

PEACE MAIL

October 3-9

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.

ZOMAC program provides impulse for business in conflict affected regions

The Zones Most Affected by the Armed Conflict (ZOMAC) program comprises 53% of Colombia's territory, and 344 municipalities. It is designed to promote economic growth in the regions through the use of tax breaks, and applies to businesses headquartered in the selected municipalities as of the end of last year, and that comply with geographic, investment, and employment requirements. In particular, micro and small businesses will have an incremental tax increases over the next 10 years, starting at 0% until 2021.¹

FARC political party registers with the National Electoral Council

On Monday, October 9th, The Alternative Revolutionary Force for the People (FARC) political party, led by Iván Márquez, formally registered with the National Electoral Council (CNE). The former guerrillas used the opportunity to articulate their continued commitment to ending the armed conflict, to announce that they still do not have a presidential candidate – though they are in the process of constructing their lists for the Senate and the House of Representatives – and to denounce the massacre that took place on the 5th in Tumaco (see below).²

Massacre in Tumaco during coca farmers' protest against forced eradication

On Thursday, October 5th, farmers protesting coca crop eradication in Tumaco, Nariño – a cocaine trade stronghold – were attacked. To date, facts about the incident are unclear although international observers, the GoC, and NGOs have begun to investigate what happened. Complicating matters, a fact-finding mission comprising some of these organizations came under fire from what they report to have been Anti-Narcotics National Police members as they attempted to reach individuals who had been wounded in the confrontation. The police launched tear gas, fired upon them, and forced them to flee the hamlet.³ Several police have been suspended and are under investigation regarding the original October 5th incident, although Colombian authorities are also blaming FARC dissidents for the confrontation, charges that the dissidents have denied.⁴ Although the statistics have varied, an estimated six rural residents were killed in the incident and more than a dozen injured.⁵

UN begins monitoring ELN-GoC bilateral ceasefire

On Friday, October 6th, the UN began monitoring the bilateral ceasefire between the ELN and the GoC in 33 sites throughout Colombia. One particular challenge to this process is that the two sides have not separated their forces, and still maintain mobility in the territories, making it more difficult to track and

monitor their movements. The UN nonetheless argues that it is up for the challenge.⁶