in Colombia

During a two day visit to Colombia, the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources, Heather Higginbottom, gathered with GOC officials and assessed areas for further collaboration and assistance after the signing and implementation of the peace agreements⁵.

Recruited child released by FARC

On February 21, a humanitarian mission composed of the International Red Cross, Colombia's National Ombudsman's Office and the Catholic Church received a 15-year-old boy released by the FARC in the northeastern department of Arauca⁶. The child was recruited 11 months ago and will enter into the Specialized Assistance Program for disengaged children led by the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF)⁷.

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