

## **PEACE MAIL**

November 28-December 4

### **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.

On Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, **16 former leaders of the FARC guerrillas signed commitments to present themselves before the transitional justice mechanism** – the JEP – in any and all instances in which they are called in order to render themselves eligible to run for office in the coming electoral processes in 2018. According to the Final Accord, the FARC political party will have 5 guaranteed seats each in the House of Representatives and the Senate over the next two election cycles. FARC candidates will have suspended sentences while they are presenting within the JEP.<sup>1</sup>

The ***fast track* legislative mechanism designed to facilitate implementation of peace accord initiatives ended** on Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. Nine initiatives in total were approved in the year of the mechanism's functioning, principle among these are the JEP structures, the Amnesty Law, and the Political Reincorporation of the FARC as a political party. In all, the first year has been a challenge for developing the legal framework, even with the *fast track* mechanism in place, with more anticipated challenges to come given the 2018 election cycle already in play.<sup>2</sup>

### **Chief GoC negotiator in the ELN peace talks resigns**

Chief GoC negotiator in the ELN peace dialogues in Quito, Ecuador, Juan Camilo Restrepo, has stepped down. Restrepo offered the explanation that his duties as President in the Arbitration Tribunal within the International Chamber of Commerce- Paris do not accord him the time he needs to participate in the ELN peace talks. He noted in his statement that he has been working with President Santos in order to determine his successor, and that there will not be an issue with continuity.<sup>3</sup>

### **Fourth round of GoC-ELN negotiations to begin on January 9<sup>th</sup>**

Leaders of the peace talks in Quito, Ecuador closed the fourth round of talks on Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, marking the round as “satisfactory”. They highlighted the bilateral ceasefire, the first in history with the guerrilla group, as a major milestone in the fourth round, as well as preparations for social society participation in the dialogues. The fifth round of talks is set to begin on January 9<sup>th</sup>, which is the same day that the bilateral ceasefire is scheduled to end.<sup>4</sup>