

PEACE MAIL

May 22-28

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.

The new FARC political party denounced the murder of three of its members in rural areas of Cauca and Valle del Cauca over 22 and 26 May, bringing the total of former guerrillas killed to 24 this year, and to over 40 since the signing of the Peace Accord (the FARC claim over 60 deaths). They called on political forces to work together for reconciliation and coexistence, and for a national political pact to abolish political weaponry.¹

As the Jesús Santrich case continues, the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP), which is charged with clarifying whether the suspected drug trafficking took place before or after the Peace Accord was signed and whether Santrich is eligible for extradition to the United States, has encountered the first real challenge to its area of authority. The confrontation between the JEP and the Judicial Branch continues a 39-year controversy over the issue of extradition, with opponents claiming that extradition fails to guarantee truth telling and victims' rights. The JEP has suspended the processing of Santrich's extradition pending the delivery of conclusive evidence from the Office of the Attorney General, which has challenged the JEP's authority and called for action through the Constitutional Court.² In another blow to its full functioning, the debate and approval of the JEP's procedures was postponed by the Congress until after the presidential elections.³

The country experienced the most peaceful presidential elections in a decade on 27 May, with no violent acts being reported by the Attorney General, Minister of Defense, or the Head of Police. The Office of the Attorney General, however, did report 18 preliminary investigations into electoral irregularities,⁴ and a Colombia Humana electoral witness was murdered in La Argentina, Huila department, on 26 May.⁵ The elections were also notable for their high turnout and the diversity of political options on offer.⁶

After reiterating the technical committee's efforts to define a bilateral ceasefire and cessation of hostilities, **the negotiations between the GOC and the ELN were paused over the presidential elections** from 25 to 30 May. The two sides had hoped to announce a bilateral ceasefire before the first round of elections, but now expect to have the terms defined for the second round on 27 June, in the hope that a show of concrete outcomes will encourage the next President to continue the peace process. The guerrilla group also implemented the promised unilateral ceasefire from 24 to 29 May, without incident.⁷