

PEACE MAIL

December 19-25

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 December 18th, **President Juan Manuel Santos signed Decree 2125, which established the process to extend the suspension of arrest warrants for FARC members participating in the peace process.** These suspensions will hold as long as the former guerrillas submit to the procedures established by the JEP transitional justice mechanism. The Decree is intended to create an incentive for participants in the peace process to remain in legality and is a response to the reported recidivism taking place and active recruitment by other illegal armed groups.¹

President Juan Manuel Santos issued a Presidential Directive addressed to all national entities that receive resources from the National General Budget to prioritize activities that facilitate the reincorporation of the FARC. This Directive (03, December 20, 2017) calls on the institutions to prioritize reincorporation in their Annual Investment Operating Plans for 2018. Institutions named in the Directive will receive a dedicated planning tool from the National Planning Department, and a criterion was established that the private sector be involved in the reincorporation process as well.²

Gustavo Bell named new GoC chief negotiator with ELN

On Tuesday, December 19th, President Juan Manuel Santos named Gustavo Bell head of the GoC negotiating team for negotiations with the ELN guerrilla group in Quito, Ecuador. The announcement has been received positively, as Bell is reportedly regarded as an even-handed, experienced individual who can bring new life to the dialogues. During the peace talks with the FARC in Havana, the Colombian ambassador in Cuba was privy to the most sensitive details of the negotiations. Additionally, as Vice President during the Pastrana administration, he was also involved in the ultimately unsuccessful peace process in San Vicente del Caguán (1998-2002). His first order of business will be to negotiate the extension of the current bilateral ceasefire in place with the ELN, set to expire on January 9th, 2018.³