

PEACE MAIL

October 10-16

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.

With an ample majority, **the First Commissions of the Senate and the House of Representatives approved on October 10th the law buttressing the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP).**¹ Following this approval, the law will pass to the plenary session. In the meantime, a meeting took place the following day between President Juan Manuel Santos, the National Attorney General, Néstor Humberto Martínez, and ex-guerrilla leaders Iván Márquez and Pastor Alape, among others, in order to adjust the text of the law before presenting it to the plenary session.²

On Wednesday, October 11th, **the Colombian Constitutional Court unanimously approved the constitutionality of the Final Accord and called for the next three governments to follow through on implementation.** The document itself will not be considered a constitutional mandate; such mandates will emerge through the processes of passing laws and decrees. Nonetheless, the Court ruling provides much needed stability to the process heading into the uncertainty of the presidential election cycle next year.³

On Friday, October 13th, the U.N. Verification in Colombia formally handed over to the Special Unit for Peace of the National Police, the 69,034 kilograms of decommissioned munitions that it removed from FARC-EP weapons caches. **This was the final act of the disarmament process in Colombia for the U.N.**⁴

Minister of Justice, Enrique Gil Botero, announced that **military archives will be subject to revision by the Commission for Truth, Co-existence, and Non-Repetition.** The announcement conforms to his argument that cases presented before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights have found that reasons such as “state secrets” may not be used to prevent the provision of information required by judicial or administrative authorities in such commissions. While petitioned information will not remain classified, it will neither circulate freely to prevent the re-victimization of conflict victims by the release of sensitive and identifying information.⁵

Investigation into Tumaco massacre continues

On Thursday, October 12th, a seventh fatality was registered as a result of the confrontation between police and rural residents who were protesting forced coca eradication, when an injured individual passed away. The massacre that occurred in Tumaco, Nariño last week, is currently under investigation, but the GoC has since announced that 102 National Police officials will be transferred to other posts, and an additional six officials have been suspended.⁶