



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

COLOMBIA



INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION
FOR MIGRATION



PEACE MAIL

September 26-October 2, 2017

WEEKLY UPDATE: Implementing the Peace Accords

This callout box includes a weekly update on releases and work specifically related implementing the Final Peace Accord between the Government and the FARC in Colombia.

Between June 2016 and September 25, 2017, **the MM&V investigated 491 possible incidents between the GoC and the FARC.** Of these cases, 331 were found to be non-incidents, and another 18 remain to be closed. Only 10 of the remaining cases were considered “grave violations” of the agreement.¹

The second U.N. verification mission began on Tuesday, September 26th. This second phase will be responsible for monitoring the security guarantees for the former guerrillas as well as their reincorporation processes (points 3.2 and 3.4 of the final accord), and will comprise 120 largely civilian international observers.²

On Tuesday, September 26th, the Selection Committee for the JEP announced the 51 magistrates who would comprise the transitional justice mechanism. Among the list of the selected individuals are Ex-Minister of Justice, Yesid Reyes, and Ex-Magistrate of the Constitutional Court and Ex-Director of the Research Unit of the Attorney General’s Office, Alejandro Ramelli. These individuals, along with their 49 colleagues, will be responsible for judging the most significant atrocities of the armed conflict: crimes against humanity and war crimes, as stipulated by the final legal framework of the JEP. Mirtha Patricia Linares Prieto will be the first president of the tribunal.³

On Sunday, October 1st, the GoC announced that the final list of the FARC was closed, with 350 of the total 14,000+ names handed in by the former guerrilla leaders rejected from the peace process. The announcement was made following a meeting planning the national reincorporation strategy for the GoC, that included, among others, High Commissioner for Peace, Rodrigo Rivera, Vice President, Óscar Naranjo, and High Commissioner for Postconflict, Rafael Pardo.⁴

Bilateral ceasefire begins between the GoC and the ELN

For the first time since they took up arms in 1964, the guerrilla group ELN has declared a ceasefire, which began as planned on Sunday, October 1st. Nonetheless, they continued attacks up until the day of the ceasefire, doing little to bolster confidence heading into the temporary cessation of hostilities - scheduled to last until January 9, 2018. Chief GoC negotiator in Quito, Juan Camilo Restrepo, noted that the focus of dialogues during the ceasefire will be on improving the humanitarian situation of Colombia’s population. The ELN has an estimated 2,000 armed members, with a broader network of social and political supporters. A joint GoC, ELN, UN, and Catholic Church mechanism will monitor the bilateral ceasefire in 33 locations throughout the country.⁵

FARC to hand over \$5 billion COP (\$1.7 USD) to victims

Of the \$5 billion COP to be handed over to victims by the FARC, 20% will comprise cash, and the remaining 80% gold. This complies with part of the requirements for the former guerrilla organization as stipulated in the Final Accord signed last year. Some doubt has remained over the comprehensiveness of the list of assets that the FARC has handed over to the GoC, and government-led investigations into the totality of their assets continue. Ultimately, any recovered capital will go towards the victims fund, which is used to provide reparations to victims of the armed conflict.⁶