

PEACE MAIL

January 2-8

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.

U.N. Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, offered his **first quarterly report on the implementation of Points 3.2 and 3.4 of the Final Accord**, covering the period between September 26 and December 26, 2017. Guterres noted the positive changes that the implementation process has generated, namely the transition of the FARC from illegal to legal political life. At the same time, he expressed concern regarding the precipitous rise in assassination of social leaders, while acknowledging some of the more recent efforts on the part of the GoC to stave off this increase. Guterres further reinforced the importance of ensuring the security of communities and individuals threatened by ongoing illegal actions, and of a comprehensive and complete socioeconomic and political reintegration of former FARC.¹

On January 3rd, the GoC created a new ETCR for the transitioning FARC in the department of Cauca, after the Policarpa, Nariño ETCR had been abandoned by the FARC. The abandonment occurred, according to the former guerrillas, due to a lack of infrastructure, faulty communications, and poor sanitation conditions. The ARN is charged with administering the new site.²

Episcopal conference issues statement on GoC-ELN ceasefire

As one of the parties responsible for the monitoring and verification process of the temporary bilateral ceasefire between the GoC and the remaining Colombian guerrilla group, the ELN, the Episcopal Conference issued a statement on January 8th calling for the maintenance of the gains achieved in the three month temporary ceasefire, which ends in the second week of January. The Episcopal Conference also called for a more robust ceasefire agreement moving forward that worked to engender greater trust between the parties and Colombian society.³