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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 (GOC) and the FARC in Colombia.

The **first public hearing regarding five “false positive” cases** committed in Soacha, Cundinamarca, was held by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) on 10 August. Fourteen members of the armed forces have requested access to this transitional justice mechanism, which will now decide whether they are committed to contributing to the truth, reparations, and non-repetition guarantees in return for benefits.¹

The Elite Police Body and the National Reincorporation Council, in coordination with the FARC, this week declared the number of former **FARC combatants killed since the signing of the Peace Accord** to be at least 76, with 20 percent of them being registered in *vereda* areas or ETCR.²

The **ONIC delivered its report on the impacts of the armed conflict** and violence on indigenous peoples to the JEP on 9 August. The document details 231,144 acts of violence between 1926 and 2017, including 219,501 displacements, 2,954 leaders assassinated, and 1,884 actions which upset the harmony of their territories. The ONIC seeks to highlight the systematic and continuous nature of violence against indigenous peoples, and sees the document as a key tool in their direct participation as procedural ethnic subjects.³

The **anticorruption project presented by the Minister of the Interior, Nancy Patricia Gutiérrez, will be withdrawn** and modified before being presented to Congress. The withdrawal follows accusations that the project seeks to limit the FARC’s political participation, as its section on the publishing of State officials’ tax returns appears to remove the last paragraph of article 122 of the Constitution, which deals with the reintegration of former combatants.⁴

The GOC has called for the release of four members of the Armed Forces, three police officers, and two civilians who were **kidnapped by the ELN** on 3 and 9 August respectively.⁵ The Office of the Ombudsperson also confirmed that the ELN has recruited 24 children and adolescents in Chocó over the past six months.⁶ President Duque announced he will only continue negotiations for an alternative justice system with the ELN if the group ceases its kidnappings, extortions, assassinations, and attacks on oil infrastructure and security forces.⁷

President Duque met with his cabinet for the first time on 13 August, in order to discuss their legislative agenda. Among the issues discussed was a constitutional reform to redefine drug trafficking and kidnapping so that they are not considered as related to political crimes.⁸ President Duque also named his team of 13 high commissioners, with Miguel Antonio Ceballos as High Commissioner for

Peace and Emilio José Archila as High Commissioner for Post Conflict. Both have been critical of the Peace Accord and were involved in its renegotiation following the plebiscite.²