

USAID supports the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Colombia through the **Recruitment Prevention and Reintegration (RPR) Program**. The RPR Program provides institutional strengthening for the Government of Colombia (GOC) to support legal, social and economic reintegration services to demobilized adults and disengaged children, as well as to prevent new recruitment.

The GOC supports demobilized adults through its **Agency for Reincorporation and Normalization (ARN)**. The DDR initiatives of the ARN aim to fulfill the following objectives: 1) Continue facilitating those already in the process of reintegration according to historically established policies, 2) Facilitate the reincorporation of the FARC according to the needs determined by the 2017 socioeconomic census and as mandated by the National Council for Reincorporation, and 3) Promote reconciliation.

Children and adolescents who disengage from illegal armed groups, recognized as victims, receive special attention through programs and policies led by the **Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF)** through its Specialized Assistance Program, which aims to reestablish and guarantee rights with special emphasis on protection, education and health.

This monthly review, produced by IOM, provides a summary of news related to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) in Colombia, along with statistics on ex-combatant adults and disengaged children.

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KEY DEVELOPMENTS

FARC completes disarmament

Wednesday, June 7th marked the completion of the first phase of the FARC-EP process for laying down their arms, in which 30% of all registered arms had been handed over to the United Nations. Following, the final phase of laying down the remaining 40% of the individually registered FARC-EP arms began in La Guajira on June 20th.¹ Finally, on Tuesday June 27, the FARC officially ended its existence as an illegal armed group with the completion of the disarmament process. In total, 7,132 arms, representing 100% of the registered FARC individual weapons less those 700 remaining in use in the transitional zones for security reasons, are now under U.N. control. The final disarmament ceremony was held in Vista Hermosa, Meta, and included speeches from leaders from both sides.²

Remaining FARC weapons caches removal continues

Next steps after the completion of the disarmament phase with the FARC include the destruction and removal of the remaining weapons caches throughout the country. First, between Wednesday, June 28th and July 31st, the UN will extract the final 7,132 arms from the transitional zones. Second, the UN will then search for the roughly 850 remaining weapons caches – with the help of intelligence provided by the guerrillas - in order to locate and destroy them. To date, 77 of these caches have had the weapons extracted and the unstable munitions destroyed. Additionally, on August 1st, the transitional zones will change their legal and procedural structures, becoming “Territorial Spaces for Training and Reincorporation.”³ The next step will be for the FARC-EP to enter the political sphere, and it plans to have a conference at the beginning of August to legalize its political party and prepare for the 2018 election cycle.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEACE ACCORDS

FARC-EP

U.N. Security Council member countries back request for second Colombia mission

President Juan Manuel Santos penned a formal request to the U.N. to launch a verification mission for the political, economic, and social reincorporation process for the FARC, and to assist with providing security for the communities and organizations in the territories, among other things. President Santos announced this request during his visit to France in the third week of the reporting period, and French President Macron voiced his ongoing support for the Colombian peace process.⁴ Following, at the end of June, several member countries of the Security Council backed the request during a Council session. In response to the initial letter from President Santos, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Colombia and Head of the UN Mission in Colombia, Jean Arnault, reiterated his accolades for the demonstrated commitment of both the GoC and FARC to date. Further developments will follow as the UN continues to process the request.⁵

¹ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/inicia-desarme-final-de-las-farc-100832>

² <http://www.elpais.com.co/proceso-de-paz/historico-farc-entregaran-hoy-el-ultimo-de-sus-fusiles.html>

³ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/evacuacion-de-caletas-de-las-farc-proxima-tarea-de-las-naciones-unidas-103378>

⁴ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/otra-mision-de-la-onu-para-la-paz-articulo-699596>

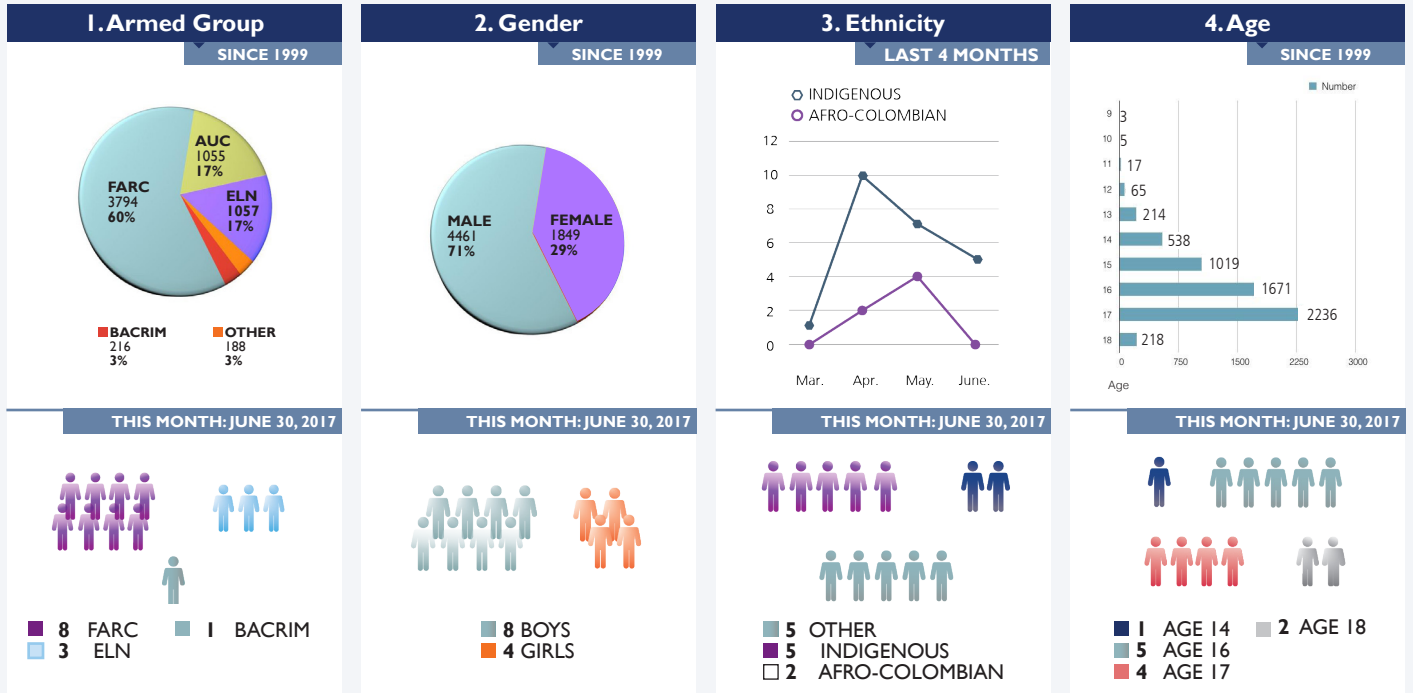
⁵ <https://colombia.unmissions.org/pa%C3%ADses-del-consejo-de-seguridad-respaldaron-segunda-misi%C3%B3n-de-la-onu>

FIGURES & TRENDS

* These data are estimates based on the information available

Disengaged Children & Adolescents

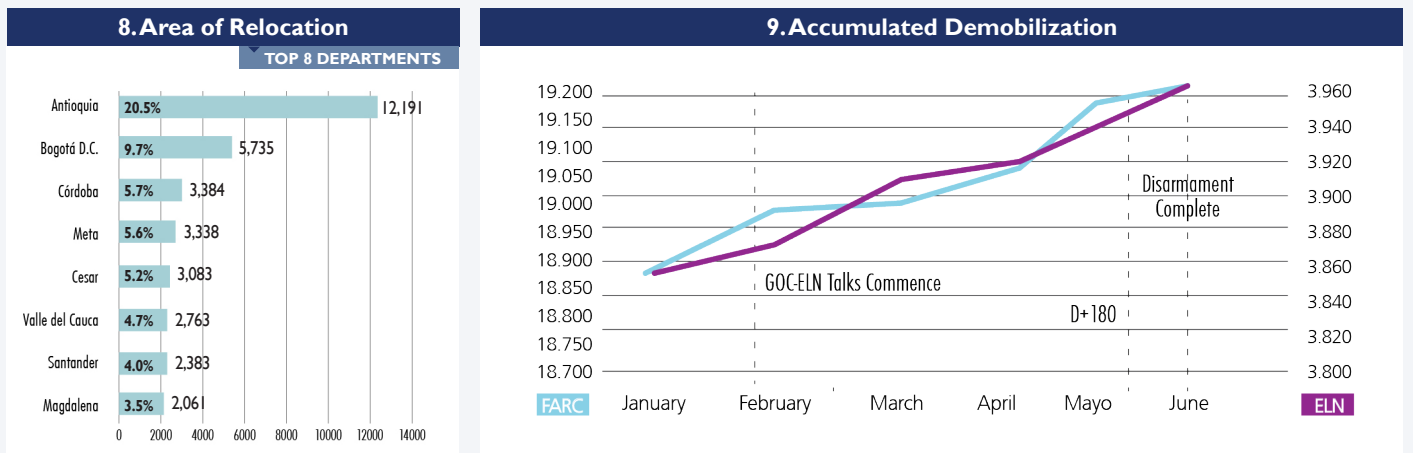
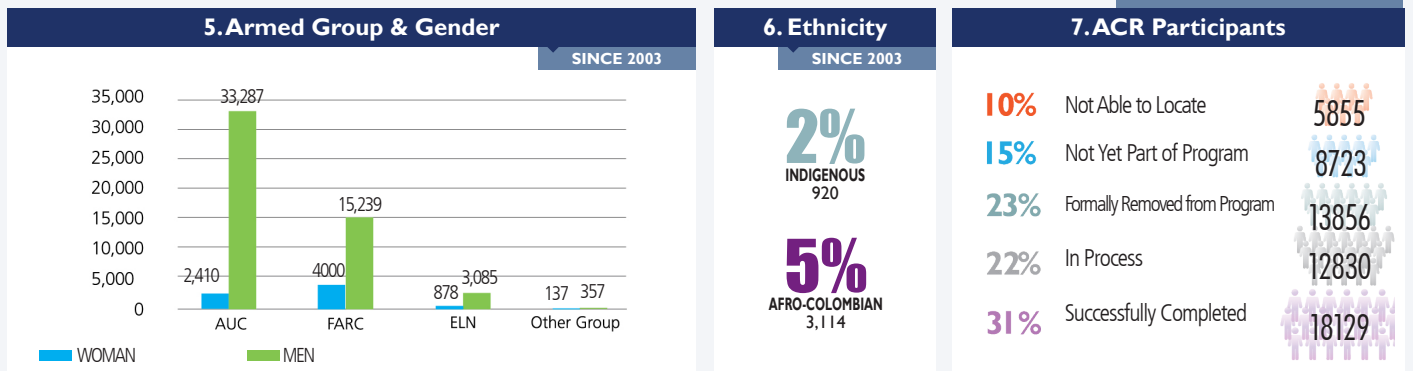
TOTAL 6,310



5: Victims of Forced Recruitment

Total 8,155** / Month to month 57**

** Number of cases of child recruitment reported to the Victims Unit.



Data up to June 30, 2017

Figure 1: Total number of disengaged minors grouped by gender. Boys have historically been more frequently recruited than girls.

Figure 2: Numbers of minors who disengaged from each IAG. Most disengaged children were recruited by the FARC.

Figure 3: Total number of disengaged minors by ethnicity. Indigenous groups are disproportionately affected by recruitment.

Figure 4: Numbers of disengaged minors in each age group. The average age of recruitment is between 15 and 18 years old. Sources for figures 1-4: ICBF Database, Unified Beneficiary Registry (RUI)

Figure 5: Total of number of male and female adults who demobilized from each IAG. The AUC had the lowest proportion of women.

Figure 6: The eight departments to which the highest numbers of ex-combatants

relocate for their reintegration process.

Figure 7: Demobilized Adults

Figure 8: Total number of demobilized adults by ethnicity. Sources for figures 5-7: ICBF Database and ACR Reintegration Information System (SIR)

Figure 9: Accumulated Demobilization

FARC members now eligible for reincorporation program

By June 15th, 4,011 former FARC-EP and militia members had been accredited in the disarmament process. Of this total, 2,441 were prisoners, and another 1,570 other members and militia located in the transitional zones. Militia members are those who tended to live in more urban areas and who served as logistical and intelligence support to the guerrilla group.⁶ Upon receiving this certification, the individuals became eligible to receive the benefits related to participation in the reintegration route.

FARC cooperative ECOMÚN launches

On Thursday, June 29th, 40 members of the FARC began training in Bogotá for the socioeconomic reintegration initiative ECOMÚN, delineated in the final accord. The purpose of the collective is to ensure that the reincorporating guerrillas have the social, economic, and productivity tools that they need to facilitate, in particular, their collective reincorporation. The 24-hour training schedule is directed towards mid- and high-ranking ex-combatants, and includes one representative from each transitional zone, along with 14 FARC located in Bogotá.⁷

Former FARC-EP members training to serve as bodyguards to future political party leaders

In the second full week of June, 305 former guerrillas began training as security and bodyguards for protecting future political party leaders of the FARC. They will be joined together with and coordinated by the National Protection Unit of the National Police. Of the more than 300 guerrillas training for this new role, 57 are women. The push to have former guerrillas as bodyguards for future candidates is rooted in past experiences of politically motivated assassinations of former guerrilla leaders from other groups.⁸

Former FARC-EP guerrilla killed after receiving amnesty

Rigoberto Quezada, a former FARC-EP member, was killed on Tuesday, June 20th, while visiting his family in a rural area of San Vicente del Caguán, Caquetá. He had received his amnesty eight days prior through the peace process. Quezada is the second ex-guerrilla to be killed after receiving amnesty, and a third also had an unsuccessful attempt made on his life.⁹

FARC requests land for reintegration of demobilized ex-guerrillas

Upon learning of the recent creation of the Colombian National Land Trust, FARC leadership has requested plots of land to be made available to former guerrillas to support their economic reintegration. Through the Fund, 3 million hectares are to be distributed to 800,000 small farmer families—none are to be distributed to FARC ex-combatants. “It seems strange that no land will be distributed to demobilized ex combatants considering that the issue of land was the original cause of the conflict,” remarked Ivan Marquez, leader of the FARC. Another FARC leader also emphasized that “we need guarantees with regards to access to land and productive assets so that (demobilized ex-FARC members) have where to go and how to reintegrate.” The Fund was created as part of a law recently signed by President Santos to put into action a component of the peace accords regarding rural development.¹⁰

PEACE PROCESSES

ELN

Second round of GoC-ELN negotiations ends

The second round of ELN-GoC talks ended Friday, June 30th in Quito, Ecuador, and the two sides will remain in recess until July 24th. Despite a lackluster second round, in which the only tangible advances were (1) the creation of a committee that would evaluate the feasibility of discussing proposed content for the accords, and (2) a representative team responsible for determining the pedagogy and communications strategy for the peace process, the stated goal of the third round of talks is to determine the conditions for a bilateral ceasefire between the two sides.¹¹

⁶ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/el-comisionado-de-paz-acredita-a-milicianos-de-las-farc-99350>

⁷ <http://www.telesurty.net/english/news/Colombias-FARC-Launches-Coop-As-First-Act-After-Disarmament-20170704-0029.html>

⁸ <http://colombia2020.elespectador.com/pais/los-guardianes-de-las-farc>

⁹ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/asesinan-a-miliciano-de-farc-que-habia-sido-amnistiado-denuncia-timochenko-100880>

¹⁰ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/farc-pide-tierras-para-guerrilleros-que-salgan-de-sus-filas-94986>

¹¹ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/comision-discutira-posible-cese-del-fuego-bilateral-con-el-eln-104508>

Difficulties in the second round of GoC-ELN negotiations

Various faith leaders in Colombia have called on the GoC and the ELN to agree on a bilateral ceasefire ahead of the Pope's planned visit later this year. GoC chief negotiator in Quito, Juan Camilo Restrepo, noted his disposition to reach such an agreement with the guerrilla group. However, the requirements for such a ceasefire would be an ELN commitment to end kidnapping practices, extortion, hostage taking, recruiting minors, and attacks against infrastructures and public forces. A small light in the otherwise tense process: after eight days as hostages, Dutch journalists were released by the ELN in Catatumbo on Saturday, June 24th.¹²

ELN-GoC Joint Communiqué outlines advances to date in second round of talks

On Tuesday, June 6th, the negotiation teams of the guerrilla group ELN, and the GoC released their third Joint Communiqué. It delineated four agreements that the participating sides have reached in their first few weeks of the second round of dialogues in Quito. They will construct a team to address the topics of the pedagogy and communications for peace with the intention of strengthening the credibility and efficacy of the peace talks underway, as well as the accords that are ostensibly to follow. The negotiators will develop a near- and mid-term action plan. International guarantors Germany, Holland, Italy, Sweden, and Switzerland have already determined the orienting terms of reference for the participation of supporting countries. And, finally, they have developed a joint trust to finance the dialogues through leveraging the inputs of international cooperation.¹³

Explosives attack and kidnapping attributed to the ELN in the northern departments of Colombia

On Monday, June 19th, the ELN kidnapped two Dutch investigative journalists who were working on a project related to families reuniting throughout the world. They were in the Norte de Santander department, Catatumbo region; five of the last six kidnappings of journalists have occurred in this region.¹⁴ Authorities were working to coordinate their release, and after eight days, they were released by the guerrilla group. In the nearby department of Arauca to the southeast, an explosives attack against the Colombian army that left one soldier dead and three injured was attributed to the ELN as well.¹⁵

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

Japan donates demining equipment

At the end of June, the government of Japan authorized the transfer of \$10 million USD in demining equipment to be used in Colombia's humanitarian demining efforts. Additionally, the Japanese ambassador to Colombia, Ryutaro Hatanaka, committed to providing technical training to ensure that the demining operations are as effective as possible. The physical assets comprise seven large-scale machines and trucks designed for such initiatives, and training will cover both their use as well as risk reduction initiatives for the demining technicians. Selected operators will travel from Colombia to Japan to learn how to use the machines.¹⁶

Berghof Foundation supports accord implementation

At the end of the month, the United Nations Security Council announced that Ambassadors or all 15 of its member states would visit Colombia for the first time in a show of international support for the peace process. The visit is scheduled to last three days, and will comprise conversations with members of the Colombian Congress, representatives of the United Nations System, Members of the MM&V, and a visit to one of the transitional zones. The Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2261 on January 25, 2016, which established the UN Mission comprised by unarmed international observers, to monitor and verify the laying down of arms and to form part of the tripartite mechanism (MMV) to verify the definitive bilateral ceasefire and cessation of hostilities.¹⁷

¹² <http://pacifista.co/hasta-hace-una-semana-el-gobierno-estudiaba-un-cese-bilateral-con-el-eln/>

¹³ <http://especiales.presidencia.gov.co/Documents/20161104-dialogos-eln/noticias/comunicado-20170605.pdf>

¹⁴ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/dos-periodistas-holandeses-estarian-secuestrados-por-el-eln/529152>

¹⁵ <http://www.elcolombiano.com/colombia/paz-y-derechos-humanos/ataque-a-patrola-del-ejercito-en-tame-arauca-GK6738008>

¹⁶ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/japon-dona-equipos-para-el-desminado-103772>

¹⁷ <http://www.berghof-foundation.org/news-article/supporting-peace-agreement-implementation-in-colombia/>

INSTITUTIONAL PROGRESS

GOC to commit COP\$ 3,500 million to support FARC political party

The Colombian National Electoral Council recently announced that the Government of Colombia will commit over COP\$ 3,500 million of public funds for the initiation and support of a future FARC political party. The funds are part of the negotiated agreement to support the future political party's campaign activities and to provide funds for a new FARC political think-tank so as to create a level playing field for their incremental participation in future democratic elections in Colombia. Disbursement of the funds is contingent upon the FARC fully complying with the disarmament process and the creation of a new legal political party - expected after August 1, 2017 - as agreed to in the peace accords signed in Havana. The FARC's current assets, estimated to be in the billions of COP\$ or several million USD\$, are ineligible to fund any political party activities due to being illegally acquired in the framework of the armed conflict. Those assets are expected to be utilized to fund reparations for conflict victims.¹⁸

First of four debates for special districts for peace gives green light

On June 6th, after four hours of debate, the House of Representatives approved the project that would create 16 special districts (comprising 166 different municipalities most affected by the armed conflict). Should the project pass through all four debates, the provision will last for the next two election cycles (eight years). Individuals belonging to the FARC-EP and their new political party, or any other political party with legal status will not be eligible to compete for these special seats. Instead, they will be chosen by social organizations, groups of citizens and associations of victims of Cauca, Arauca, Antioquia, Norte de Santander, Caquetá, and Chocó, among other departments.¹⁹

DIVERSITY ISSUES

CSIVI advances with gender tribunal

On June 16th, the CSIVI released a joint communiqué detailing advances in the formation of the Special Tribunal for ensuring the gendered approaches to implementing the final accord. It thanked the 818 organizations that participated at the national and territorial levels, and noted that the summary of their findings would be made available in July, and that it would be based on 32 department level assemblies and two national-level workshops conducted throughout May and June of this year.²⁰

FARC releases women and gender policy report

At the end of June, the FARC released their policy paper regarding issues of women and gender for their emergent political party. The document opens by asserting that women will enjoy equal conditions as their male counterparts in the new political party, that their active participation will be sought, and that the party will work to create a political environment that counters traditional patriarchies of Colombian political life. The authors of the report note that developing a line of feminist action within the FARC political party is a moral and ethical imperative. Among proposed initiatives are the following: the creation of a Department of Women and Gender, the restoration and preservation of the rights of women in Colombian society, a concerted effort to combat gender based violence, and effective collaboration with the organizing work of the LGBTI population.²¹

¹⁸ <http://www.elcolombiano.com/colombia/politica/cne-solicito-3-500-millones-para-el-partido-de-las-farc-FX6671887>

¹⁹ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/avanza-creacion-de-curules-especiales-en-camara-para-las-farc-96278>

²⁰ <http://www.altocomisionadopalapaz.gov.co/procesos-y-conversaciones/documentos-y-comunicados-conjuntos/Paginas/Comunicado-Conjunto-CSIVI.aspx>

²¹ <https://www.mujerfariana.org/images/pdf/TESIS-DE-GENERO.pdf>

FURTHER READING

Understanding the FARC-EP dissidence

Currently, analysts have identified between six (La Silla Vacía) and fourteen (International Crisis Group) dissident FARC groups, not including those who have deserted the transitional process currently occurring in 26 zones throughout the country. While there is variability in the degree of precision and clarity of the data supporting these findings due to the complicated nature of the sociopolitical landscape in these regions, the International Crisis Group analysis is based on extensive field work and interviews with actors who operate daily in this context. Roughly 700-800 combatants are estimated to occupy dissident ranks throughout various departments, which include Norte del Cauca, Caquetá, Nariño, and Meta, among others. Nonetheless, these numbers are not thought to suggest that the peace process has been unsuccessful to date, or that the FARC does not have effective control over their rank-and-file troops. Instead, analysts recommend factoring these small factions of dissident guerrillas into regional security analyses as the implementation processes continue in the territories.²²

Calling to account the EPL

Among the themes debated by the various sides supporting or opposing the peace accord process to date is the level of impunity for past crimes that the process accords to the now former FARC guerrillas. The debates surrounding this concern with the peace process are not without historical precedent in Colombia. In the first half of the 1990s, eight guerrilla organizations entered into accords with the GoC without any form of truth telling or victims' reparations in play, with four of them helping to author the still in use 1991 Colombian constitution. In partial response to critiques of past impunity, the Attorney General's office in Bogotá has worked with academics and ex-combatants to produce, for the first time, a complete 225-page history of the EPL (Popular Liberation Army) in Colombia, which was, at its height, the third largest guerrilla group in the country. It is hoped by the officials involved, that the process and resulting document will support the calling to account of 21 guerrillas and serve in structuring reparations to the group's victims.²³

²² <http://www.razonpublica.com/index.php/conflicto-drogas-y-paz-temas-30/10352-los-disidentes-de-las-farc-cu%C3%A1ntos-son-c%C3%B3mo-manejarlos.html>

²³ <http://pacifista.co/una-puerta-a-la-verdad-al-epl-por-fin-le-llego-la-hora-de-rendir-cuentas/>