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PEACE MAIL

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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 **Constitutional Court approved the Special Jurisdiction for Peace's (JEP) Statutory Law** on 16 August, allowing it to begin full operations. The Court outlined several clarifications, including the three types of sentences available to the JEP (its own, alternative, and ordinary), the use of which will depend on defendants recognizing their responsibility and telling the truth, and will affect their political participation. The Court also confirmed the JEP's power to defer the extradition of former guerrillas, and declared that sexual crimes will be addressed by the JEP.¹

The JEP's Investigation and Prosecution Unit has requested **protections for assets handed over by the FARC for victims' reparation**. The Unit declared that the Attorney General's Office had not provided information to identify and administer these funds, and that if asset recovery is enacted they will be handed to the State, and not to victims as agreed in the Peace Accord.²

Victims' organizations from Casanare delivered their "Neither criminals nor combatants" report to the JEP on 16 August, sharing information on 20 **extrajudicial executions committed by members of the Public Forces** and the Administrative Department of Security (DAS) between 2005 and 2007. The JEP's Recognition, Truth, and Responsibility Court is now analyzing and comparing the report with State documents, before calling on those accused.³

A Fundación Paz y Reconciliación report has found **FARC deserters and dissidents to be active in 57 municipalities**, where they have 1,600 members, of which 520 are new recruits. The only true dissident group is that controlled by Gentil Duarte in the southeast of the country, where there is some cohesion and political content. According to the report, key factors in recidivism are shortcomings in reintegration policy and widespread criminality.⁴

The **Kroc Institute's second report on the implementation of the Peace Accord** found that 61 percent of its rulings are in implementation (up from 14 percent in December 2016), and 21 percent have been completed (up from 4 percent), signifying an average level of implementation as compared with 34 other peace accords. The report highlights the lack of security guarantees and delays in the reintegration process as of particular concern, and warns that the lack of integrated rural reform and crop substitution could undermine peace in the long term.⁵

The **GOC has called for guarantees for the lives four soldiers, three police officers, and two civilians kidnapped by the ELN** in Arauca and Antioquia/Chocó over the first 10 days of August. The GOC also called for safety guarantees for those involved in their release,⁶ which is being negotiated separately from the Havana peace talks which ended on 1 August and are currently being evaluated President Duque's new government. The ELN has expressed its intention to release the nine hostages, as well as their willingness to continue peace talks once a bilateral ceasefire has been agreed.⁷