

## PEACE MAIL

August 15-21

### **WEEKLY UPDATE: Implementing the Peace Accords**

The final peace accord contains a three-pronged approach to ensuring fulfillment of commitments included in the text: the *Commission for Monitoring, Promotion, and Verification of the Implementation of the Peace Accord* (CSIVI), the *National Reincorporation Council* (CNR) and the GOC-FARC-UN tripartite *Monitoring and Verification Mechanism* (MM&V). This callout box includes a weekly update on releases and work related to these supports for implementing the peace accords in Colombia.

#### **FARC completes handing over arms, camp security now priority**

After eight months, the last of the FARC arms were handed over to the UN Mission and stored in containers to be transported and decommissioned. In total, the 7,000 ex-combatants of the FARC in the zones handed over 8,100 arms and over 1.3 million ammunition cartridges to be incinerated. Also, the UN Mission reported it safely detonated over 22,000 kilograms of explosives--including over 1,800 land mines and 4,000 grenades. The handing over of the arms and munitions can accelerate the planned social and economic reincorporation of the ex-guerillas in the 26 transition zones. However, with the handover of arms, ensuring the security of the zones and the ex-combatants becomes a priority and primary responsibility of the Colombian Police and Armed Forces to create safe spaces for the reincorporation process. In response, the Ministry of Defense announced a plan to dispense 5,000 members of the Colombian Armed Forces to be positioned in the 10 highest risk transition zones for this purpose.<sup>1 2 3 4</sup>

#### **Another group of minors leave FARC camps**

The International Red Cross stated it received 24 minors from different FARC camps. Upon an initial medical assessment, the youth were handed over, as previously agreed, to a team comprised of UNICEF, IOM, and the Colombian Government to be provided services and cared for in specific transition houses to facilitate their transition to civil life and family reunification. Since September of last year, a total of 112 minors have been received and provided attention in the transition houses.<sup>5 6</sup>

#### **Government of Colombia/ELN working to reach ceasefire in time for Pope visit**

With the imminent visit of Pope Francisco to Colombia on September 6, the government of Colombia and ELN are searching to agree to a negotiated cease fire in time for the visit. Although both sides have expressed the political will, specific details and conditions within the negotiations taking place in Quito, Ecuador continue to present obstacles to reaching an agreement. Each side has blamed the other for the delay in reaching a cease fire agreement.<sup>7</sup>